



The Board of Directors of Blue Alliance
Present



On the Pulse

October 4th, 2014

Eisenhower Golf Course, USAFA, Colorado



(excerpted)

**The horizon leans forward,
Offering you space to place new steps of change.
Here, on the pulse of this fine day
You may have the courage
To look up and out upon me, the
Rock, the River, the Tree, your country.**

No less to Midas than the mendicant.

No less to you now than the mastodon then.

**Here on the pulse of this new day
You may have the grace to look up and out
And into your sister's eyes, into
Your brother's face, your country
And say simply
Very simply
With hope
Good morning.**

Maya Angelou

Blue Alliance: On the Pulse

Event Agenda

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|------|---|-----------------|
| 1630 | Falcons Beat Navy | Falcon Stadium |
| 1700 | Open Bar | Grill Room |
| 1720 | Welcome of Distinguished Visitors | Eisenhower Room |
| | Jeff Breininger, '85, Chairman, Blue Alliance | |
| 1730 | Distinguished Visitor Comments | |
| | <i>The Honorable Deborah James</i>
<i>Secretary of the Air Force</i> | |
| 1800 | Buffet | |
| 1820 | Flight of Heroes Inductee 2014 | |
| 1830 | Panel Discussion - On the Pulse | |
| | Introduction by Trish Heller, '87 | |
| | Update on Trans Issues, Aaron Belkin, Palm Center | |
| | Colonel Gary Packard, '82, Moderator | |
| 1930 | Open Discussion | |
| | Open forum Q&A, Col. Gary Packard | |
| 2010 | Closing Remarks | |
| 2015 | Adjournment and Toast – “One More Roll” | |

The Honorable Deborah James is the 23rd Secretary of the Air Force and is responsible for the affairs of the Department of the Air Force, including the organizing, training, equipping and providing for the welfare of its more than 690,000 active duty, Guard, Reserve and civilian Airmen and their families. She also oversees the Air Force's annual budget of more than \$110 billion. Prior to assuming her role as SecAF, Ms. James served as President of Science



Applications International Corporation's Technical and Engineering Sector, where she was responsible for 8,700 employees and more than \$2 billion in revenue. Ms. James has a Bachelor's Degree in Comparative Area Studies from Duke University and a Master's Degree in International Affairs from Columbia University.

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 – to an era where open service is, daily, becoming a reality. We would also be remiss to not thank **William “T.” Thompson, '73 and Gary Howe, '69 of the AOG** for giving us the courage and encouragement to attempt such a venture. Their efforts helped us gain affinity status early on.

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. We have witnessed the Cadet Wing demonstrate courage in forming the LGBT Cadet Group Spectrum

In 2012, The Board of Directors of Blue Alliance 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.

2012 – Dr. Steve Samuels

2013 - Founding Board Members of Blue Alliance: Darrel Slack, Jeff Breininger, Trish Heller, and Greg Mooneyham

2013 - Founding Cadet Leaders of Spectrum: Dan Dwyer, Shaina Thompson, and Andrew Jacobs

2014 – Colonel Gary Packard, '82, Permanent Professor and Chair of the Behavioral Sciences and Leadership Dept., USAFA

Colonel Gary Packard, '82 is inducted into the **Blue Alliance Flight of Heroes for 2014**. His vision, courage, and shared commitment to build an Air Force Academy where open service is possible for every American has inspired every member of BA. He has been supportive of our group from the start, and helped us to formulate language and strategy to help BA become an accepted and trusted resource for senior leadership at USAFA, and has helped us realize a vision for the future environment of USAFA - one where all cadets are asked to do one thing regardless of their sexual orientation: **Excel in all that you do**, and do so with commitment and integrity. It is an honor to present Gary with this award.



PANELIST BIOS

Colonel Gary Packard, USAFA '82– Moderator

Gary is a 1982 graduate of USAFA and a command pilot. He is the chair of the Dept. Of Behavioral Science and Leadership at the Air Force Academy. Gary has a graduate degree in Psychology from Michigan State and a Ph.D. from UNC Chapel Hill. He also holds a Master's Degree in Aeronautical Science from Embry Riddle. He hails from Chelsea, MI. His main academic and teaching interests are leadership & character development and social influences on development.

