



Behind the 8 Ball



Blue Beret National Cadet Special Activity Oshkosh, Wisconsin

Volume 7
Issue 6
3 Aug 2010

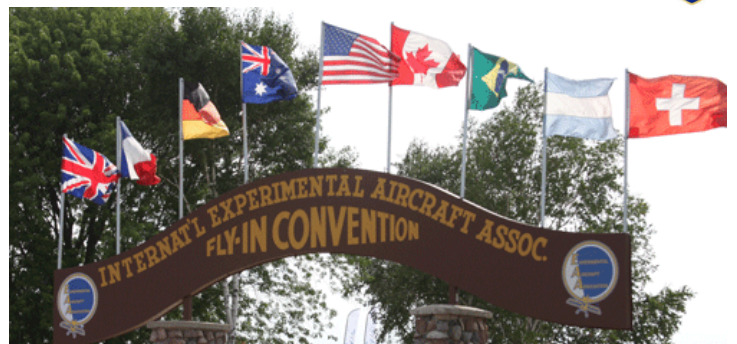
Can you believe it?

Just twelve days ago, we climbed out of various POVs and COVs to begin our adventure at National Blue Beret 2010. Do you remember what thoughts raced through your head as you disembarked from the vehicle that first time at the compound?

After completing welcome activities, safety briefings, and slotting the staff we began to complete necessary tasks. Each of us embraced a variety of training opportunities while in Oshkosh. Some worked on mission radio operator or urban direction finding, others aspired to become information officers or ground branch directors, and we all learned a lot about flight line operations. As the rain continued, the training days seemed to take forever to complete. We had bright spots like our visit to the EAA museum and the practice mission. Then, you probably noted that as the operational tempo picked up the days began to move more quickly. Before you knew it, we were handing out berets and St. Alban's pins. A whole new group of cadets and seniors joined the Blue Beret family. Now, we have just one day left before we depart Oshkosh. We have marshaled aircraft, done site security, and found ELTs among many other tasks.

We will all leave NBB with new skills and ideas. According to the Beret Creed, we are "leaders who exhibit the highest level of integrity." You should understand that as you leave you must act with care because when you wear the Blue Beret, you reflect on the activity and all other Berets. Hopefully, you will leave NBB willing to dedicate yourself to "the service of others rendered with respect and humility." You will recall that Berets are "dedicated to the service of others" and "committed to the well-being of comrades and community." As you leave NBB, remember that you are what your "country and Civil Air patrol expects [you] to be—the best of American youth and an example of leadership for today and the future." Wear your beret with honor and pride. You have worked hard to earn it. Go above and beyond. Bring credit to yourself, your unit, and Civil Air Patrol. As you cross paths with your fellow berets at other events and in the future, remember the skills learned and the fun you had at this activity.

Regena Aye, Col.
NBB Activity Director 2010 



Marshaling My Father

Ever since I was an AirVenture newcomer, I have wanted to volunteer at the largest air show in the world. Nine years later, I finally have the opportunity to do so. In the past, I would attend Oshkosh with my family. I have experienced the AirVenture culture by staying at Sleepy Hollow campground, boarding in a dorm room at University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, and from underneath the wing of our family's aircraft on the North Forty.



Like all of you, I've worked hard to get slotted for this activity—many hours of training have finally paid off. This year, I had the unique opportunity to marshal my father and grandfather into general aircraft camping (GAC). They took off in a Cessna 172 from small town Kansas with the destination of Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Juliet Flight was tasked, Thursday morning, for flight line North. After a night's stay in Portage, Wisconsin, my father and grandfather landed on runway 27 shortly after 0800. They pulled off onto the paved taxiway and began their trek to GAC. As a flight commander, I was walking the flight line. With a great distance between two marshalers, I was helping direct the ground traffic. Many Cessnas had landed within the same time period and were in search of a camping spot. With the sun behind this particular Cessna, I could not tell the color or the tail number until it was almost past me. However, according to a fellow flight member, I looked like a child waving at my family after recognizing the tail number. Many hours of training had finally paid off. I find it a great privilege to marshal my father—a fellow CAP member and my hero at AirVenture 2010.

Marah Carney, C/Maj

Transitions: A First Time TAC

I have had the pleasure of meeting and working with the majority of the senior members and cadets at National Blue Beret and watching how they grow the program. I joined Civil Air Patrol in December 2000, and have been active in the cadet program and attained the rank of Cadet Lieutenant Colonel (Eaker # 1639).



Over the past two weeks I have seen the great growth and maturity that has come over the cadets and have had to adapt to the new protocols and regulations, but through all of this I began to see what I never understood as a cadet. I could never grasp why the senior members would show up week after week and to the activities and mainly seemingly sit on the sidelines, and be excited and happy about their role. While here at Blue Beret the seniors have a much more active role, I have seen the joy and excitement on my cadet's faces and have felt a sense of pride at their accomplishments. The activities and experiences here at Oshkosh cannot be rivaled by any other CAP activity.

One thing that impressed me the most is the common ideal of mission first or completing the mission. Yes, we have had our hiccups in the schedule and problems between personnel but the mission has never suffered. I thought about it with this analogy in mind. When you are out hiking and a tree branch swings and grazes your arm or hand, do you stop everything and wait until the scratch heals? Or do you continue on and just think about the small problem and then forget about it as soon as the pain fades? In my time in both Navy and Army ROTC I have seen entire operations halted because of bad weather, small inconveniences, or unpopular command decisions. Throughout the week our cadets and seniors have braved the downpours which have made this the wettest fly-in in recent history, the sweeping decision of wearing our sleeves down, as well as the continuing illness that has been passed around.

