



Behind the 8 Ball

Blue Beret National Cadet Special Activity Oshkosh, Wisconsin



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Blue Beret All The Way

For every person that is here there are four people who applied that are not here. It is a great responsibility that each of us now carry as we come to the close of our activity. You have become part of a highly trained, professional and organized team. Each of us has faced many challenges in the last two weeks and we have pulled together to accomplish the mission. Now we are leaving to go back to our homes, back to our squadrons and help the people that helped us get here. We go back to share our experience and become leaders. Remember your training; Berets can lead from anywhere, they do not need position or title. The leadership skills you have built here will help you become successful in your future. Seniors and cadets worked side by side in this activity and we were always watching out for one another. It truly has truly been about the team and how we accomplish the mission.

These weeks, many friendships have been made, trust and respect built, and memories that will last for a lifetime. We have laughed together and struggled through it together. But in the end, it is a quiet sense of pride that has been gained. Now we take everything we have learned here back and offer our service to those who helped us get here. You are a Beret, you are part of a legacy and part of the family. That means taking on the responsibility of greater service. In humble service, we are one, we are a team, we are a cadre, we are a family, and we are the Blue Beret.

Capt Daren Jaeger
Chief Public Affairs Officer 2012



Newsletter Staff 2012

Capt. Daren Jaeger
Chief Public Affairs Officer

C/Maj Ehren Rauch
Chief Cadet Public Affairs Officer

1st Lt Alex Lewallen
Senior Public Affairs Officer

C/1st Lt Lauren Smith
Cadet Public Affairs Officer



Civil Air Patrol, the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, is a non-profit organization with more than 61,000 members nationwide, operating a fleet of 550 aircraft. CAP, in its Air Force auxiliary role, performs 90 percent of continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and was credited by the AFRCC with saving 54 lives in fiscal year 2011. Its volunteers also perform homeland security, disaster relief and drug interdiction missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. The members play a leading role in aerospace education and serve as mentors to nearly 27,000 young people currently participating in the CAP cadet program. CAP received the World Peace Prize in 2011 and has been performing missions for America for 70 years. CAP also participates in Wreaths across America, an initiative to remember, honor and teach about the sacrifices of U.S. military veterans. Visit www.gocivilairpatrol.com or www.capvolunteernow.com for more information.

A Day at the NBB Compound

As the activity nears its end, most NBB members have grown accustomed to the tiring and rigorous NBB routine. A typical day at Blue Beret begins with a 05:30 wakeup call followed by formation, flag ceremonies and breakfast. After that, flights are assigned various stations. There are many different duties to be performed. One duty rotation is Head Quarters (HQ). HQ duty means your flight is assigned to tidy up, secure the Beret compound gate and perform KP (Kitchen Patrol). Another duty cadets perform is flight line marshaling. Flight lines North and South consist of marshaling aircraft to various locations around the airport. Cadets must be vigilant on the flight line because it is a busy station with lots of moving aircraft. Another work station is Emergency Services which has several duty stations in itself. ES Carts consist of two members and a senior member patrolling around in a cart looking for overdue aircraft or ELTs (emergency locating transponders). The two carts are stationed to the North and South. If an ELT goes off, the cadets at two of the towers provide triangulation. When cadets are on the towers they are also in charge of recording the tail numbers of all incoming aircraft. Communications are coordinated in the communications shack and all radio traffic is recorded. NBB then passes information on to all Beret staff and the other mission bases at Madison, Fond Du Lac, and Appleton. Cadets may spend a few hours at each duty station and are rotated out for meal times and free time. After dinner there is an activity formation at 20:00 to retire the colors. Following that is personal time and volleyball. Lights out is at 21:30. The next day they get up and do it all over again.

**-C/Maj Ehren Rauch
Chief C/PAO**



CAP in World War II

During a time of national crisis civilian heroes answered the call of their nation. The Civil Air Patrol was founded one week prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor. Thousands of volunteers joined and participated in critical wartime missions. This year, at Oshkosh AirVenture, a special seminar was conducted on the history of the Civil Air Patrol; in particular, their role in the US Anti-Sub Patrol mission. In response to the Nazi U-Boat threat, CAP established 21 airplane bases across the eastern seaboard and the Gulf of Mexico to fly out and search for Nazi U-Boats. Originally CAP planes were unarmed and their role was to antagonize and report U-Boat sightings. Pilots would enter a “strafing run” at the submarines’ periscope; when the Nazis saw the plane coming, a dive was initiated, thwarting their reconnaissance or destructive plans. Using this valiant technique CAP saved countless vessels and lives despite being unarmed. Strafing runs were not enough and finally the US military decided to arm the Civil Air Patrol with bombs and depth charges. On July 17th, 1942, the Civil Air Patrol was credited with its first Nazi U-Boat kill. After the war, the Civil Air Patrol was credited with 2 U-boat kills, 129 aircrew members rescued at sea and 91 vessels reported in distress. They flew a total of 86,685 missions, and 244,600 flying hours. The Civil Air Patrol was a great success and received many commendations; however, some paid the ultimate price for success, 26 CAP members were killed during WWII. The Civil Air Patrol became a force to be reckoned with often being called the flying minute men; named after the citizen soldiers that were called Minute Men during the Revolutionary War. CAP proved that civilian warriors can make a difference in the war; through their courageous efforts, numerous lives were saved. The uniform you wear has a lot of history, our beginning forged in World War II, honor the Civil Air Patrol with excellence, and never forget CAP’s origins



