



HISTORICAL NOTES NO. 14d

March 1996

Updated December 2000-August 2004-April 2006

By Colonel Leonard A. Blascovich, CAP National Historian

“Yo Bro’, where you from? ”

When I was returning from the 1996 Winter National Board in Atlanta GA, I realized with the increasing number of members who are wearing the “new” USAF blue uniform a little piece of tradition and history is slowly being lost. As so directed and is still in effect today, Wing Shoulder Patches are still required for all uniforms, except our two dress uniforms i.e. the “new “ Service Dress and the Mess Dress. Hey, but before we know it, someone might suggest removal of all Wing Patches, and if that situation occurs, and they become no longer authorized, history and tradition will be lost.

**Now it has come to my attention that there is a move a foot that some wings want to change their historical patches for different designs and symbols. The history of shoulder patches as used in today modern military first became official during World War One, by the United States Army then followed quickly by the Marines. The US Army and the Marines even today still wears them, the army on left shoulder side for current assignment right for past unit. The Big Red One for 1st Army. 27th Division and 3rd Army all from World War I.*



And the USAAF as an Army Command had them all throughout World War Two and before, numbered from one to fifteenth and the then at the close in 1945 the twentieth Air Force’s 509th Bomb Wing delivered the final blow..... And there are many that still remember the ‘Mighty Eight’ with Spaatz in the European theater flying with B-17’s & B 24’s who’s efforts defeated the axis, Hey just watch the film “12 O’clock High”...And the Generals George Kenney’s “Fifth” in the South Pacific who developed “skip bombing” and assured island hopping victories for MacArthur’s. And of course General Chennalt’s “Fourteenth” in CBI (China-Burma-India) better known as the “Flying Tigers”...



Army Air Corps



USAAF



8th Air Force 1942



1944



5th USAAF



14th USAAF

The current USAF stopped wearing them in the late fifties...it was a “clean business suit approach... also too much like the Army.... was the thinking.... But as you read on you will see why CAP had to and still proudly wears them....


Unless it’s been over looked I still believe that only National Headquarters can approve any changes or design recommendations...otherwise look out for patch’s, cord and the likes...

Now for that reason, might I suggest, as a member of the *Old Guard, Keeper of the Flame, Guardian of the Corps* can we in some way enact the “**endangered species act**” for them. For

they are historical, they are traditional, and for the wearer has meaning of respect and loyalty to his unit. Semper Vi.....

The following are from the official records of Civil Air Patrol, Dates of approval for:

CIVIL AIR PATROL STATE SHOULDER PATCHES

Alabama		Indiana	
Alaska		Iowa 27 Jun. 49	
Arizona 5 Feb. 53		Kansas 6 Sep. 50	
Arkansas 26 Jan. 51		Kentucky 30 Oct. 50	
California		Louisiana 25 Feb. 54	
Colorado		Maine 26 Sep. 50	
Connecticut		Maryland 21 Feb. 51	
Delaware 9 Feb. 52		Massachusetts 10 Feb. 50	
Florida 19 Oct. 53		Michigan 5 Dec. 49	
Georgia 27 Nov. 50		Minnesota 4 Aug. 50	
Hawaii 28 Oct. 53		Mississippi	
Idaho 21 Jul. 52		Missouri	
Illinois		Montana	

National Capital	26 Jan 53	
Nebraska	25 Mar 53	
Nevada	5 Feb. 53	
New Hampshire		
New Jersey	1 Nov. 48	
New Mexico		
New York		
North Carolina		
North Dakota	5 Jul. 50	
Ohio	20 Oct. 50	
Oklahoma	10 Mar 53	
Oregon	2 Dec. 53	
Pennsylvania	18 May 48	
Puerto Rico	1 Dec. 50	

Rhode Island	15 Mar. 49	
South Carolina		
South Dakota		
Tennessee	16 Sep. 53	
Texas	8 Mar. 50	
Utah		
Vermont	2 May 52	
Virginia		
Washington		
West Virginia	25 Jan. 54	
Wisconsin		
Wyoming	28 Jul. 48	

Historical Note:

The above reflect the **official dates of approval** as Civil Air Patrol knows it, for the record the first wing patch approved by National Headquarters was that of the Pennsylvania Wing on 18 May 1948 yes, there are many amongst you who will challenge them. But if one has physical information in the form of letters, orders, official correspondence, or dateable photograph, the above remains as true and factual.