Personally, I have begun to understand the traditions and situations that have caused my friends to return to this compound year after year. I have known many past berets and realize now just why we can all hold our heads high at our accomplishments yet serve with humility. This was no easy walk through an activity; it was hard labor and an ever-changing schedule, which prompts the motto "Semper Gumby."

Many times in life we fail, sometimes at the things we were born to do. It isn't about the failure; it is really about your actions following the failure and the accomplishments that follow. The old adage, "Every success was preceded by 999 failures," can carry you through anything you wish to accomplish, and use your experience here at Blue Beret to further yourself in whatever endeavor you choose. As we leave, the mission doesn't stop here, remember to carry on the mission, and move forward always. Lead with humility and pride when you return home and encourage others to follow in your footsteps to Beret!



Kenyon Frymam, 1st Lt, Foxtrot TAC

The Stallion

I did not expect much on a normal evening of flight line marshaling. I was the last cadet out of the van, and the



runway was clogged with aircraft traffic, but two beautiful silver bullets stood out from the others. The Charlotte's Chariot IV and the Scat IV are two P-51's that were parked where I was assigned. I listened to the pilots talk, and I asked many questions as well. Gary the EAA/CAP Liaison drives up in his little bug and says "I bet Cappie is dying to get in there." The pilots agreed and I happily climbed into the cockpit of this legendary aircraft. As I sat there, I felt was completely wowed by the plane, it took my breath away. It was definitely a good day on the flight line.

Will Schrammen, C/2d Lt.
Photo By: Ehren Rauch C/Maj



A New Guard Shack

Do you ever wonder how things get repaired or how new projects are completed at the National Blue Beret (NBB) then you will have to spend some time with Capt. Karl Kuether. He is here every year at NBB to provide the needed skills and knowledge to keep the maintenance issues repaired and keeps coming up with new ideas to make NBB a better place year after year for everyone. One of the new projects completed this year was remodeling the east guard shack and adding a new guard shack on the west side of the compound.

Bill Campbell, 1st Lt, PAO



Featured Flight: Echo



Flight Commander:

Brenden Finley, C/2d Lt

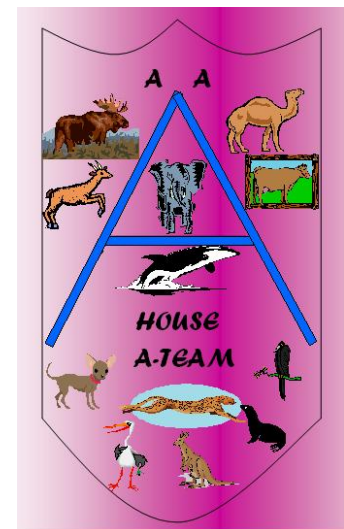
Flight Leader:

Theressa Quintana, C/Maj

TAC Officer:

Maj Tom Rauch

Featured Flight: Alpha



Flight Commander:

Katelyn Montgomery, C/SMSgt

Flight Leader:

Nicholas Howe, C/2d Lt

TAC Officer:

Stephen Gladwin, Capt



Aerospace The Way It Was Meant to Be!

Blue Beret is not for the faint of heart. In two weeks we train, run an operational mission base, practice leadership skills, meet and deal with the public, and hundreds of other things along the way. But one of the most profound things we do, and something that is easy to overlook is Aerospace. All you have to do is walk on the field and see everyone, cadet and senior alike, with eyes skyward in wonder and awe. EAA AirVenture saturates everyone's senses with aviation and fills the imagination with thoughts of "becoming".

Several cadets have commented on their squadron's aerospace programs. Some say, "Wow that's what we learned in AE classes the other week. It is so cool to see it happening in person." While others say, "Aerospace, it is such a chore, but we have to do it to promote to the next rank." As a team activity, I arranged for the PAO staff to build wing ribs at the EAA Woodshop. To an 18 or 20 year old this activity seemed boring at first. When we got there, the EAA volunteer staff greeted us with a smile and began to give a rundown of the process.

We laid the strips of wood in the jig and started to epoxy them in place and said, "You know it is so cool to be able to actually see who it is put together." After a few seconds one cadet commented that he could really see how the top of the wing is longer than the bottom and said, "I almost want to measure it." We had a great conversation about Bernoulli's principle and how it applies to the shape of the wing. The process only took 30 minutes, but it made aerodynamics real.

When we finished we picked up the rib and headed back. On the way back, I commented, "Do you know we discussed most of the lesson plans for the AE module on flight?" The cadets had an epiphany and commented, "that is the way AE should be done."

Making it real, relevant and creating that moment is what Maj Lou Volpato does best, he brings in speakers like Dick Rutan, Charlie Plumb, Patty Wagstaff and the Tuskegee Airmen. The lineup of famous aviators that visit NBB has been incredible. Aviators sharing their stories help Berets feel the experience and make it real. Experiences handed down and recounted to cadets, the next generation, connect one to the other. They listen to the words but then internalize the topic and its meaning. Dick Rutan speaking about his the Voyager experience of circling the world asked, "What mark will you leave on the world?" The next time they are out staring at airplanes, I am certain a few people will remember this question.

It is no easy task to put these activities together. Senior and Cadet AEOs may spend hours putting together a 15 minute project, but that is what makes it real. Tapping into that passion is a tough task but one that is well worth the effort. AE at Blue Beret takes months of effort and so I challenge everyone reading this; Make aerospace the way it was meant to be... **make it real!**

As the activity comes to a close what will you become? How has this experience changed your view of aerospace? How can you take it back and with the utmost humility, teach what you have learned?

***Daren Jaeger, 1st Lt
Public Affairs Officer***



Faces of Blue Beret