**-C/1st Lt Lauren Smith
C/PAO**

Favorite Plane at AirVenture

Revolutionary aircraft are not always military, incredible aircraft can come from the civilian sector. The Cirrus SR-20 G3 is my favorite aircraft at AirVenture 2012. The Cirrus is revolutionary for two reasons. The Cirrus features a ballistic recovery system. Basically, the Cirrus has an “ejection” system in which a rocket propels a parachute attached to the airplane and guides the plane back down to the ground safely. The Cirrus Airframe Parachute System (CAPS) is extremely successful, after over 2,688,000 flying hours in the Cirrus fleet there have only been 13 parachute activations and only two fatal accidents have been associated with CAPS.

The second major innovation that Cirrus



incorporated is in the wing. The G3 wing is a marvel in aircraft engineering. Cirrus, by simply increasing the dihedral angle of the wing, and a bigger internal spar allows the Cirrus to be more maneuverable, adds 11 gallons of gas. The new wing is also lighter, and more aerodynamic. Cirrus created a marvel with the SR-20 G3 and its pilots love the airplane’s performance, handling, and speed. Innovations are found everywhere, Cirrus put many into the SR-20 G3 and that is why the SR-20 is my favorite plane at AirVenture.

**-C/1st Lt Lauren Smith
C/PAO**

SR-71 Pilot Visits NBB

Cadets at NBB get the chance to talk with many guests -- several of whom are great American heroes. In this case the cadets were able to sit and have lunch with Col.



Richard Graham (ret.) who was a SR-71 Blackbird pilot. Col. Graham shared several interesting stories with the cadets about his then top



secret flights over the USSR, and even quizzed the cadets on their knowledge of the plane. He also told everyone some very interesting facts; such as how when traveling at Mach 3, it takes almost 300 miles to complete a 360 degree turn. After the meal and a lengthy question and answer session Col.

Graham went on his way, but left a room full of satisfied cadets.

-1st Lt Alex Lewallen

Featured Flight: Juliet



Flight Commander: C/Maj Seigrist

Flight Leader: C/Capt Hicks

TAC Officer: 1st Lt Peterman

Featured Flight: India



Flight Commander: C/Capt Morrissey

Flight Leader: C/

TAC Officer: 1st Lt Pratt

Final Thoughts from the Cadet PAO Chief/Editor

Once again I have had the pleasure of attending National Blue Beret for the fourth time and serving as Chief Cadet Public Affairs Officer at



the greatest national activity that Civil Air Patrol has to offer. Coming to Oshkosh has become a tradition in my family as my father and brother have both attended multiple times each. I attended as a basic beret in 2009 where I learned all about the vital operations that Civil Air Patrol conducts during the world's greatest aviation gathering. During those two weeks I gained so many vital skills and found so many new friends. The following year I decided to attend as Cadet Public Affairs Officer where I got to challenge my writing and photography skills under the supervision of Capt. Daren Jaeger. Daren went out of his way to teach me all about being a great photographer and how to write like a real news reporter. In addition, he taught me to be a better leader and how to communicate with the public in

After a great year in 2011, I just had to return one more time as a cadet. I returned as C/CPAO again and had one cadet to train and mentor (C/1st Lt Lauren Smith) and a returning beret who served on my staff the previous year (1st Lt Alex Lewallen). Together, we once again were able to write six professional newsletters and gather thousands of photos. My time at National Blue Beret and Airventure has been nothing but positive. I leave each year learning something new and experiencing something that I would have never experienced anywhere else. NBB has given me so many training opportunities; not only in the CAP world, but in real life applications as well. Capt. Jaeger has really become my NBB mentor and has assisted me with many things that have helped me become the person I am today. Each year, my fellow berets and I wait anxiously to come to this great place called Oshkosh and before we know it the activity is over and we go home with new friends and new knowledge!

This being my last year as a Cadet in the Civil Air Patrol, and the last cadet activity I will attend, has really made



this year special and bittersweet. With my plans to start my career by next summer, I will most likely not be able to attend NBB for a few years. That being said, I would like to thank all the cadets and senior officers that I have had the pleasure to work with and serve. I would also like to thank the NBB command staff for allowing me to come back each year as PAO, because I have learned countless new skills that I will apply in the future. Lastly, I would like to thank all of my staff from the past few years who I was able to teach and critique. You were the ones that I learned from by getting your feedback and I gained a lot of experience being a better leader. I hope to return to NBB in the near future, but until then, thank you to all Berets past, present and future and always... **SEMPER VIGILANS!**

*Ehren T. Rauch, C/Maj
Chief Cadet Public Affairs Officer*



a more professional way. Returning in 2011, I was given the responsibility as Chief Cadet PAO to teach and lead two new cadets who had never written news articles before and had very basic photography skills. I applied all of the training I received the year before and was able to very successfully field the first cadet run PAO staff in NBB history. With the supervision of Capt. Jaeger, myself and two cadets were able to publish six full length newsletters and take thousands of photos.