



The Board of Directors of Blue Alliance present



A Tribute to Alliances

October 6, 2012

Eisenhower Golf Course, USAFA, Colorado





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

The Eagle and Fledglings, USAFA Terrazzo

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High Flight

by John Gillespie Magee, Jr.

Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed and joined the tumbling mirth
Of sun-split clouds.
And done a hundred things you have not dreamed of –
Wheeled and soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence.
Hov'ring there, I've chased the shouting wind along
And flung my eager craft through footless halls of air.
Up, up the long, delirious burning blue,
I've topped the windswept heights, with easy grace,
Where never lark or even eagle flew.
And while with silent, lifting mind I've trod,
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,
Put out my hand and touched the face of God.



A Toast to Alliances



General Mark A. Welsh III currently serves as the 20th Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force. After graduating from USAFA in 1976, his career has spanned the breadth of the Air Force – from A-10 Instructor to the Air Officer Commanding of Cadet Squadron 5, on to F-16 Squadron Commander, USAFA Commandant of Cadets, and Commander of U.S. Air Forces in Europe. The most prevalent words in his biography are joint, strategic, and training.

To those of us who have been watching, General Welsh has never missed an opportunity to make the Air Force a better place for EVERY Airman to serve. General Welsh has served as a teacher, an example, an ally, and a visionary leader. Alliances made his career and serve as our greatest lesson.

Blue Alliance is proud to host General Welsh and his wife, Betty, in a forum that he inspired through his leadership and never-ending commitment to the betterment of his people. And so we will share a toast of thanks in tribute to our collective efforts in building and strengthening the vital alliances that make for solutions and success --in service to our country and support of our comrades in arms, both past, present and future.

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.

Blue Alliance Tribute to Alliances

Event Agenda

1:00pm * **Falcons Beat Navy** Falcon Stadium

** Should the game end earlier, all times will be appropriately earlier.*

1:15pm **Open bar and Networking** Eisenhower Golf Course

1:45pm **A Toast to Alliances** Eisenhower Room

2:00pm **Buffet Meal**

2:30pm ***Flight of Heroes* Inductee 2012: Steven M. Samuels, Ph.D.**

Introduction of Awards by Karl Alvarez

Presentation by Greg Mooneyham to Dr. Samuels

2:50pm **Conversation: Alliances and the Air Force Leader**

Tricia Heller and Colonel Samuel “Bo” Mahaney

3:15pm **Blue Alliance’s New Year – A Very Blue Horizon!**

Tricia Heller, Blue Alliance ED

3:30pm **USNAOut Perspective**

Steve Hall

3:40pm **USFA Spectrum Focus, Needs and Priorities**

Brandon Reams and Lydia Hill

3:50pm **Thanks and Acknowledgements**

Karl Alvarez





From The Ramparts

From the ramparts we will go into the sky,

Far away from comrades here.

To whatever fate may bring:

Fame, or Glory, even Death.

But no matter what may come,

Life is better, purpose more, honor bright

Because 'twas here we first beheld,

What greater thing could be.

“a Proposed Hymn for the Cadet Wing”
Clifton Williams, March 1965

Blue Alliance

Flight of Heroes

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 and faculty. The journey of this small, noble group brings us to today – in a post-DADT era where open service is, daily, becoming a reality.

Throughout this journey, Blue Alliance has witnessed uncountable, quiet acts of heroism and character. We have seen lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, and questioning [LGBQ] cadets maturely discuss their career needs and those of their growing community. Graduates and faculty alike were inspired by these demonstrations of character and leadership and committed to recognizing these heroes in our midst on a recurring basis.

The Board of Directors of Blue Alliance has, therefore, created a recognition: The Blue Alliance Flight of Heroes into which, each year, we will induct 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 at or since the Air Force Academy.

We will award one or more awards each year at a Blue Alliance event. It is our sincere hope that *Flight of Heroes* inductees will serve as the much needed role models for cadets and graduates. To that end, we will take recommendations for inductees throughout each year.

Bring Me Men!

Bring me men to match my mountains,
Bring me men to match my plains,
Men with empires in their purpose,
And new eras in their brains.

Bring me men to match my mountains,
Bring me men to match my plains;
Men to chart a starry empire,
Men to make celestial claims.

Bring me men to match my prairies,
Men to match my inland seas;
Men to sail beyond my oceans,
Reaching for the galaxies.

These are men to build a nation,
Join the mountains to the sky;
Men of faith and inspiration,
Bring me men, bring me men, bring me men!

Bring me men to match my forests,
Bring me men to match my shore;
Men to guard the mighty ramparts,
Men to stand at freedom's door.

Bring me men to match my mountains,
Men to match their majesty;
Men to climb beyond their summits,
Searching for their destiny.



Steven M. Samuels, Ph.D.

Inaugural Inductee

Blue Alliance *Flight of Heroes*

Dr. Steve Samuels is the first inductee to the Blue Alliance *Flight of Heroes*. His strength of character and unflinching commitment to create safe spaces for LGBQ cadets has inspired every member of BA.



“Steve was one of THE earliest supporters of Blue Alliance, gay or straight, even before we had a name for ourselves.”

At a time and in an environment where self-preservation could have prevailed for a man of less character, Dr. Samuels voiced and actively demonstrated his passion for creating safe spaces for all young people, including our cadets.

Winning over every early member of Blue Alliance with his enthusiastic support for these important issues and his genuine warmth as a human being, Steve actively sought out mechanisms to support our cadets. Supported daily by his remarkable partner and wife, Dena, he became a trusted ally and a respected source of information and perceptions about the rapidly changing environment of the Academy.

In the dark days of 2007, it was almost unthinkable to have a member of the USAFA faculty so supportive and firmly on our side. Steve and Dina opened their home to LGBQ cadets in need. Steve unwaveringly identified himself as gay-friendly and his personal space as safe for everyone.

The Board of Directors struggles to adequately express our thanks to and admiration of Steve Samuels. He is truly a hero and will always have a place at our table, in our homes, and in our hearts. “Here’s a Toast”



One More Roll

Commander Jerry Coffee, Hanoi, 1968

We toast our hearty comrades, who have fallen from the sky,
And were gently caught by God's own hand to be with him on high.

To dwell among the soaring clouds they knew so well before,
From tail-chase to victory roll at heaven's very door.

As we fly among them there, we're sure to heed their plea:
Take care, my friend, watch your six, and do one more roll just for me.

A New Conversation

Colonel Samuel “Bo” Mahaney is the Commander of the 452nd Air Mobility Wing, Air Force Reserve Command, March Air Reserve Base, California. The wing is the Air Force Reserve’s largest and the only unit-equipped air mobility wing with nine C-17s, 15 KC-135Rs, and some 4,000 reservists.



Commissioned in July 1985, Colonel Mahaney has a broad base of experience across the operational elements of the Air Force. He graduated from the Reserve Officer Training Corps [we will forgive him!] at the Missouri University of Science and Technology. He has experience on the B-52, KC-10, C-5, C-9A, and KC-135 weapon systems. Colonel Mahaney was a Harvard National Security Fellow, Georgetown Legislative Fellow, and legislative liaison. Additionally, Colonel Mahaney is a licensed attorney [we’ll work very hard to forgive him that!]. He served as an adjunct professor at the Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, DC.

Colonel Mahaney brings 27 years of Air Force Experience and 5,150 hours as a command pilot to our discussion of Alliances. We welcome Colonel Mahaney and his wife, Chris, to our continued work in Blue Alliance.



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