



## Acoustic Assistance for the Relocation of the Royal Marines', UK

### Project Summary:

WSP Acoustics have been working with the Royal Marines at HMS Collingwood to understand the acoustic properties of this new home for their 54 strong military band. Consider that the same building needs to house a brand new conference centre and this project suddenly becomes more interesting.

### The Client's Challenge:

HMS Collingwood is a naval station on the outskirts of Portsmouth. The Royal Marines are establishing this site as a new home for their world renowned band, currently based in the West Country.

Prior to re-housing the musicians, instrumentation and practice facilities, our client wanted to ensure that the new facilities were fit for more than one purpose. In addition to housing rehearsal and practice space for the band, the existing building was identified as an ideal conference facility for the base. The challenge lay in ensuring music noise transfer between the two areas is kept to an absolute minimum. Predominantly quiet environments such as conference suites should not receive acoustic overspill from the rooms housing a full strength brass section and an extremely loud drum corp.

### Our Work:

We are providing acoustic and M&E services consultancy services relating to the relocation of this band. These are principally to understand how buildings materials, furnishings and layout affect the location of a variety of rooms.

Our work entailed assessments of this band whilst in performance, in-situ. We took noise measurements amongst the players, and in and around other parts of the building during rehearsals for their Christmas season. We built a detailed picture of the current acoustic interactions between the instruments and their surroundings.

Building a picture of data and the complexity of these sounds and movement, we are able to understand the transfer properties between areas. Our experienced acousticians

advise on which rooms best suit which musical activities. The design phase of this project sees our experts providing recommendations for any necessary structural, architectural and materials upgrades to maximise sound insulation. We design the structural and material changes which will be most effective for our clients based upon their requirements and building uses.

### The Outcome:

Our services helped identify that the proposed new site for this band was an appropriate building to house this multi-purpose venue. However, if this building was to successfully house a brass band and conference facilities it would require both structural and building fabrics upgrades. Our design team worked closely with the Royal Marines to ensure the project objectives were met.

### Contact:

David Maundrill  
Tel: +44 (0)20 7314 5022  
Email: david.maundrill@wspgroup.com  
Office: London, UK

