



Air Force Investigates Meyer Technology

PHOTOGRAPHS



A recent daylong seminar and demonstration session at Bolling Air Force Base gave technical support personnel for the Air Force Band an occasion to investigate the advanced technology behind Meyer Sound's new M Series line array products.

The session was requested by the technical staff of the Air Force Band, and was jointly coordinated by Sandy Macdonald, Meyer Sound's Northeast Regional Sales Manager, and Greg Lukens of Washington Professional Systems, a Meyer Sound dealer in Wheaton, Maryland. Also participating on behalf of Meyer Sound was independent consultant Dave Lawler of Docktrdave Audio. "We've often worked with Meyer Sound to make customers aware of new technologies," says Lukens, "and this was a unique opportunity to provide information on the new line array products and give Air Force technical personnel some hands-on experience with an M2D system."

According to Sandy Macdonald, one factor that prompted interest in the new line arrays was the Air Force unit's prior experience with the company's products. "They had quite a number of veteran, conventionally powered Meyer Sound cabinets, including UPAs, UPM monitors and 650 subs," he notes.

The morning sessions covered the basic technologies behind the new M Series products, including line array theory, self-powered systems, MAPP (Multipurpose Acoustical Prediction Program) Online™ and the RMS™ Remote Monitoring System.

After lunch, the group reconvened on an open lawn area — with a sweeping view of the nation's capital across the Potomac River — for an afternoon of hands-on demonstrations. The demonstration system comprised four M2D Compact Curvilinear Array loudspeakers and two M2D-Sub Compact subwoofers, rigged and hoisted on a Genie ST-20 lift.

"The Air Force Band has a number of different ensembles, and they are constantly touring across the country and around the world," says Macdonald. "They work on a tight schedule, and often under difficult conditions, so they want systems



The Air Force Band ensembles tour constantly across the country and the world. Because they work on a tight schedule, sometimes in difficult circumstances, they need a system like the M2D line array that is reliable, works anywhere and rigs quickly.

FEATURED PRODUCTS

[M2D](#)

[M2D-Sub](#)

[MAPP Online](#)

[RMS](#)

that are reliable, work anywhere and rig very quickly.”

During the session, the M2D array was configured as a straight-line array for long-throw power, and also as a curvilinear array to demonstrate the system’s smooth transition from near to far field. Source audio was both live voice and Compact Disc™ playback. “We showed them how the M2D, without any outboard processing and only minimal EQ, sounds great right out of the box,” says Lawler.

There are no sound level restrictions at Bolling Air Force Base (as the Meyer Sound participants discovered when the Marine One helicopter passed over at low altitude), permitting higher-level tests. In fact, a group of Military Police heard the demonstration from a position a half mile distant, and drove up to investigate the source of the sound. “At first I thought we were busted,” laughs Sandy Macdonald. “But they just wanted to know if we had any rap or hip-hop CDs we could play. We found something with an R&B flavor, put it on, and they went back to their duties.”

After the sessions were over, Air Force Band technicians requested permission to keep the system for several more days to allow further investigations. “All in all, it was a great experience,” says Macdonald. “The Air Force personnel were very inquisitive, and very open to learning about new technology. We had a great time.”

Lukens also considers it a day well spent. “Meyer Sound is committed to customer education, and we always enjoy partnering with them in bringing this kind of information to customers in a thorough and enjoyable manner.”

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