



Behind the 8 Ball

Blue Beret National Cadet Special Activity Oshkosh, Wisconsin



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Patty Wagstaff – Meeting an Icon

“I can’t believe they let me do this” is what goes through Patty Wagstaff’s head every time that she is able to do aerobatics in her cirrus Extra 300S. Patty Wagstaff is one of the one of the most decorated female aerobatics pilots in the world. She flies in National Competitions and wins. She flies in tremendous air shows and wows the crowd with her talent. Patty Wagstaff is the icon of all the little girls and even boys that want to be a talented aerobatics pilot when they grow up.

Patty started off just like any other student pilot. She took lessons to get her license and had an unforgettable solo just like any other pilot. The only difference is that she went farther than that. She went and found an aerobatics instructor and kept her training moving. She did hours upon hours and kept on training and perfecting her skills. People helped her on her way to becoming an aerobatics pilot. Just like when we, student pilots, get our license, our instructors fellow pilots, friends and family help us out to get to the place where want to go in our aviation.

With her hard work and determination Patty then competed in many air shows and marketed her self so that she could get sponsors and be able to get the necessities to do the aerobatics that she is able to do today. She is now and aerobatics pilot for Cirrus and is able to do what she loves everyday.

Patty starts every flight day by trying to prepare herself. She starts by checking the weather and making sure that everything



is alright for her flight later on in the day. Patty makes sure that she is mentally prepared for her flight because it is essential that she be mentally prepared for her flights and anything that should happen, and superstition is not a factor because she thinks that it can only hinder a person in their flying. Then she flies her Cirrus Extra 300S even though she would also like to fly a P51 Mustang. One of her signature moves is a rolling eight or rolling turns but she really loves to perfect her flight. Some people may think that her job wouldn’t be that physically demanding but a pilot such as her caliber has to be a lot more athletic then some would think.

Patty Wagstaff is an inspiration to many of us student pilots. She is the possibility of what we all could be. She represents the chance of what we all can be with hard work and perseverance.

Patti Noonan, C/CMSgt



Mission Chaplain

As a Mission Chaplain I find that I spend a great deal of time just hanging out at Beret or any mission, as a matter of fact. You have to be careful not to become an Emergency Services Junkie in order to experience that adrenalin rush.

While I was away from Beret for the weekend attending a wedding a friend of mine experienced a diabetic episode during the wedding service. When I called 911 I found myself having to calm myself enough to explain to the dispatcher what was happening.

It can be scary when medical emergencies happen and keeping your calm is part of being a responder. I have always relied on God to help me with that. As I dialed 911 I asked god to be present, to help me calm down, and to help my friend.

The Chaplain is to be the mission specialists who reminds us that God is present and to make God visible, not just to those who are in Civil Air Patrol but those we are here to serve.

As I was walking through a pavilion yesterday, I was stopped by a vendor. He asked me if I was a chaplain and if I had a favorite Bible verse. Then he asked me to pray for the President of the United States, which I did.

My favorite verse Psalm 22:1, "For God alone my soul in silence waits." That is what a Mission Chaplain does.

Nancy Smalley, Ch. Lt Col.

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, 2d Lt



Becoming a Blue Beret

Several days ago Chief Noonan asked me to write an article about my experience thus far at NBB 2009. Now as I sit here and think about this topic, I reflect upon 2nd Lt Robots speech, it struck a chord in me. It made me feel proud to be here. It made me feel proud to pay the 250 dollars registration fee and to pay 400 dollars for my airline ticket and spent four hours in wonderful Detroit. It gave me a sense of honor for actually getting a chance to come to Oshkosh to have an amazing time EARNING my beret and St. Albins Pin.

