



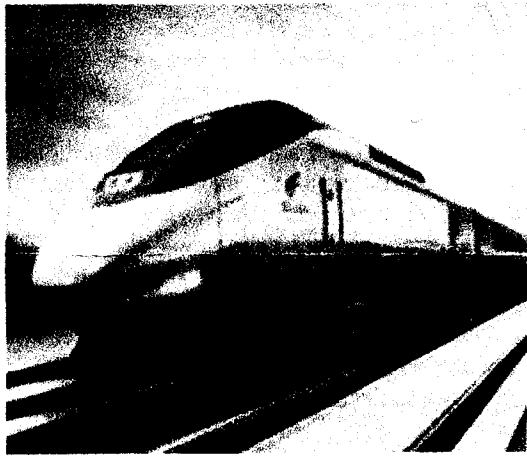
**we are  
family**

# TIB 2002 ON TRACK

**Following the WWTC, new cast rolls into Lackland to begin staging "Spirit of America"**

**tops in blue priors' newsletter**

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Another spectacular Worldwide Talent Contest came to a close in March with the selection of the cast for Tops In Blue 2002. The contest, which was held March 17-24, yielded three great nights of entertainment and its total success was due largely to the consolidated efforts of the AFE Staff, our TIB Priors, and Team Lackland. Kudos go out to all for another "job well done!" There were 70 contestants in this year's contest and once again, the talent was superb. Besides their performance on stage, contestants were also judged on personal interviews and specialized auditions, with those criteria contributing to their total score.

The judges had a very difficult task selecting this year's winners, but did it, and the finals results were as follows: In the male vocalist category, A1C Jamie Montgomery of Yokota Air Base, Japan garnered first place, while 2Lt Eric Gillespie of Bolling AFB, DC took second. Top female vocalist honors went to A1C Angie Long from Whiteman AFB, MO. SrA Toni Dickerson of Hulburt Field, FL received second. First place in the instrumental category went to Amn Ian Davis, Tinker AFB, OK, and A1C James Ellisor from Keesler AFB, MS earned second. In the specialty category, SrA Robert Carter of Nellis AFB, NV took first with second place going to SrA Marcie Mascaro of Fort Meade, MD. SrA Carter, who dazzled the audience as he sang an original composition and accompanied himself on the piano, was also the recipient of the "Best of Show" award.

the cast of Tops In Blue 2002. The following individuals were chosen:

Once the contest was over, Air Force Entertainment set about the task of selecting

- |                         |                       |                      |                        |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1Lt. Susanne Neidlinger | Lackland AFB, TX      | SrA Marcie Mascaro   | Ft. Meade, MD          |
| 2Lt. Eric Gillespie     | Bolling AFB, DC       | SrA Donald Rapier    | Keesler AFB, MS        |
| 2Lt. Julian Jackson     | Mountain Home AFB, ID | A1C Mayra Aleman     | Cannon AFB, NM         |
| 2Lt. Michael Scott      | Osan AB, ROK          | A1C Eboni Anderson   | Tyndall AFB, FL        |
| MSgt. Bryan Langerud    | Fairchild AFB, WA     | A1C James Ellisor    | Keesler AFB, MS        |
| TSgt. Maximo Hernandez  | Lackland AFB, TX      | A1C Kristin Gwitt    | Holloman AFB, NM       |
| SSgt. Evelyn Bruce      | Incirlik AB, Turkey   | A1C Angie Long       | Whiteman AFB, MO       |
| SSgt. John Russell      | Goodfellow AFB, TX    | A1C Keith Loudermill | Kirtland AFB, NM       |
| SrA Robert Carter       | Nellis AFB, NV        | A1C Latanza Meabon   | Little Rock AFB, AR    |
| SrA Toni Dickerson      | Hulburt Field, FL     | A1C Jamie Montgomery | Yokota Air Base, Japan |
| SrA Ryan Guina          | RAF Lakenheath, UK    | A1C Gregory Voss     | Edwards AFB, CA        |

The cast "rolled" into Lackland in mid-April staging "on track". This year's show is entitled, "The Spirit of America," and promises to take the audience on a spectacular rhythmic train trip across the U.S.A. with stops at America's music hotspots. Featuring a variety of music from Motown to Country, it's bound to be another "success express" for TIB. Look for more information on the show and the upcoming tour schedule on the official Tops in Blue website - [www.airforcetopsinblue.com](http://www.airforcetopsinblue.com)

## DYNAMIC DUO IS AS GOOD AS GOLD

**Lorna Newton and Ed Jones become newest Golden Roger Recipients**

She was a Roger winning M.C. and the precocious little girl trapped inside Mr. Johnson's toy store. He was a savvy vocalist, with smooth moves; the consummate entertainer. But their contributions to TIB go far beyond their on-stage performances, and as a result, Lorna Newton and Edward Jones are the latest recipients of the prestigious Golden Roger. For several years Lorna, who toured with TIB in '86 and '88 and performed in the '87 Bob Hope Special, has been actively supporting the program. She founded the Capitol Area Priors (CAPS), a group of 19 TIB priors in the Washington area who work year round to groom new talent for TIB. To date they have put 20 people on the bus! In addition, she has worked on the Worldwide staff since 1987 serving as team leader, team coordinator and heading up the specialty auditions. Ed did four tours with TIB; he was a performer in 1990 and 1992 and Performance Coordinator in 1996 and 2000. And in addition to being a fixture at worldwide, he has worked at TIB staging as vocal coordinator and choreographer every year since 1994. He has provided invaluable support, encouragement and inspiration, and many of our most recent TIB priors credit Ed's mentoring for their success on tour. While both Lorna and Ed have found personal success in the entertainment industry; they continue to take time out from their busy lives to give something back to the program. When it comes to supporting Tops In Blue they both have a heart of gold. And now they have a Roger to prove to it.