FYI: In May of 1984 a letter went to each and every Wing Commander asking to search out and report i.e., in the way of 1.) Research into the design of the Wing Patch, 2.) Including the designer, and date accomplished 3.) Who if any passed the official request for approval to National Headquarters. As to this date 1996, the author as the prime requester has never received any documentation.

Why Wing Patches:

In 1945 at the close of hostilities in World War 2, and as CAP was directed to shut down all operations for eventual disbanding, as so instructed by the AAF Commanding General "Hap" Arnold (dájá vu). As history tells us, that under the valiant efforts of many, controlled by the few, PL 476 on 1 July 1946, was signed. Thus giving Civil Air Patrol a new lease on life.

Where Worn:

The AAF brown uniform with distinctive CAP attachments and shoulder patch clearly told that we were members of Civil Air Patrol. Like the Army the association of a shoulder patch quickly made and told others that one was a member of a unit, and/or organization. Whereas, in CAP you just were in Civil Air Patrol, and no Wing affiliation was shown, thus came the need for wing recognition.



Who Suggested:

Starting in 1945 Wing Commanders asked National Headquarters whether or not if a distinctive shoulder patch was designed that reflected one wing. Can and would NHQ approve its wearing on the Civil. Air Patrol uniform? After a careful review, the decision was yes! But with one caveat, that only official sanctioned patches would be allowed, and furthermore, it was to be worn on the right shoulder only, for the left shoulder must have the official approved CAP senior or cadet patch. So starting in 1948 various wings submitted designs for wing patches, for national recognition and official approval.

New Blue Shade 84:

If one looks at the original approved patches 1948 - 1955 its strikes one historically and of heraldic themes, that their design reflected its wearing primarily on the right side of the brown or tan uniform. whereas with the new USAF blue uniform approved in 1951, which required removal of the old CAP shoulder patch and replacing it with a distinctive breast badge, and the requirement now called for the mandatory wearing a wing patch, and thus moving it from the right to the left.

One will note that the original design and its placement on the left shoulder now made heraldic changes when moved to the right shoulder.

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| Iowa | the Eagle is facing sinister instead of Dexter (left vs. right) |
| Louisiana | the Pelican is flying to the rear, or backwards |
| Nebraska | the CAP seal is now on the left and the wing is to the right |
| Tennessee | the Volunteer was facing backwards. |

Wyoming the Horse is facing rearward

Reference:

A survey called "**What's In the CAP Shoulder Patch?** Conducted and written by Major Edward Siudzinski, CAP Hudson Valley Group, NY Wing in **October 1984**. And published in *Volume III Number 2, CAP's Hysterical Newsletter*, I quote....

1. Identification of Civil Air Patrol

It is striking to find that 14 patches have no indication of Civil Air Patrol. Of the other 38, 14 have the full name "Civil Air Patrol," four have the initials "C.A.P.," and 20 have only the CAP emblem without the name or initials of Civil Air Patrol.

*Of the 20 patches, which are without name or the initials of CAP and only have the emblem, 17 have the complete emblem, viz., three bladed propellers in a triangle in a circle. Three have only parts of the emblem; these are **Michigan, New York, and Pennsylvania**. **New York** and **Pennsylvania** have a propeller in a circle without a triangle, and **Michigan** has the propeller in a triangle without the circle. In addition to these 20 patches which only have the CAP emblem, the emblem appears in patches of 11 other wing which also have the name or the initials of CAP. The emblem appears, therefore, in the patches of 31 wings.*

