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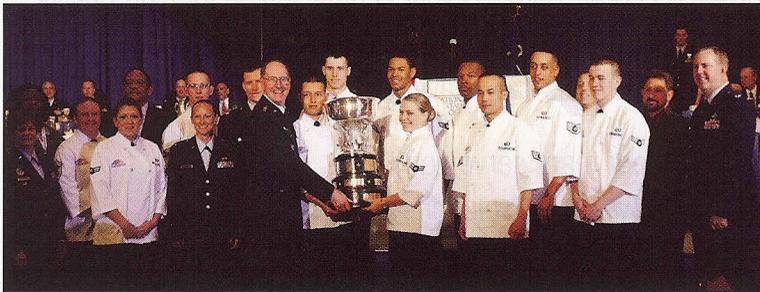
# Best of Both Worlds

By LAUREN LOCHETTO

MANAGING EDITOR

For the first time in the 52 years the Air Force has been hosting an awards breakfast ceremony to honor the winners of its John L. Hennessy Awards, it coupled with the Marine Corps to recognize the winners of the General W.P.T. Hill Memorial Awards as well, creating an event that was doubly satisfying.

The breakfast was held on Saturday, May 17, 2008, from 8 to 10 a.m. at the Sheraton Chicago, in conjunction with the National Restaurant



# Hennessy/Hill Wrap-Up



Association (NRA) Restaurant, Hotel-Motel Show. The Hennessy and Hill Awards acknowledge the hard

sponsors of, and participants in, the Hennessy Award Program Initiative, created by the NRA in conjunction with the Hennessy Travelers Association (HTA) as an extension of the 50th anniversary of the Hennessy Awards program.

work and culinary skill of their respective service's foodservice professionals.

The ceremony was held in a similar fashion to what the Air Force had done in previous years, but Hill trophies were on display alongside Hennessy ones, and for almost every Air Force speaker there was one for the Marine Corps.

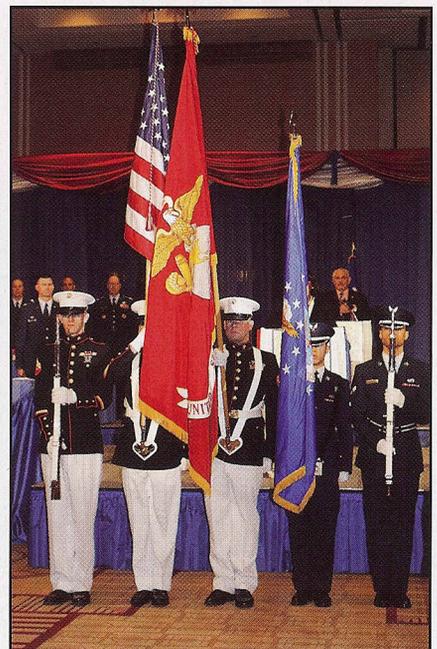
"This year's Hennessy/Hills awards breakfast was a first-class event. It met all of our expectations for the 1st Hennessy/Hill Awards presentation," George Miller, chief, Air Force Food Service, told *Government Food Service*.

Following the usual posting of the colors, the National Anthem, a drill ceremony by the Air Force Honor Guard Drill Team from Bolling AFB, Washington D.C., and other introductions, the special-guest keynote speaker for the event, four-star Gen. Robert C. Kehler, USAF, commander of the Air Force Space Command, took the podium.

"The Marine Corps was honored to be associated with the NRA during the joint breakfast ceremony," said Lt. Col. Carlos Sanabria, USMC, director, Marine Corps Food Service Program, who was celebrating the Hill Awards as director for the first time this year. "The event was well planned and seemed to finish without a hitch. Feedback from senior officers from the Marine Corps and the Air Force reflected a favorable impression and opened the door for closer joint planning for future events."

Kehler greeted attendees with a humorous anecdote or two, followed by a heartfelt speech on the importance of continuing to encourage programs designed to improve the quality of life for all servicemembers, as do the Hennessy and Hill awards, along with their counterparts in the Army, Navy, Coast Guard and Military Sealift Command: the Philip A. Connelly Awards, the Capt. Edward F. Ney Memorial

In addition to recognizing the special achievements of Air Force and Marine Corps foodservice facilities and personnel, the Hennessy/Hill Awards Breakfast has for the last few years served as a venue for honoring the

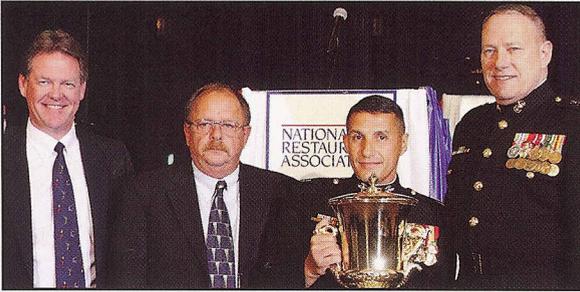


## 2008 Hennessy Travelers Association Award of Excellence Winners

Staff Sgt. Janice M. Ladd, USAF, Hurlburt Field, Fla.  
Multiple-Facility Team Winner

Airman 1st Class Claribel Najera-Torres, Tyndall AFB, Fla.  
Single-Facility Team Winner

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Awards, the Coast Guard Excellence in Foodservice Awards and the Capt. David M. Cook Awards.

Kehler started out on this topic by asking himself and the audience, "What is it about this activity and this particular awards ceremony, and the competition leading to it, that makes this important for us to support this in such a way that we do?" He continued, "The answer is simple, this is about our airmen, and if I take a page from our four or five partners who aren't here, it's about our Marines, it's about our soldiers, it's about our sailors. It's about the fundamental responsibility of every leader in the United States military, and that is number one, always, first and foremost: take care of the troops. And so that's what this is really all about here, and that's why we have paid such attention to this."

When it came time to recognize the award winners, the Hill trophies were presented first, followed by the Hennessys, and montages of clips taken from winning dining facilities during each service's evaluations were displayed on a large projector screen.

Miller added that feedback from the overall ceremony has been very positive. "We received many compliments on the joint-service format," he said. "The senior National Restaurant leadership in attendance stated this was a showcase event. They enjoyed

the Joint Honor Guard and the Air Force and Marine Corps troops being together. Senior Air Force leaders in attendance also commented favorably on the joint-service format."

With regard to the future of the ceremony, both he and Sanabria noted that improvements were in mind. "The format for this year's awards was a change from our past ceremonies, but it gave us a chance to do things a little different," said Sanabria. "The combination of our Friday night orientation meeting, in conjunction with the Saturday morning breakfast, allowed us plenty of opportunities to recognize this year's winners. As a community, we enjoyed the event and look forward to next year's awards."

Along the same lines, Miller said, "We are working with the Marine Corps to improve the program for future events."

-GFS