But now back to the reason why I am writing, my experiences up to this point have been... different. I have been to numbers of wing level actives, but nothing of this caliber. The essence of family is very big here. In the past few days, I have really come together with my flight mates, people like, Chief Czajka, a great leader within the flight and one of my closest friends. The people within my flight and also throughout NBB have grown closer together as the week has gone on. This is very important at an activity like NBB, where unit cohesiveness is a keystone to the safe completion of the mission. I look forward to receive my St. Alban's Pin with all of you. Semper Flexibilis!

Grieves, C/Capt



Featured Flight: Kilo



Flight Commander:

C/2d Lt Trevor Leon Guerrero

Flight Leader:

C/Capt Ehren Rauch

TAC Officer:

Col Austyn Granville Jr.

Featured Flight: Alpha



Flight Commander:

C/Capt Cody Harris

Flight Leader:

C/Capt Emily Willson

TAC Officer:

Lt Col Michael Carlson



Featured Flight: Bravo

We are the Bravo Black Sheep...not your average sheep. We like to do things differently. Bravo Black Sheep run headlong at any challenge given them, whether that challenge is mental, physical, or janitorial.



The Bravo Emblem shows our mascot, the Black Sheep, leaping over the flames that are our barriers to overcome. The Black Sheep wears a Blue Beret, because Black Sheep follow the Blue Beret Creed.

Flight Commander:

C/Capt Rebecca Boodee

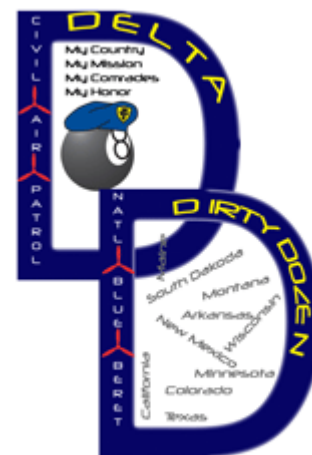
Flight Leader:

C/Capt Travis Parker

TAC Officer:

Capt Rachel Cotto Gee

Featured Flight: Delta



Flight Commander:

C/Capt Michael Hargis

Flight Leader:

C/1st Lt Nathan Hassett

TAC Officer:

Capt Michael Harrison

Dick Rutan: An American Patriot

As a young aviator, Dick Rutan could not figure out why the fighter pilots of WWII would go out day after day and flight against their enemies in the sky when so many of their comrades were killed everyday. The answer to this question would be discovered later on in his life when he too was a fighter pilot for our military.

Dick Rutan grew up with the want to be a fighter pilot for the military and serve his country. He was fascinated with the fighter pilots of WWII and their courage when they took flight. However he could not understand how day after day they could still go into those aircraft even when so many of their comrades had died the day before. Dick was able to get his drivers license and his pilot's license on his sixteenth birthday.



Then Dick did what he was set out to do. He joined the military and went through his training to be a fighter pilot. Dick was an instructor by the time he went through his training to be a fighter pilot and was first in his class when he graduated.

Dick then went and fought in Vietnam and found the reason why those fighter pilots of the past were able to go back and flight and do what they did every day. The first time that the enemy began firing on him and he thought "the audacity of that Son of a Bitch to shoot at me." He had this certain kick of adrenalin that became very addicting to him and the rest of the pilots that were fighting in that war. "The more missions that came, the more [he] became addicted."

By the time he reached his last mission, Dick had more missions than any other pilot in North Vietnam. His last mission, however, was different. He got shot down. Thankfully he was able to eject and was rescued by a U.S. carrier. He was just happy that he made it alive and was able to see his family again.

When you think of Dick Rutan, you think of all the patriots that have come and fought for our military. You think of all the pilots that have fought and died or fought and were lucky enough to come home and see their families again. You think of all their accomplishments like Rutan's first round the world flight without refueling. You think of all the BAMFing aircraft that those great pilots got to fly like the F100 that Rutan was able to fly. You think of all the stories that these remarkable people have to tell and all the stories that they would not even dream of telling. Most of all, we think of all the people that sacrificed their lives to serve their country.

Patti Noonan, C/CMsgt

