



Behind the 8 Ball



Blue Beret National Cadet Special Activity Oshkosh, Wisconsin

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From the Activity Director



Welcome to National Blue Beret 2014! I am excited to see 140 cadets and 42 seniors attending this year. National Blue Beret is the most diverse National Cadet Special Activity with members representing 42 wings and all 8 regions. However, diversity is what brings us together and adds to the “Beret” experience.

The next 2 weeks will bring a myriad of challenges as you develop and hone your emergency services skills. Take advantage of each and every training opportunity and use this time to add to your mission skill set. The long days of training will pay off as we begin our operational period on Friday. The first “real-world” application of your training will be tested with a mass arrival of 50 Piper Cherokees. The following days will bring mass arrivals of 100 Beech Bonanzas, 50 Cessnas, and 50 Mooney aircraft. By the end of the activity, over 10,000 aircraft will converge on Wittman Regional Airport and call AirVenture home.

Make no mistake; you have taken on a greater responsibility than most CAP members will experience in their entire time in CAP. Whether it is marshaling aircraft on the flight line, assisting with ultra-lights/rotorcraft, searching for overdue aircraft or monitoring the Warbirds area, you are an integral part of AirVenture. The Experimental Aircraft Association entrusts NBB to provide assistance and we will not fail. You represent the finest group of professional volunteers that our great nation has to offer.

Be sharp! Look sharp! Stay sharp! I am a Blue Beret. Follow Me!

*James D. Peace, Lt Col
NBB Activity Director 2014*

Statistics

Total attending – 182
Total Cadets – 140
Total Senior Officers – 42
Region Staff – 0
National Staff – 0

Wings most represented:

Kansas – 17



Texas – 23

Number of Wings – 42

Furthest Distance Traveled:

- Hawaii

*Pam Morris, Maj
Admin*

In-Processing

One hundred and eighty two people... five stations... one thousand ninety two forms to collect... This is all part of the first step in your path to completing National Blue Beret 2014. After landing at Appleton Airport you were whisked away in CAP Vans for about a twenty minute ride to the compound, upon arrival you hurriedly, but hesitantly located your gear. Then you lined the outer wall of the Dining Facility (DFAC) which has been transformed into a massive intake center and arranged into a check in process so efficient that it would make Conrad Hilton himself green with envy. Upon entering the threshold of the big blue DFAC double doors, you were made to show your ID and sign in to ensure one hundred and eighty two people arrive. No more, and no less. Then you were asked if you'd like to purchase a Beret shirt or use the Beret Bank. Next, you moved to the medical station to declare any medications you have with you, and to take several steps to ensure you receive proper care should the need arise. You are then given both of the activity shirts that you will wear during the next two weeks.



Moving right along you shuffled on over to have your ID picture, by your friendly neighborhood administration team, say cheese! Finally, you will call to let the folks on the homestead you had arrived safely and were off to a great start. Then you headed over to the barracks to settle in and get to know your flight and build bonds that will carry you through the next two weeks.

***Kyle Adams, C/Maj
Cadet Public Affairs Officer***

Safety Corner

The first day of Blue Beret consisted of a detailed safety survey of all facilities on the compound and immediate surroundings. Any issues were noted and remedied with recommendations from Major Brian Bauer, chief safety officer. Maj Bauer is an Air Force officer stationed at Edwards Air Force Base, California. He has served in CAP for 14 years, joining as a cadet at age of 15. As a returning Beret, Maj Bauer is intimately familiar with the challenges and operations tempo seen at the event. He will continually observe and update event staff on safety concerns or issues, as well as work closely with cadets to ensure operations are conducted efficiently while maintaining as safe environment as possible.



***Brian Bauer, Maj
Safety Officer***

Returning Beret Perspective

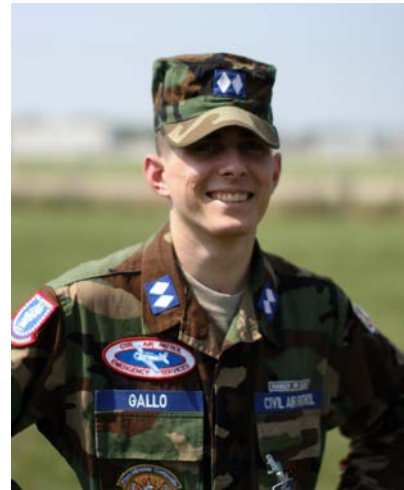


Semper Vigilans, Always Vigilant. At this activity, situational awareness is not an option. The entire time you are here, whether on flight line or not, make sure your head is on a swivel, and you are completely aware of your

surroundings. With as many people and planes that we have here, anything can happen. If something happens, it will happen when you least expect it. After the first few days of becoming acclimated to life at Beret, you will enjoy every moment here. At the end of the activity, earning the crest and joining the family will be some of the greatest accomplishments in your cadet career. Remember though that the activity doesn't stop once you leave. You are an example of leadership for today and the future. Let me leave you with a few words. "The beret and crest is earned, it is not given."

Nicholas Cavacini
Lima Flight Commander

Expectations of a New Beret



This is an activity I have always wanted to go to ever since I joined Civil Air Patrol 5 years ago. Anyone that has ever gone always has something positive to say about the activity. The

esprit de corps that is within the group of those who have attended National Blue Beret is like no other activity, and I wanted to be a part of that. I applied to this activity knowing how competitive it is and was fortunate enough to have been given a slot. I look forward to all aspects of the activity, especially the Emergency Services portions because I am active in local ES operations; it is something I really enjoy. I am also looking forward to the teamwork that is required, and growing close to my fellow flight members to accomplish the mission. "Mission First, People Always."

Logan Gallo, C/Lt Col
Juliet Flight Commander

Delta Flight Patch



Flight Commander: C/1Lt Klayten Visser
Flight Leader: C/1Lt Jake Aytes
TAC: Capt. Doug Crockett

Juliet Flight Patch



Flight Commander: C/Lt Col Logan Gallo
Flight Leader: C/Capt Chris O'Connell
TAC: Capt. Brian Eddy

Highlights from the Welcome Speech

“I hope y’all came for the knowledge and not the hat...” a term the command staff will undoubtedly rehash numerous times over the next two weeks here at National Blue Beret. Last night plenty of knowledge was imparted to you, so I hope you paid attention, but for those following along at home, here’s the recap!

- “This is the most fun you’ll ever have in the sun!” –Lt Col. Peace, Activity Director
- “I expect four things, that’s all, 1. NO drama, 2. Fulfill the mission, 3. Be safe, 4. Have fun” – C/Lt Col Walters, Cadet Commander
- Major Jaeger, Public Affairs Section Chief, with his behemoth of a camera told cadets about how they are also in the camera... “Appearance is everything. There are 500,000 people and 550 press corps attending the airshow.”
- “Seriously... wash your hands!” Major Thorpe, Food Services Section Chief
- “You’ll get allergies or the cold, look for it, let me know what you need.” Captain Crocket, Medical Officer

*Kyle Adams, C/Maj
Cadet Public Affairs Officer*

Trivia

How many dots are there on the 9-27 runway?

What two colors are the cones around the 9-27 runway?

