



# MINISTÈRE DES ARMÉES

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## PRESS RELEASE OF THE MINISTRY FOR THE FRENCH ARMED FORCES

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### The French Air Force Band in a South Korean concert

From October the 12th to the 24th, the French Air Force Band, ambassador of the French Space and Air Force, will be taking part in the World Military Culture Expo in South Korea for the first time in its history. This event, organised by the South Korean army, gathers orchestras from nine different nations; the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Malaysia, Vietnam, Mongolia, Australia, France and South Korea.

These twelve days will be the first time the French Air Force Band plays on South Korean soil. Eight performances are planned, which will honour the musical heritage of France's Air and Space Force.

Real ambassador of the French Space and Air Force, the harmonic orchestra will proudly rise up the French colours during two particular daily events :

- The **Gyerong World Military Concert** where it will perform alone on the main stage for 10 minutes and play songs from its own repertoire of music.
- The **Road Parade** on the landing strip, which will last approximately 30 minutes and will take place alongside the Mongolian, Thai, Australian and South Korean military orchestras.

Moreover, the French Air Force Band's Music will participate in the closing ceremony jointly conducted with some of the countries participating in the event (Mongolia, Thailand, Australia and South Korea).

The presence of the Air Force Band demonstrates, beyond the scope of an international military musical event, the continued partnership between France and South Korea. As an ambassador for the French Space and Air Force, the Air Force Band's Music takes, through this aspect, a place in the international cultural and musical landscape. It reinforces the global image of French Space and Air Force, its presence on the international scene, the plurality of its multi-domain actions and its strong support of its ambassadors.

### The Air Force Band :

Created in 1934 under the name "Music of the 3rd aerial region", this harmonic orchestra was disbanded during the Second World War. It was only in 1945 that it was re-established in Bordeaux, Gironde. Ever since 1977, it has been located at Bordeaux-Mérignac Air Base 106 and was renamed in 2012 to its current name; Air Force Band.

Air Force Band's harmonic orchestra also represents the French Space and Air Force in cultural events (concert galas, military festivals) by playing national hymns, original works and classical pieces of all styles. Made up of 14 non-commissioned officers and 51 military musicians of France's Air and Space Force, from both regional and national music academies, the French Air Force Band performs both in France and abroad.

The French Air Force Band notably distinguished itself at Windsor Royal Castle Tattoo in May 2011, in the presence of the British royal family and at the Promenadenkonzerte festival at the Imperial Palace of Innsbruck, in July 2012.

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