



# *Behind the 8 Ball*

*Blue Beret  
National Cadet Special Activity  
Oshkosh, Wisconsin*



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## **From the Assistant Activity Director**

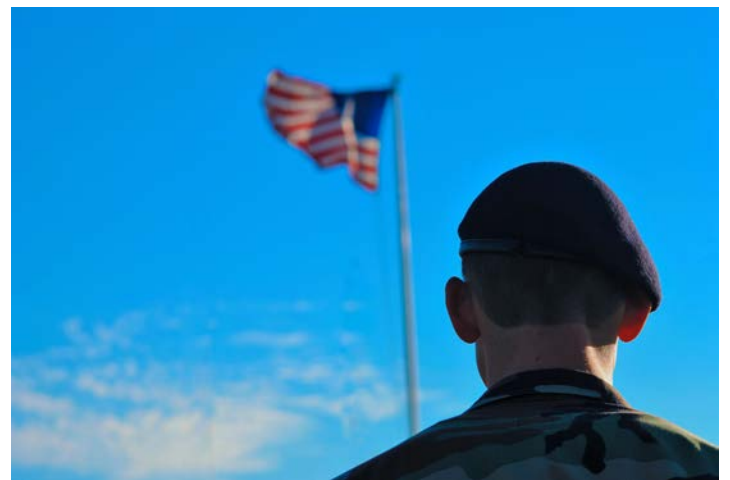


Greetings and welcome to Oshkosh! I have had the pleasure of emailing all of you during the course of the last few months. I am enjoying meeting all of you in person. Now that we have all made our way to Oshkosh and in-processed, it's time to stop and look around. You will see a lot of new faces that will soon become lifelong friends and a lot of green grass that will soon become aircraft parking and camping. You will see more airplanes at AirVenture than many people see in a lifetime.

Take some time to get to know the senior members as well as cadets you will meet at National Blue Beret. The seniors who staff this activity generously give their time and energy to ensure the activity is successful and your experience is one you will not soon forget. Please give the senior members your attention and listen to the wisdom they can share with you. Many of these members have been coming to Oshkosh for quite a few years.

As you complete your training, focus on learning tasks quickly. Master the tasks you are being trained to carry out so that you can complete them without stopping to think about it. We have a very short time to prepare you for all the experiences this activity can offer, so please pay attention. Learn your task well so you are a strong team member for your flight and the Beret team.

*Rick Franz, Col  
NBB Asst. Activity Director 2014*



## From the Cadet Commander



"Challenge yourself with something you know you could never do, and what you'll find is that you can overcome anything" (Anonymous). My five years in the cadet program has been based on this quote. When I first joined I was not taken seriously by anyone and did not honestly take the program seriously myself. I had someone come to me when I was an airman and tell me that I would never make anything of myself in the cadet program and that I should quit now. Well, quitting is not in my nature so the next 4 years I made it my mission to prove that person wrong. I was told I would never be an officer, never be cadet commander of my squadron, never go to National Blue Beret and never get my Spaatz award. Well I am an officer, I was the cadet commander of my squadron for a year and a half, I went to National Blue Beret and now I am the cadet commander this year and the last one (the Spaatz) I am still working on.

I explain this story to any cadet I meet who is willing to listen because it is a true story. Retention is a huge factor in keeping this program alive and I have found many of times that a lot of people face similar issues like mine. The only different is for a lot of the cadets they end up just quitting the program because they were told they could never do it. When cadets quit, the program takes a hit no matter how big or small an impact that cadet COULD have had on the program. I go back to the quote I started off with, the first words being challenge yourself. This means no matter how large or even how small a task or goal is, even if you don't believe you could ever do it, you need to try. Honestly what is the harm with pushing yourself towards a goal? You never know what you are fully capable of until you try it. If you want to be National Cadet CAC chair, Cadet of the Year or even just get your Wright Brothers award; it doesn't matter as long as you are determined and push yourself towards that goal.