## CHAMPIONSHIP QUARTET CELEBRATES 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

### "Four Teens" Gained Worldwide Acclaim, Toured with TIB in '53

Having toured with the first Tops In Blue show in 1953 is a monumental accomplishment in itself, but as members of the legendary barbershop quartet known as "The Four Teens," James "Mike" Egan, Jim Chinnock, Don Lamont and Don Cahall (along with original member John Steinmetz, who

Hope Show they were called upon to fill in when Hope's group was late in arriving. They were a big hit and even got to sing "Sweet Sixteen" with Bob's sidekick, Jerry Cologna. Later that year they join the St. Louis chapter of *Ye Olde Tymers* and received coaching and direction from the society's president, Dr. Norman Rathert. In October 1951, under Dr. Rathert's guidance, they entered the Central States District contest in Great Bend, Kansas and won, beating out 23 other groups. They followed that in April 1952 by winning district's International Preliminary contest in St. Louis and then made history by winning the International Championship; becoming the youngest quartet ever to do so. It's a record that still stands. Following their incredible victory, the group went on to headline at barbershop shows throughout the country, which provided great public relations effort for the Air Force. In 1953, they continued putting their talents to work not only representing the Air Force but sharing those talents with their Air Force members around the globe when they were selected to perform as part of a new program called Tops In Blue. As part of that inaugural TIB show, The Four Teens not only toured the U.S., but Canada, Greenland, Japan, South Korea, Okinawa, Wake Island, the Aleutians, and other locations worldwide. In addition they appeared on a number of TV variety shows. The group enjoyed continued success following their tour with TIB and will once again put their talents on display this summer at the convention. We congratulate The Four Teens on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of their great achievement and say, "Break a leg in Portland!"

passed away in 1980) accomplished another impressive fete a year earlier. Prior to their success as part of TIB '53, these talented airmen reached the pinnacle of excellence for quartets when they were crowned as International Champions in 1952. This summer, they will celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of their remarkable achievement when they reunite at the Barbershoppers International convention Portland Oregon July 2-7, 2002. The group, named by Steinmetz' father, was founded in Eau Claire, Wisconsin in 1948 and over the next two years performed over 250 times, mostly for no money at all. In late 1950 John Steinmetz decided to join the Air Force and since the other members couldn't talk him out of it, they decided to join too! Once they reached basic training at Lackland, it was only a matter of time before they were performing at the hospital and service clubs on base. After basic, they were all assigned to Scott AFB, Illinois, where they got their first big break - while helping to set up for a Bob

### Where Are They Now?

#### MIKE DAVIS – Audio Technician - Tops In Blue 1982

Mike retired from the AF in 1993 and was active in AF talent program for 17 years. He is currently working in Civil Service in the 746TS at Holloman AFB, New Mexico. While he toured as a technician, Mike is an entertainer and he's still performing. He done local theater and appeared as "Vince Fontaine" in a local production of "Grease." He also performs at clubs as a stand up comedian and was previously a member of "Rocky Mountain Comedians" comedy entertainers. In addition he does audio work for local theaters and performers. A degreed Electrical Engineer with a Master of Science in IT management, Mike is a member of the Society of Audio Engineers (SAE).

#### BOB MORROW – Stage Manager – Tops In Blue 1988

Most of you know Bob as the "webmaster" - the man responsible for the creation of the Tops In Blue prior's website. But, less we forget, Bob toured with TIB in 1988 as Stage Manager. He left the Air Force in 1994 and currently lives in Helena, Montana, where for the past 5 years he's been working for Diebold, Inc fixing ATMs, bank vaults, alarms, etc. He's constantly on the road in his job but says, "Unlike being on tour, I'm home every night!" He's still single and in his spare time, of course, he's keeping us all on-line and in touch. Incidentally, Bob was one of the first "original 13" priors to subscribe to the newsletter when it first came out back in 1994.

#### T.A. BURROWS – Comedian / Tour Director – Tops In Blue 1978, 1980, 1983

OK, I thought it was time to do my own "where are they now?"...I toured as TIB's comedian in '78 and '80 and was Tour Director in '83. I retired from the Air Force in 1993 and currently live in Phoenix, Arizona, where I work as the executive assistant to the president of a technical institute and also run my own entertainment business, "The Entertainer & Associates." I'm also still performing stand-up comedy regularly and have written, produced and co-starred in three musical comedies; "Driving Miss Daizy... Crazy!" "Ain't Missed a Beat!" and my latest production "The Man in the Mirror." And in my spare time, I'm editor of the newsletter, but then you knew that, right?

### TIB "Blue Notes"

Congrats to Laura Coyle (now Noel), TIB '92 who is now a vocalist with the SHAPE International Band in Belgium and just married fellow bandsman, Gary Noel. Also congrats to Sarah Cantrell who has been named as Tour Director for this year's show! I'll be performing my new show at Altus (July 13), Tinker (Aug 2), Vance (Aug 3), and Luke (Sep 6). Finally, please send me any information, updates, and/or news you may have. Otherwise I gotta make stuff up! Have a great summer!... T.A.

"We Are Family" is published by  
T.A. Burrows  
The Entertainer & Associates  
Phone: 623-486-4500  
E-mail: ta@taburrows.com