

Chief Warrant Officer Five James M. Bettencourt

Chief Warrant Officer Five James M. Bettencourt proudly assumed command of the Maneuver Center of Excellence Band in November 2022. He is a native of New Bedford, Massachusetts, and a graduate of New Bedford High School. Mr. Bettencourt holds both a Bachelor of Music in Trumpet Performance and Bachelor of Education degrees from Boston University and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Columbia Southern University.

Chief Bettencourt has been assigned as Commander for the 282nd Army Band, Fort Jackson, SC; the First Armored Division Band, Wiesbaden, Germany; the US Army Signal Corps Band, Fort Gordon; GA, the Army Materiel Command Band, Redstone Arsenal, AL and the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) Band in Mons, Belgium. His previous assignments include the United States Military Academy at West Point, NY, the Army Ground Forces Band, Fort McPherson, GA, US Army School of Music, Norfolk, VA and the US Army Europe Band and Chorus in Heidelberg, Germany.

CW5 Bettencourt's training includes the Primary Leadership Development Course, Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course, and all Warrant Officer military education schools from the Warrant Officer Candidate School through the Warrant Officer Senior Service Education.

Mr. Bettencourt is a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn Campaigns, deploying to Iraq as Commander of the First Armored Division Band. He has been married to the former Miss Erika Lynn Mills of Lake Mary, Florida since 1997, they have two daughters. CW5 Bettencourt's awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (6th award), Army Commendation Medal (6th award), Joint Service Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal (6th award), Meritorious Unit Citation, Iraq Campaign Medal (two campaign stars), Army Good Conduct Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal.