

Blue Alliance Newsletter  
Spring 2008

Welcome to the second newsletter of Blue Alliance – LGBT Alumni of the US Air Force Academy.

It's been five months since the first newsletter and a lot has happened. First, we've grown from 66 to 92 LGBT alumni participants. Although it's short of our goal of 100 by March 31, I think it's still quite impressive. We were granted 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status by the IRS. We published a groundbreaking advertisement in *Checkpoints* listing 78 Blue Alliance LGBT participants, 59 of those participants were listed by name, the rest were listed as Anonymous by class year. Finally, and very importantly, we have established a respectful and professional relationship with the Association of Graduates. Not bad for 5 months work.

Over the next six months I'm looking forward to "Bringing Our Allies Out Of The Closet," publishing another *Checkpoints* ad, planning for the first Blue Alliance national meeting in November at the Academy, and migrating to a more robust networking platform that will safely allow and encourage allies to participate in our network while protecting the privacy needs of our LGBT participants.

We've done a lot and we have a plan. But there's still plenty more to figure out and much to do.

*Off We Go!*

Darrel Slack  
USAFA 1985

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FIRST NATIONAL BLUE ALLIANCE GATHERING: November 14-15 at USAFA

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received notes back from seven people who told me they had heard nothing. I also received notes from two LGBT cadets who both said something familiar: "Cadets really don't spend time reading *Checkpoints*."

Overall, I found that publishing the ad has had some very valuable benefits. We now have a good working relationship with the AOG. We've started a dialogue among the graduate community which appears to be more positive than I initially expected. While our opponents are exposing themselves in ways that demean their position and values, they are also showing that we have a lot of important work ahead of us. Finally, LGBT cadets and active duty grads have some more compelling evidence that they are not alone and that the rules that compel their silence are silly and wrong. I'm personally very proud of what we accomplished in publishing our ad and I believe it's an investment that will pay a lot of dividends for those that follow us.

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#### ANNOUNCING NEW BLUE ALLIANCE DIRECTOR

We are pleased to announced the addition of Kathleen Robbins, USAFA 1968, to the Blue Alliance Board of Directors effective May 13, 2008. Kathleen joins fellow Directors Greg Mooneyham – '87, Jeff Breininger – '85, Trish Heller – '87 and Darrel Slack – '85. Please join me in thanking Kathleen for volunteering to serve as a Director to help drive the further development of Blue Alliance. You can find her email address on the [YAHOO! Group](#).

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#### IRS 501(c)(3) TAX-EXEMPT STATUS COMPLETED

On February 27, 2008 the IRS issued a determination letter indicating that Blue Alliance, a public benefit corporation, is exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to Blue Alliance, retroactive to October 19, 2007, the date of incorporation, are now deductible from Federal Income Tax under section 170 of the Code.

This is an important milestone toward achieving more organizational legitimacy for Blue Alliance. Having tax-exempt status is also a prerequisite for receiving grants from nearly all foundations, corporations and other organizations that fund the type of work we are doing. Thank you to those that donated a portion of the approximately \$1,000 we needed to complete the application and the associated government filings.

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#### FIRST QUARTER 2008 FINANCIAL INFORMATION AND DONOR LIST

In the first two quarters of our group's existence, we received \$4,055 in donations and we spent \$3,508 for incorporation and IRS tax-exempt status (the IRS filing fee alone was \$750), the *Checkpoints* ad (\$1,550 to the AOG and \$350 for layout), and the rest for miscellaneous stuff (web hosting and development software, postage and copying, Google Adwords, Intellius reports, PayPal fees, etc.). Detailed quarterly reports are listed in the Yahoo! Group files section.