Aaron Belkin, Founding Director of the Palm Center

Aaron Belkin is a scholar, author, activist and dancer. Since 1999, Aaron has served as founding director of the Palm Center, which the Advocate named as one of the most effective gay rights organizations in the nation. Aaron serves as professor of political science at San Francisco State University. He earned his B.A. in international relations at Brown University in 1988 and his Ph.D. in political science at the University of California, Berkeley in 1998.

Lou Feuchtbaum, USNA, '86

Lou is a partner at the law firm of Sideman & Bancroft in San Francisco, and a former district attorney in the Bronx. He graduated from USNA in 1986, and The George Washington University School of Law. Lou served in combat while on active duty in the US Navy.

Anthony Woods, USMA, '03

Anthony is a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, who was discharged from the United States Army in 2008 for violating the military's "Don't ask, don't tell" policy. He has run for Congress and also served as a White House Fellow in 2011-12. Anthony is a graduate of Harvard University JFK School of Government and served as an aide to New York Governor David Paterson.

Kathleen Robbins, USAFA '68

Kathleen graduated with an Engineering Science degree from USAFA, then flew as a C-130 instructor navigator in Vietnam for two years. While in the AF, she completed an MBA and resigned in 1975. Following the AF, she worked in corporate America, beginning with P&G, and was CEO of Cellular One of East Central Illinois for eight years. In 2007 she co-founded the Jatropha Projenou, an effort to develop a biodiesel and soap industry in Haiti using seeds from a native tree to produce oil. Today she travels to Haiti 3 to 4 times a year.

Tara L. Sweeney, USAFA '95,

Tara is CEO of Servamer Corp. and a 1995 graduate of the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA). As a cadet, she distinguished herself as both a student and an athlete ultimately serving as First Group Commander and graduating with honors. Upon graduation, Tara attended USAFA-sponsored graduate school at UNC Chapel Hill, and served as a Helicopter Maintenance Officer in the United States Air Force Special Operations Command until she was medically retired. Tara continues to succeed in her civilian career, founding several successful entrepreneurial endeavors. She resides in Henderson, Nevada, with her wife, Dr. Jennifer Bishop, and their two dogs, Calie & Jake.

Daniel P. Dwyer IV, USAFA '12

1st Lt. Dan Dwyer IV is the Combat Readiness Resources Officer in Charge of the 733 AMS at Kadena AFB, Okinawa, Japan. He majored in management at USAFA and in 2014 was awarded an MBA from Grand Canyon University. Dan was a founding member and the CIC of Cadet Spectrum. He hails from Fort Collins, CO.

Nate Vosters, USAFA '02

Maj Nathan P. Vosters is the Air Officer Commanding of Cadet Squadron One at the U.S. Air Force Academy. He is an acquisitions officer who has served in a variety of program management positions at the Space and Missile Systems Center and while deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He is a graduate of both the Naval Postgraduate School and Air Command and Staff College. He also recently received a Master's degree in Counseling and Leadership from UCCS. He lives in Colorado Springs with his spouse Tyron.

CIC Chase Morelock, USAFA '15

Chase hails from Appalachia, Virginia and is in USAFA class of 2015. He is member of Cadet Squadron 3 "Dogs of War" majoring in Management. Chase is a member of the Wings of Blue Demonstration Team and Business Club, and wants to become a hospital administrator with the Medical Service Corps.

Yvonne "Evi" Johnston, USAFA '09

Capt. Yvonne M. Johnston, USAFA '09 is a Flight Commander, 322 TRS, Lackland AFB, TX. A graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy in 2009, Captain Johnston has served in various assignments in ACC, AFGSC, AFMC, and AETC. She is a graduate of Squadron Officer School, and deployed to Honduras in 2011.



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.**

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 is a registered 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization. Please visit us on the web at <http://www.blue-alliance.org>

Blue Alliance is a volunteer organization whose members are not compensated. Please consider making a tax deductible donation.