



Behind the 8 Ball

Blue Beret National Cadet Special Activity Oshkosh, Wisconsin



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Reasons I Came Back to Blue Beret

There are a few reasons that made me want to return to National Blue Beret, I'll try to make them short and sweet.

First, **I loved the experience**, at no other CAP activity do you get to do the missions and activities that National Blue Beret provides us the opportunity to do. NBB also affords us the opportunity of seeing many unique aircraft that we might not otherwise see.



Secondly, the **atmosphere was one of camaraderie and brotherhood**; I wanted to come back to NBB to experience that atmosphere one more time, before I age out.

Thirdly, I was offered the **opportunity to serve** the cadets by being the deputy cadet commander, there is no greater pleasure to me than to train and mentor the best cadets is CAP.

Lastly, **I absolutely love airplanes they fascinate me** and if you get to know me better, which I hope you all will, you will see that I thoroughly enjoying just being near aircraft. Hopefully the reasons I came back to NBB will be some of the reasons that you decide to come back as staff in the future. "The mission comes first".

*Deikman, c/Lt. Col.
Deputy Cadet Commander*



Heritage Flight

Our Blue Beret Family

“Once a Beret always a beret” That’s our family motto.

When a cadet comes to National Blue Beret, he comes for the beret and to see an amazing air show. However, when this cadet comes home he comes back with something more. This cadet comes back with a family, the blue beret family. This is a family that no matter where you are from, what age you are, and what nationality you have been born from: you are apart of this family.



National Blue Beret is a place that because we have to rely on each other to get the job done, we need to trust each other to the highest degree, and in doing so we grow closer to each other. We become so close with the cadets in our flight and our fellow berets in this activity that we become like family to each other. This close bond with each other makes this activity what it is. Because we are nothing without our fellow berets, getting the job done is nigh impossible.

These relationships that we have with our beret buddies are the relationships that last a life time. Cadets from across the nation become good friends and still even to this day keep in touch, and even some cadets are still in touch with their beret buddies that are currently serving over seas right now.

In this family, we care for each other and have each others backs during difficult situations. We do our best to never leave a beret behind. We have a great time with each other and have fun like there is no tomorrow. We are there for each other and all the berets are there for us. Even when a beret is in the deepest darkest pit of despair, we are there for them and feel what they feel. We are here for each other through thick and thin and will stick with each other until the end. We Are Berets! And We Will Follow Each Other Forever!

Author, Rank

OK! Now I Get It!

I have been a Senior member of CAP for nearly two years now, and while I have enjoyed participating at my squadron I still felt a little on the outside of things, not quite understanding what drives our cadets and other seniors to such commitment.

I came to National Blue Beret with the hope of being able to contribute and be useful on the administrative side of things and to be able to lend a hand wherever was needed. Assigned to the PAO desk has been just my cup of tea! I am a ‘desk’ person, and my recent knee operation makes walking and being on my feet a little uncomfortable right now, so anything more active was out of my range.

On Tuesday, however, I did manage to take to opportunity to go ‘out on the South cart’ with Major Clark and two seasoned cadets and we while we were out the radio crackled and we were told that there was an overdue plane that needed to be found.

All of a sudden the adrenaline started to flow! We were on a mission to find this plane and we bumped up and down the lanes of planes, four sets of eyes scanning and reading every tail number. Major Clark knew the areas that would be the most likely for a new arrived plane to be tied down and while the cadets and I craned our necks to take in all the details of similarly colored/winged craft we held onto the golf cart for dear life!

We couldn’t find it! Each of us were mouthing the tail numbers and straining to see between the lines and lines of planes, eager to be the one the make “**The Find**”. We tore from one section to another and as we flew along a row that was just one more section to check I couldn’t believe it! The tail numbers that by now seemed imbedded into my brain were actually on a plane in front of me! C12345! YES!!! A FIND!! My FIRST find!!!

The pilot who was busy tying down his craft seemed a little perturbed as a golf cart of BDU’d clad individuals taking an inordinate interest in his craft, but we were thrilled, a first for me...number 4 find for Kilo Flight, and untold finds for Major Clark.

