



Mission:

On-Corps is a beginning and intermediate band program for veterans. Our mission is to provide a meaningful artistic challenge and foster connection among band members through weekly group music instruction to veterans with no prior musical experience required **and at no cost to participate**. On-Corps members range in age from their 30s to their 80s; the only requirement is that they have served in a branch of the U.S. military. On-Corps was founded by the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) School of Music and is a community engagement program within UTSA Arts.

What we do:

On-Corps meets every Saturday in fall and spring for two hours with a mid-rehearsal coffee break that provides a vital opportunity for veterans to build camaraderie. The program is directed by Major (ret.) Dean Zarbinski, former commander of the Air Force Band of the West, and Assistant Director Juan Garcia, who retired as Sergeant First Class after many years as an Army band member. The On-Corps program, which includes group instrumental lessons and large ensemble rehearsals, currently includes:

- Alamo Band (intermediate)
- Missions Band (beginner)
- 210 Jazz Band

Outcomes:

On-Corps has grown from its first term with 23 members to over 80 currently enrolled. The following is a sample of the feedback we have received from On-Corps participants:

"I felt so fulfilled when I stepped on that stage for my first performance and so blessed for this opportunity."

"The results of your vision and labor have added joy, renewed meaning and purpose to me personally and to the many veterans who are benefitting from On-Corps."

"With gladness of heart, I want to thank you for helping to pull me out of depression and anxiety a year ago. I love your passion and amazing ability to coax music out of us."

Ways to help:

On-Corps received funding in 2023-2024 through individual donors and:

Stumberg Foundation



Support On-Corps

Support operations and additional instrument purchases through this link:

<https://fund.utsa.edu/project/34914>



Join On-Corps

More information and the registration form at this link:

<https://www.utsamusiccamps.com/on-corps.cfm>



Contact information:

Tracy Cowden, D.M.A., Director, UTSA School of Music; tracy.cowden@utsa.edu; 210-458-5670.

