

Lieutenant Colonel Donald E. Schofield Jr. is the Commander and Conductor of the USAF Academy Band, Peterson AFB, Colorado, assuming command in July, 2012. Lt Col Schofield is a native of Atlanta, Georgia, and earned a Bachelor of Music Education degree from the University of Georgia, a Master of Music degree from Louisiana State University and is currently a candidate for the Doctorate of Musical Arts degree in Music Education from Boston University. He has studied performance and conducting with Dr. Dwight Satterwhite, Professor Frank Wickes and Dr. David Randolph. Prior to joining the United States Air Force, Lt Col Schofield was a successful teacher in the public schools of Georgia. As Director of Bands at Effingham County High School, he brought its 300-member marching band and wind ensemble to national recognition through awards at both the national and regional levels. He has conducted ensembles ranging from professional symphony orchestras to elementary school bands across the United States and Puerto Rico and continues to be an active clinician and arranger. Commissioned in 1997, Lt Col Schofield was assigned to The United States Air Force Band of Flight, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, where he served as both Commander and Deputy Commander. In 2001, Lt Col Schofield was hand-picked to become the tenth director of The United States Air Force Strolling Strings and Chamber Orchestra, where he led performances across the United States, the White House, the Pentagon and the National Cathedral before international audiences. Selected to command The United States Air Force Band of Mid-America in 2004, he performed for Presidents George W. Bush, Bill Clinton, George H. Bush and Jimmy Carter and conducted international broadcasts reaching over 50 million viewers. In 2007, Major Schofield was chosen to command the United States Air Forces Central Command Band, leading overseas performances for United States and coalition troops in Iraq, Afghanistan, Africa and 11 other Southwest Asia countries in direct support of operations IRAQI FREEDOM and ENDURING FREEDOM. In 2008, Lt Col Schofield assumed command of The Band of the United States Air Force Reserve and has performed internationally with such artists as Kid Rock, Little Big Town, Lee Ann Womack, Chris Daughtry, Gabrielle Iglesias, Carlos Mencia, the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, Lonestar, Wynonna Judd, Naomi Judd, Amy Grant, Diamond Rio, the Miracles, Lee Greenwood, Gary Morris, Take 6, Brian McNight and Gordon Goodwin. Making their debut in the White House in 2011, the Band of the Air Force Reserve was requested by name to perform for President and Mrs. Obama. Under his leadership, The Band of the United States Air Force Reserve performed 400 times each year and in 2009 reached an international audience of 100 million viewers. Lt Col Schofield has been recognized twice for his musical leadership by the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences as a two-time Top Four finalist for a prestigious Emmy Award. The "Holiday Notes from Home" production was broadcast to 177 countries worldwide, all United States embassies, and all ships and submarines at sea and was broadcast across the country to 60 million homes.