

Kirtland, Air Force Academy Claim Top Innkeeper Honors

For Kirtland AFB, N.M., it was a scene very familiar — a trip to New York and another Innkeeper Award. For the Air Force Academy, it took a little longer to claim another Innkeeper trophy, but was well worth the wait.

The two Air Force Inns in neighboring Southwestern states claimed top honors at the Innkeeper Awards ceremo-

ny honoring the best lodging operations in the Air Force.

Kirtland Inn at Kirtland AFB, N.M., led by Lodging Manager Steve Holland, won its second straight Innkeeper Award in the Large Category (more than 285 rooms), and the Rampart Lodge at the U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo., helmed by General Manager Giuseppe La Bella, prevailed in the Small Category for its second Innkeeper Award and first since 1987.

The awards ceremony took place at New York's Sheraton New York Hotel & Towers on Nov. 7, 2009, during the International Hotel/Motel and Restaurant Show (IH/M&RS).

This was the first Worldwide Lodging Managers' Conference for Maj. Todd Alcott, USAF, who took over as

Air Force Inns chief in 2009 following the retirement of Lt. Col. Kerri Kilgore, USAF.

Alcott, along with more than 200 Air Force Inns personnel from around the world, gathered in New York for the Worldwide Lodging Managers' Conference, which featured two days of training and culminated in the awards ceremony honoring Air Force Inns' finest.

Several dignitaries were also in attendance for the ceremony, including keynote speaker Art Myers, SES, now Principal Director, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy; Air Force Services Director Chuck Milam, SES, and Air Force Services Agency Commander Col. Sandra Adams, USAF.

The Rampart Lodge features 82



Art Myers, SES, Principal Director, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy, delivers the keynote address at the Air Force Innkeeper Awards Ceremony.



Milam presents the Innkeeper Award (Small Category) to Giuseppe La Bella, general manager, Rampart Lodge, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo. (standing to right of trophy), and Col. Todd W. Robison, USAF, 10th Air Base Wing Vice Commander.

Floors. Ceilings. Walls.

Armstrong **CROSSVILLE** **FLEXCO** **GSA** **daltile**

CONTINENTAL FLOORING COMPANY *Your One Stop Shop, Nationwide* **800-825-1221**
continentalflooring.com



Steve Holland, lodging manager, Kirtland Inn, Kirtland AFB, N.M. (standing to right of trophy) and Col. Michael S. Duvall, USAF, 377th Air Base Wing, Kirtland AFB (standing to left of trophy), accept the Innkeeper Trophy (Large Category) from Milam.

guest rooms and 20 temporary lodging facilities (TLFs) spanning five buildings. Originally a dormitory, it was converted to a lodge in the late 1960s.

“It was mostly a feeling of accomplishment,” La Bella said. “We had worked so hard as a team over the past year and everyone went the extra mile to ensure their part of the puzzle fit.”

Kirtland Inn has provided lodging for travelers on temporary duty (TDY) and permanent change of station (PCS) orders since the 1950s. The inn consists of 12 buildings and 39 family houses, which are located on the east and west sides of the base, totaling almost 600 guest rooms.

“We were completely surprised to win the Innkeeper Award back to back, but we were also extremely proud to know that our Inn is indeed a world-class Air Force Inns property, and being recognized two years in a row cemented that for all of us here,” Holland said.

This was Kirtland’s third Innkeeper Award, having also won in 2005. With its back-to-back awards, the Kirtland Inn cannot compete for the Innkeeper for the next two years. It will be eligible to contend again in 2012.

Myers, who served as Air Force Services director from 1998 through January 2009, provided a quick history lesson on Air Force lodging, going back to the days of billeting when he joined the Air Force at age 17.

“Throughout the years, we went from Air Force billeting to Air Force lodging. You set the standard for excellence and you are the very best. In the years ahead, wherever I may go, just remember one thing — I will always, always be a proud Services airman.”

Milam presented the 2009 Air Force Innkeeper Travelers Awards to Kim, Chin Song, Osan AB, Korea, in the Large Category, and Dana Simnioniw, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo., in the Small Category.

—MCH

PROVIDING A BETTER STANDARD OF LIVING



SERVING THOSE WHO SERVE SINCE 1971

