



*The Board of Directors of Blue Alliance present*



# **Building Community**

**November 18, 2023**

Eisenhower Golf Course, USAFA, Colorado



Man's flight through life is sustained by the power of his knowledge.

*The Eagle and Fledglings, USAFA Terrazzo*

# Our Purpose for Tonight

## *Building Community*

In a healthy society, a web of institutions—families, schools, religious groups, community organizations, and workplaces—helps form people into kind and responsible citizens, the sort of people who show up for one another.

The theme of our event this year is “Building Community,” and it is meant to dovetail on the efforts by USAFA leadership as they address the culture and climate issues within the cadet wing. Blue Alliance supports the USAFA mission, our alumni, current Spectrum cadets, and allies. We aim to offer meaningful engagement to build understanding, awareness, and positive connection to enhance morality, integrity, and character, thus helping to produce confident, courageous, tolerant, and inspiring leaders.

# The Blue Alliance Logo

## *Explained*



The triangle shape was chosen to depict the journey of the Air Force, the Academy, and each Cadet and graduate into a distant, sometimes unclear future. This triangle is dissected by the cross-section of the tetrahedron that form the spires of the Cadet Chapel.

The words Blue Alliance form the foundation of the dark-blue left section of the triangle, forming a beacon in the dark.

The Polaris Star dominates the left section, in a pink hue, that represents our slightly differing perspective on navigating an uncertain future.

The right side of the triangle is lighter, showing our hope for a brighter future built on the common imprint of our Academy experience, depicted by the Cadet Prop and Wings insignia, on our collective character.

The stripes on the right-hand band are based on the four class colors of the current Cadet Wing, tapering off in a growing line of class colors into the past.... a past built on the contributions of those brave LGBT graduates who went before us.

# Honored Guest

*BRIGADIER GENERAL LINELL A. LETENDRE*  
*(USAFA '96)*



Brig. Gen. Linell A. Letendre is Dean of the Faculty, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado. She commands the 750-member Dean of Faculty mission element and oversees the annual design and instruction of more than 500 undergraduate courses for 4,000 cadets across 32 academic disciplines. She directs the operation of five support staff agencies and faculty

resources involving more than \$350 million.

The general graduated from the Air Force Academy in 1996 as a distinguished graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in Astronautical Engineering. After serving as an Acquisition Officer, Brig. Gen. Letendre became a Judge Advocate through the Funded Legal Education Program. She graduated from the University of Washington law school with high honors and was named to the Order of the Coif and the Order of the Barristers. Prior to this assignment, she served as the Permanent Professor and Head of the Air Force Academy's Department of Law.

Brig. Gen. Letendre previously served as a Staff Judge Advocate at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois, and also represented the Air Force in appellate review of all courts-martial as the Deputy Chief Trial and Appellate Counsel. Additionally, she served as the Legal Advisor for the DoD Comprehensive Review Working Group, where she advised on legal and policy issues surrounding repeal of "don't ask, don't tell."

# Morality



“What gave such widely compelling force to [Dr. Martin Luther] King’s leadership and oratory was his bedrock conviction that moral law was built into the universe.”

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— “How America Got Mean” by David Brooks, published in The Atlantic, August 14, 2023

# *Event Agenda*

1:30pm **Falcons Beat UNLV**

@USAFA

5:00pm **Open Bar and Networking**      Eisenhower Golf Course

5:30pm **Buffet Meal**

6:00pm **Introduction**

Welcome from Chairman - Jeff Breining, '85  
Opening comments - General Richard Clark '86, Supt.  
Introduction and Presentation - Captain Anna Cruz '14

6:15pm **Discussion Group Break Out**

Breakout 1: Health care in the LGBTQ+ community.  
Breakout 2: What is the status: culture of acceptance toward the  
LGBTQ community in the military  
Breakout 3: Secret Puzzle: Orientation, Identity, and fluidity.