#### Q4 2007 Donations

Anonymous	USAFA	93	\$500
Anonymous	USAFA	87	\$500
Joe Soto	USNA	83	\$500
Darrel Slack	USAFA	85	\$250
Anonymous	USAFA	99	\$200
Greg Mooneyham	USAFA	87	\$200
Ross Ridder	USAFA	88	\$200
Anonymous	USAFA	98	\$150
Kathleen Robbins	USAFA	68	\$150
Anonymous	USAFA	89	\$150
Chris Curry	USAFA	76	\$100
Doug Sparks	USAFA	82	\$100
Eric Woodson	USAFA	87	\$100
Greg Probst	USAFA	89	\$100
Bill Musick	USAFA	76	\$100
Laurel Scherer	USAFA	93	\$75
Regina Brown	USAFA	85	\$60
Paula Neira	USNA	85	\$60
Trish Heller	USAFA	87	\$60
Sharon Boyd	USAFA	80	\$50

Q1 2008 Donations

Anonymous	USAFA	99	\$250
Cholene Espinoza	USAFA	87	\$200

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SLDN NATIONAL DINNER

At least four Blue Alliance members attended the [SLDN](#) national dinner in Washington, DC last month. It was a terrific experience hearing about the progress being made while eating with 900 folks who were mainly LGBT veterans and service members in an inspiring setting. It means a lot to me personally to have SLDN fighting for and supporting our fellow grads who are serving.

From the SLDN March 2008 newsletter Frontlines...

“Tipper Gore, Ambassador Michael Guest, and Rep. Shelley Berkley (D-NV) were among the speakers at SLDN’s 16th annual national dinner. The event, which honored Army Sergeant Darren Manzella, took place on Saturday, March 8th at the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C.



Manzella, an openly gay medic featured on the December 16th edition of the CBS newsmagazine 60 Minutes, accepted the group’s Barry Winchell Courage Award. The award, named for the slain Army Private First Class whose murder in 1999 sparked national outrage and debate over “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,” is given by SLDN in recognition of a man or woman who has shown courage in speaking openly and honestly about the plight of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender service personnel. Judy Sheppard, the mother of slain University of Wyoming student



We need someone with superior attention to detail to volunteer to administer the page and the project. It's going to take a bunch of teamwork to get this project going. Please consider volunteering. We'll discuss the program on this Tuesday's conference call.

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### MIGRATION FROM YAHOO! GROUPS TO NING

Beginning next month we are going to move from Yahoo! Groups to Ning. Ning is a robust social networking site that has more features for capturing or hiding data. Right now we can't safely invite a broader group of people to join the Yahoo! Group because of the privacy needs of our military participants. I believe the robustness of Ning will accommodate our participants privacy needs, allow for more focused interest-group dialogue and do a better job of automating the joining process. Watch for more details. Consider volunteering to lead this effort.

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### VOLUNTEER

So you don't feel you can afford to write a check to Blue Alliance. That's certainly understandable (and hopefully eventually rectifiable). But in the mean time, how about helping to fill the gap by volunteering. There's lots to do. Here's a list of our current volunteer needs:

- Manage the administration of the Bring Our Allies Out Of The Closet program.
- Edit or write a portion of the Blue Alliance newsletter.
- Develop the volunteer web page.
- Organize a Blue Alliance event.
- Research Foundations with the potential to offer Blue Alliance a grant.
- Lead the migration from Yahoo! Groups to Ning.
- Run a Blue Alliance conference call.
- Secure speakers for Blue Alliance conference calls.
- Develop the Cadet Sponsor program.
- Select a name for the newsletter.

Send an email to [info@blue-alliance.com](mailto:info@blue-alliance.com) if you're up for volunteering.

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### THE BLUE ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER STILL NEEDS A NAME

We still need a name. Here are some ideas we got from the last newsletter:

- Blue Alliance Airmail
- Bluemail
- Blue Dispatch
- BlueReview
- Airmail

How about sending some more names to [info@blue-alliance.com](mailto:info@blue-alliance.com). Perhaps even volunteer to manage a poll to help find the best name. What do you say?

