

1SG Ross Pavolko

First Sergeant Ross Pavolko was born in Coldwater, OH, and raised within a strong military family. He enlisted into the Active Army in September 2004, and attended Basic Combat Training (BCT) at Fort Jackson, SC and Advanced Individual Training (AIT) at the Armed Forces School of Music on Joint Expeditionary Base-Little Creek, VA. Upon completion of training, he was awarded the Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) 42R, Army Musician. After winning an audition for the Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps in 2012 he transitioned to the MOS 42S, Special Band Musician.

1SG Pavolko arrived to the Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps in March 2013, and has held several duty positions within the corps to include Training NCO, Voting Assistance Officer, Casualty Assistance Officer, State Funeral Subject Matter Expert for Joint Team Procession, Bass Drum Section Leader, Drum Group Leader, and Operations Element Leader. His previous assignments include the 113th Army Band, Fort Knox, KY; 82nd Airborne Division Band, Fort Bragg, NC; 62nd Military Intelligence Corps Band, Fort Huachuca, AZ; 1st Armored Division Band, Fort Bliss, TX.

1SG Pavolko's military education includes Warrior Leader Course, Advanced Leader Course, Senior Leader Course, Company Commander and First Sergeant Pre-Command Course, Basic Airborne Course, Reenlistment and Retention Course, and Combat Lifesaver Course. He also holds a Bachelor of Music Performance in Percussion from Bowling Green State University in Ohio, where he studied with Dr. Roger Schupp.

His awards and decorations include the Army Commendation Medal (6th award), Army Achievement Medal (3rd Award), Army Good Conduct Medal (5th award), National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal (2 campaign stars), Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army NCO Professional Development Medal (numeral 3), Army Service Medal, Army Overseas Medal, and NATO International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) Medal. He has also been awarded the Basic Parachutist Badge.