With a beaming smile I listened as the cadets radioed the find in, and I can finally say “**OK, NOW I get it!**”

Pamela Morris, 2nd Lt



SAFETY!

As we all continue on with the mission, I would like to remind everyone of the 2009 Blue Beret self safety assessment. Be safe and stay HYDRATED!

2009 Blue Beret

Illness

Medication

Stress

Attention

Fatigue

Eating

*Eric Shappee, Lt Col
Safety Officer*



Self Sacrifice

There was once a man who sacrifices his life for another man who was condemned to die. This man was St. Albin. We have a pin that we wear on our berets, because he set the example every beret should follow. Why do we follow the example of St. Albin's self-sacrifice? Self- Sacrifice is the action of doing something not because one wants to do it, but because the feel of the calling to do what is right. As a beret, or future beret, one might only think about the lack of sleep, the crowded barracks, the long chow lines, and many others. So where does self sacrifice come into play in beret?

The Blue Beret Creed tells us clearly where self-sacrifice comes into play.



"Therefore, I forsake not my country, my mission, comrades my duty." This tells us how a Blue Beret is always ready to put these things first before oneself. Another quote that berets live by is "Mission First." This shows that a Beret should put the mission before anything else.

As a Beret, I have tried to live up to these standards of putting the mission first. As a Beret I am still learning to do this, however, every Beret is an example for every other Beret. Self-Sacrifice is a crucial component to the success of National Blue Beret.

Brandon Doubrava, C/2dLt

Featured Flight: Golf



Flight Commander:

C/2d Lt Andrew Shea

Flight Leader:

C/Capt Sarah Heitzmann

TAC Officer:

Maj Samantha Montgomery

Featured Flight: India



Flight Commander:

C/Maj Amy Young

Flight Leader:

C/CMSgt Calvin Piper

TAC Officer:

1st Lt Quentin Laws

You do what you can for as long as you can, and when you finally can't, you do the next best thing. You back up but you don't give up ...**Gen Chuck Yeager, USAF Ret.**

Returning to the Berets

Four decades and two years ago, there was an idea. An idea and a want to create a program that would prepare men and women, cadets and senior members, “the best of American youth” to do what was needed when they were needed. What started as a wing wide program soon became a region wide program, but not even the Great Lake region could contain this. This was too valuable and soon became a national activity. This was, is, and will continue to be Blue Beret.

No one can humanly fathom what it feels like to be a Blue Beret until they have completed the activity. Until they have marshaled countless numbers and types of aircraft, guarded our militaries current air power and innovative aircraft of the future, and walked among the crowds that make up the annual EAA air show, no one can truly know what that feeling is like.

This is what National Blue Beret is all about: the experience, the lessons, the comradely that casts a lifetime, and the memories. Before I arrived in 2008, my spare time was spent over the handbook and the web site, attempting to cram everything about the program into empty spaces in my head, but not even that could prepare me for what was to come those two weeks. I looked at the photos and read testimonials on the internet, but nothing could truly prepare me for what was to come, or even the aftermath of how blue beret would affect my life.

The question was posed to me, “what does it mean to be a returning beret?” Well, I think that correct question is, “what doesn’t it mean to be a beret?” I’m not really a returning beret –I am always a beret. The only thing that I am returning is my knowledge to those around me, and of course, to my home with my family.



Coming back to the compound is like a family reunion. You see those that you’ve known and grown up with, while you get to meet others and welcome them to the family. I felt that, upon my second time, I owed it to everyone I’ve come in contact with to give them my knowledge of what do so that they can grow in everyway possible. This means professionally, personally, and to grow as leaders I hold myself to be.

Being a beret comes with many responsibilities. My first is to my mission. Going through beret showed me that everywhere I turn, I have a mission and that mission must come first. My mission, while here at beret, is to show these young men and women what it means “to be the best of American youth and example of leadership for today and the future.” That means that not only must I set the standard, I can know that my people have an example to follow, thus being able to accomplish any mission set before them.

My second responsibility is to my people, and at this activity, my people are a major part of my mission. I am here to make sure that when they leave here, they have the same pride, the same understanding, and the same heartfelt feelings that I did when I left because those are things NO ONE can take away from you.

Anonymous NBB Cadet

