



Behind the 8 Ball



Blue Beret National Cadet Special Activity Oshkosh, Wisconsin

Volume 10
Issue 1
24 July 2013

From the Director



Welcome to National Blue Beret 2013! I am excited to see 137 cadets and 42 seniors attending this year. National Blue Beret is the most diverse National Cadet Special Activity with members representing 45 wings and all 8 regions. However, diversity is what brings us together and adds to the “Beret” experience.

Wednesday brings the first full day of training. Take advantage of each and every opportunity to add to your ES skill set. The long days of training will pay off as we begin our pre-operational period on Friday. The first “real-world” application of your training will be tested with a mass arrival of 50 Piper Cherokees. The next day will bring mass arrivals of 100 Bonanzas, 75 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. 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.

I am a Blue Beret. Follow Me!

*James D. Peace, Lt Col
NBB Activity Director 2013*

Statistics:

Total attending – 179
Total Cadets – 137
Total Senior Officers – 42
Region Staff – 1
National Staff – 0

Wings most represented:

Kansas – 16



Texas – 18

Number of Wings – 45

Furthest Distance Traveled:

- Alaska

*Barbara Willis, Maj
Admin*

In-Processing

Welcome to the first activity of the activity, the cadet's first step to being a Beret! Regardless if you are a cadet or senior member you will be going through some variation of in processing. In processing includes multiple steps that may raise a few questions, and hopefully this article can answer them for you. The first place that members go after exiting the CAP van is the dining facility which has been turned into an in processing center for your convenience. Upon entering the facility, the member reports immediately to the administration desk where he or she hands in all paperwork required. This is done so we know who has successfully arrived at NBB and everyone's information is accurate. After this station they will move on to the



medical station and declare any prescription drugs or notable medical information that we need to take certain steps to meet mental and medical needs. The next step is placing gear on a table and notifying the inspector of any contraband which will be held until the end of NBB. Then the senior member will search the bag for anything that may have been forgotten to be declared. Cell phones and other electronic devices will be turned in later on. The next station is where pictures are taken and ID badges are given. The final station asks that calls home be



made so parents know that cadets have arrived safely and are okay. This is where cell phones and electronics are turned in before members head off to the barracks to unpack and set up for their stay at NBB!

**James Eimers, C/Capt
PAO**

About the Safety Officer

We have a new Safety Officer this year at Beret; 2nd Lt. Anthony Plattsmier from Texas Wing, Apollo Composite Squadron. Lt. Plattsmier is also a pilot and flew the squadron Cessna 172 to Oshkosh from Austin, TX, giving a couple cadets orientation rides along the way. Although Lt. Plattsmier has only been with CAP for a relatively short period of time (just 8 months) he has extensive experience working in very large volunteer activities. He has also attended other AirVenture events and is currently the EAA Chapter 187 President.



**Anthony Plattsmier, 2nd Lt.
Safety Officer**

Words of a Returning Beret

Cadet Capt. Hoover is honored to be a returning Beret this year. He has proven to the staff that he can be entrusted with training future Berets. When questioned about last year he responded with, "After you get in the swing of things, Beret will be the most fun you ever had." He offers two pieces of advice to the cadre this year, always remember to be a servant leader and the mission can be only accomplished through teamwork. While many people desire the title of Blue Beret the only way to earn it is through hard work and dedication and C/Capt. Hoover will be mentoring cadets this year so they are on the right track. All returning Berets are honored to be here this year and are planning on making this an exciting and fun year.

From the Perspective of a New Beret

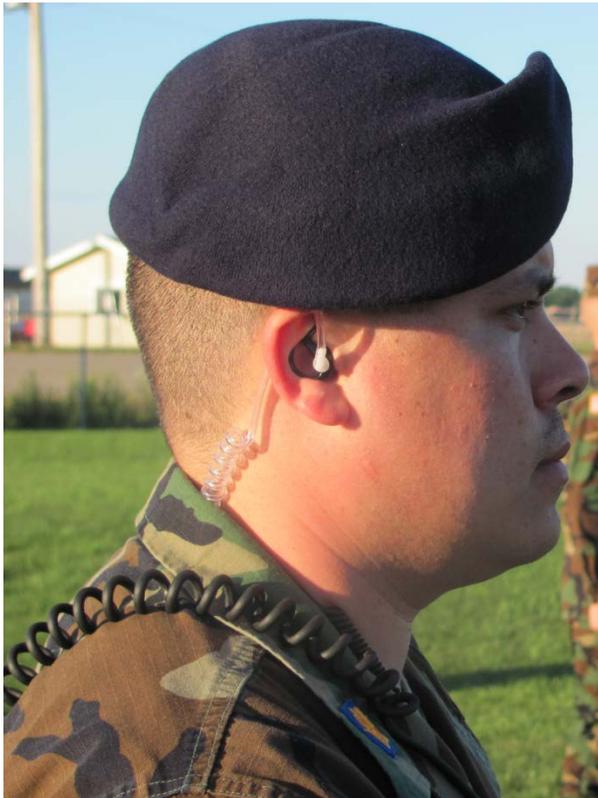
"I heard they were some of the best cadets in Civil Air Patrol." That was what C/1st Lt. Lockling had to say about Berets after being questioned on what he thought of them before coming to National Blue Beret. He has his own reasons for coming to NBB: his love of airshows and the ability to marshal hundreds of different types of aircraft drew him here for the next two weeks. Having arrived two days early he is already fostering the understanding that the Beret doesn't make the cadet, the cadet makes the Beret. To him the Beret means putting others before yourself while you exist in the background of the airshow, often unnoticed and unrecognized while serving the public.



Hoover, C/Captain
Lima Flight Commander



Lockling, C/1st Lieutenant
Charlie Flight



Flight Patch



Flight Commander: Megan Roberson

Flight Leader: John-Paul Yalov

TAC: Maj. Jordan Edmund

“Press on!’ has solved and always will solve the problems of the human race.” – Calvin Coolidge

NBB Trivia Game Rules!

Every day on the AE chalkboard next to the exit door leading out of the DFAC there will be a different question. You have to ask around to find the answer. Once you have it give your answer to Col. Aye or Maj. C. Franz. Points will be tracked and winners will be rewarded at the NBB Banquet. For more information, please visit the PAO area.

*Carolyn S. Franz, Maj.
PAO*

The Charlie Chipmunks are a unique band of individuals. They decided on the name “Chipmunks” because of Major Edmund and the rest of the flights uncontrollable addiction to “Alvin and the Chipmunks’ Between them they know five languages – English, French, Spanish, German and Italian.

Charlie Flight solved the Green Glass Door riddle in 3 minutes and 46 seconds!