7:00pm **2023 Flight of Heroes Inductee 2023**

Introduction and Presentation by Trish Heller, '87

7:20pm **Close and Acknowledgements**

# 2023 Flight of Heroes Inductee Kimberly Braun



Kim Braun is a civilian instructor in the Computer Sciences Department at USAFA and the OIC of Spectrum – the LGBTQ student run cadet group. She is also a published software engineering researcher. Over the years, Kim has been a staunch ally and visible presence for Spectrum, helping them to attain relevance and acceptance on campus. She has displayed a great deal of commitment, continuity, and leadership, and has been willing to push boundaries to help the cadets in Spectrum become the best version of themselves through authenticity, courage, and confidence. She was instrumental in working with USAFA staff to update the cadet sponsorship application and matching process to align Spectrum cadets with willing families. For her efforts in the evolution of Spectrum and her continued support of Blue Alliance, Kim Braun is our recipient for the Flight of Heroes Award in 2023.



# Blue Alliance

## *Flight of Heroes*

“ONE WAY TO REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE IS TO REMEMBER WHO YOUR HEROES ARE.” - Steve Jobs

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In 2007, a small clutch of out-and-proud graduates of our United States Air Force Academy began to conceptualize and implement the charter for a support network for lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, and transgender [LGBT] graduates, cadets, faculty, and allies - BLUE ALLIANCE - and that organization has withstood the test of time and honored its charter. Throughout this journey, we have witnessed uncountable quiet acts of heroism and character. We are inspired by these demonstrations of character and leadership and committed to recognizing these heroes in our midst and our community on a recurring basis.

The Board of Directors of Blue Alliance therefore created an award: The BLUE ALLIANCE FLIGHT OF HEROES - recognizing the cadet, alumnus, faculty, or ally who best demonstrates the ideals of courage, leadership, humanity, integrity, accomplishment, and loyalty at the center of our shared experience within the Air Force Academy. It is our sincere hope that Flight of Heroes inductees will serve as community role models.

### **PREVIOUS INDUCTEES:**

Steve Samuels	- USAFA Dept. of Behavioral Science and Leadership -Founding Alumni of Blue Alliance
Darrell Slack ('85), Jeff Breininger ('85), Tricia Heller ('87), and Greg Mooneyham ('87)	
Dan Dwyer ('12), Shaina Thompson ('12), and Andrew Jacobs ('12)	- Founding Spectrum Cadets
Brig. General (ret) Gary Packard ('82)	- Permanent Professor and Chair of USAFA Behavioral Sciences and Leadership Dept.
William "T" Thompson ('73)	- Executive Director USAFA Association of Graduates
Gary Howe ('69)	- Executive Vice President USAFA Association of Graduates
Brig. General Andrew Armacost	- USAFA Dean of Faculty
Bill Oliver	- PFLAG Colorado Springs
Mrs. Kim Braun	-Spectrum OIC Dept of Computer Science

# Diversity, Equity and Inclusion



“When we listen and celebrate what is  
both common and different,  
we become a wiser, more inclusive,  
and better organization.”

- Pat Wadors

# Honored Guest

*LIEUTENANT GENERAL RICHARD M. CLARK*  
*(USAFA '86)*



Lieutenant General Richard M. Clark is the Superintendent, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado. He directs a four-year regimen of military training, academics, athletic and character development programs leading to a Bachelor of Science degree and a commission as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force or U.S. Space Force.

Lt Gen Clark graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1986. His commands include the 34th Bomb Squadron, Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota; 12th Flying Training Wing, Randolph AFB, Texas; 8th Air Force, Barksdale AFB, Louisiana and Joint Functional Component Commander for Global Strike, Offutt AFB, Nebraska. He has also served as a White House Fellow in Washington, D.C.; the Commandant of Cadets, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado; Senior Defense Official/Defense Attaché, Cairo, Egypt and as the Commander, 3rd Air Force, Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

Prior to his current assignment, he served as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategic Deterrence and Nuclear Integration, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, the Pentagon, Arlington, Virginia.



....Blue Alliance: *An Honorable Calling!*

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