I explain all this because I want everyone to understand that not only CAP but life will throw you some curve balls and if you believe you can't do it, but you still try, you may figure out you were a lot more capable than you thought. National Blue Beret is not the toughest NCSA physically but it's definitely not the easiest. I can promise you will want to quit at least once while you are here. I know I did my first year. This is when you need to lean on your flight and TAC (Your new family) to help you push on and overcome your wanting to quit. Sometimes stepping back and remembering why you are here and what the mission is we are trying to fulfill can help you regain that motivation to push on. I can also promise you that you will leave with a new family and friends that will last a life time along with some interesting and funny memories. Never forget that you can overcome anything. I am greatly blessed and honored to be your cadet commander for National Blue Beret 2014.

**Jenna Walters, C/Lt Col  
NBB Cadet Commander 2014**

## “GET YOUR FILTHY MITTS OFF OF THAT!”

Here at Beret safety hazards come in many shapes and sizes; many of them obvious but some... not so much. Cadets on CQ vigilantly guard our compound from external threats, but must also protect members from themselves. You will notice a metal gate, this gate is on wheels, that wheel will cause severe injury should your hand decide to enter its house. What would you do if you were to lose those fingers? You certainly couldn't take selfies with duck lips and a peace sign anymore... and where is the fun in that? Seriously guys, keep your hands off the gate!

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



### Meet the Medic



Captain Crockett is reprising her role as a Beret Medic this year. A third-time attendee, she has dealt with many of the common ailments encountered at National Blue Beret. Every now and again, an unusual case surfaces.

The most common ailment this year is the “hacky” cough, sinus drainage, sore throat and headache; most due to allergies.

With Major Thorpe as the Food Service Section Chief, proper nutrition is not an issue. We are all on alert for dehydration symptoms and constantly teaching the benefits and necessities of proper hydration. No problem is too small and for the more serious issues, Mercy Medical Center and Affinity Urgent Care are close by.

Captain Crockett has a disarming bedside manner when treating her patients.

“Sometimes,” she says, “I find out other issues folks are dealing with that can lead to the medical complaint. That’s part of the deal, though. When we are out of our comfort zone and are experiencing new challenges, our health can suffer.”

In addition to the typical treatments for aches, pains and illness, Captain Crockett can add “good listener” to her repertoire. As well as having extensive medical expertise, Captain Crockett is also a Squadron Commander in the Kansas Wing, a Mission Scanner/Observer, and Ground Team Leader.

**Pat Crockett, Capt.  
NBB Medical Officer 2014**

### Bravo Flight Patch



Flight Commander: C/2dLt Ryan Calviello  
Flight Leader: C/2dLt Zachary Porter  
TAC: Capt. Joe McRorey

### Echo Flight Patch



Flight Commander: C/Capt. Kyle Fields  
Flight Leader: C/Capt. Isaac McDermott  
TAC: Lt. John Davis

## Senior Member Highlight - Lt Col Lester Dutka



Lt Col Dutka, a twenty-seven year member of Civil Air Patrol, has left an undoubtable and unchangeable impact on countless cadets and seniors alike who have had the privilege of working with him. He has attended National Blue Beret fifteen times and cited the people as his motivation for coming back, he enjoys getting to meet them, work with them and mentor them, and he also enjoys sharing his many stories. Meeting Scott Crossfield is his favorite memory of Beret. In 1995, his first year at NBB, he was out on an ES cart doing routine duty when a gentleman flagged him down after his own cart ran out of gas. Upon stopping to help the gentleman he recognized him as the second man to break the sound barrier, Scott Crossfield. Beyond CAP Lt Col Dutka is self-employed and holds a degree in mechanical engineering, a field he is looking to return to in the near future. This is Lt Col Dutka's fifteenth year on the compound; in those years Lt Col Dutka has influenced approximately five thousand seven hundred CAP members. From all of us here at National Blue Beret, thank you Lt Col for your dedicated service to CAP!

*Cadet Public Affairs Staff*

## *Trivia*

### **Issue 1 Answers:**

*How many dots are there on the 9-27 run way?*

**3**

*What two colors are the cones around the 9-27 run way?*

**Yellow and White**

### **New Questions:**

*How many current or former wing commanders do we have at NBB this year?*

*How many man-hours does CAP contribute to AirVenture yearly?*