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===== EVENTS AND HAPPENINGS =====

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NEXT CONFERENCE CALL: Tue, April 22, 9:00 pm Eastern / 6:00 pm Pacific

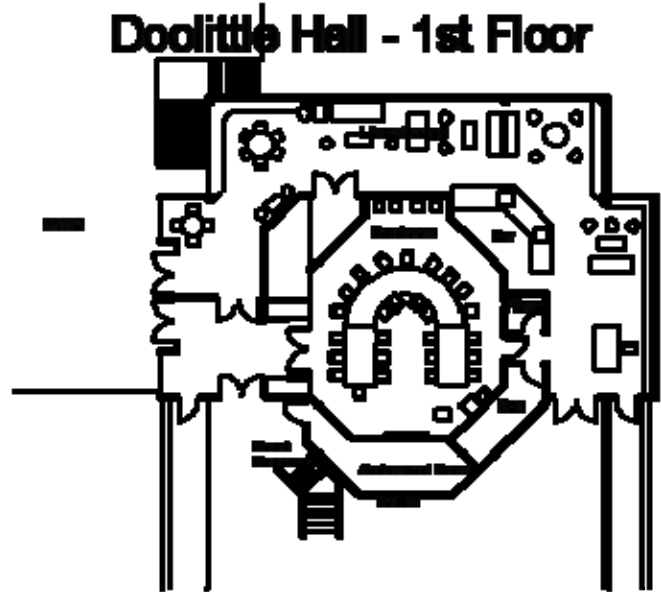
Now that we're organized, we're going to reduce the frequency of our conference calls to once every two months. I'd like to keep inviting speakers for a portion of the call and each of us can help a lot to make these calls interesting by suggesting and helping to secure speakers.

I'd also like to reinstitute MY STORY which is a portion of the call where one or two of us tell their story of being LGBT in the AF. If you are willing to tell your story, or if you're willing to encourage someone else to tell their story, please drop me an email.

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FIRST NATIONAL BLUE ALLIANCE GATHERING: November 14-15 at USAFA

The Board of Directors of Blue Alliance will be having its first face-to-face meeting on Saturday morning at the Academy in Doolittle Hall, the AOG's HQ, concurrent with the class reunion for 1988 (and possibly 1998 which is still to be scheduled) and you are invited to participate. The Doolittle Hall Boardroom and Bar/Library are actually very nice facilities with the Bar/Library having a spectacular view of the Cadet Area. Since we have four '88 Blue Alliance participants, two '98 participants, five board members and several participants located in Colorado, it could be a sizable gathering. There is a home game that afternoon against BYU.



We'll also have a Blue Alliance cocktail reception Friday (11/14) evening in-between the traditional "absent sir" memorial ceremony and the class of 88 dinner.

If you missed your class reunion for whatever reason, or if you are at all curious to see how USAFA has changed since you were there, this could be a great excuse to venture back to the zoo, especially since you know there will be some very friendly folks in town.

Go Air Force, Beat BYU.

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{===== DONATE TO BLUE ALLIANCE =====}  
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DONATE

Our 2008 programs that need your financial support include:

- Bring Our Allies **Out Of The Closet** (\$2,000)
- September *Checkpoints* Advertisement (\$2,000)
- Speakers Bureau Funding (\$3,500) Send LGBT grad speakers to Air University at Maxwell and USAFA

Please help out by giving financially.

TO contribute click here: 

Or PayPal [donate@blue-alliance.org](mailto:donate@blue-alliance.org)

Or send a check to:

Blue Alliance  
PO Box 14611  
San Francisco, CA 94114

Blue Alliance is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt public benefit corporation. Contributions are tax deductible under the US Internal Revenue Code.

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Email newsletter post requests to [info@blue-alliance.org](mailto:info@blue-alliance.org).

SUBSCRIBE: Send a blank email to [info@blue-alliance.org](mailto:info@blue-alliance.org) with SUBSCRIBE in the subject line.

UNSUBSCRIBE: Send a blank email to [info@blue-alliance.org](mailto:info@blue-alliance.org) with UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line.

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