*Of the 14 patches that do not have the name, or the initials, or the emblem of CAP, 6 have nothing in content of the patch to show any association with aviation. Of the remaining 8, aircraft are shown in patches for **Mississippi, New Hampshire, and Ohio**, birds are shown for **Illinois** and **Iowa**, bird like wings are shown for **New Jersey** and **Texas**, and the Wright Brothers monument is shown for **North Carolina**.*

2. Identification of the Wing

*Thirty-nine patches have the full name of the wing, nine have the abbreviation of the name, and four have neither the name nor the abbreviation. These four without name or abbreviation are; **California, Illinois, Ohio, and Pennsylvania**. For **Pennsylvania**, the identification is made by the "keystone" in the patch -- **Pennsylvania** is the "Keystone State." For the other three, the identification is made by the geographical outlines the states shown in the patches.*

*In addition to the 3 patches where geographical outlines of the states are the primary means of identification of the wings, the geographical outlines of the states appear in 16 other patches which do have either the full name of the Wing or a abbreviation. Geographical outlines appear, therefore, in a total of 19 patches. The patch for Montana Wing itself in the shape of the outline of the state of **Montana**.*

*Patches from 31 wings contains items which are associated with those states; e.g. horses for **Kentucky**, pineapples for **Hawaii**, and Mt. Rushmore National Memorial for **South Dakota**.*

*In 8 of the patches there still appears the 2-digit numbers from the early days of Civil Air Patrol when the first digit of such a number indicated the U.S. Army's Corps Area, and the second digit the number of wing or state in the Corps Area. I.e. 31 for **Pennsylvania**, the first state in the 3rd Corps. A "modern day" number appears in the patch for **Alaska**; it is the number "49," showing that **Alaska** was the 49th state admitted to the union.*

3. Colors Used

*The most popular color is Dark Blue. It appears in all of the patches except the patch from **Maryland** Wing. Two other colors having the almost the same popularity are White/Silver and Red. White/Silver appears in all patches except those from **California, New***

York, and West Virginia, and Red appears in all patches except those from Alaska, California, Nevada, and the National Capital. Fourth in popularity is Gold, which is found in patches from 31 of the Wings.

NOTE: Major Edward Siudzinski, CAP as you can see, has accomplished much, and his study goes into the CAP patches with more depth.

Regions:

Became into being on January 1952. As a distinctive approach most adopted an arc or semicircle, which was, called a “flash,” based upon its abbreviated design. Although some adopted a patch, i.e. **Middle East Region**, and **Rocky Mountain**, but later on adopted a flash in keeping with the other regions.



Experiments.

In the late 80's it was suggested by some to adopt the use of a flash with corresponding region colors to denote wings in a region, but that was not accepted.

National and others:

Also in the late 80's there was the addition of a National Flash for members so assigned, Under General Barry (1990-93) regime the background color became Maroon in keeping with the newly adopted epaulet colors. Now it's the light blue gray to match the newly adopted epaulet colors. Whereas the maroon color is still the background colors for any replacement for the region flash's



Changes:

Over the years many wings successfully made changes in the design or shape of shoulder patches. The information,

- Alaska** Redesigned and added the flag and “49”
- Illinois** Total redesign, adding a eagle and new shape
- Maine** Deletion of words “Civil Air Patrol”
- Oregon** Removal of the flying beaver, on a jet plane, to blue mountains
- Puerto Rico** added a tab across the top with the words “Puerto Rico”
- South Carolina** Blue disc, white tree, quarter moon and letters SC.
- Tennessee** Replacement of Volunteer, by eagle CAP shield, “CAP” and shape.
- Florida** Removal of the Alligator to the CAP National Shield Tabbed “Florida”.
- Colorado** Redesigned State Flag with stylized Mountain CAP emblem and eagle.

Tennessee (2)

Replacement of eagle CAP shield, By State Flag and "Tennessee".



Note: There have been some recent changes, not mentioned here, if any information is available please forward to the writer.

Addendum:

So you want to change your wing patch:

One must look at "**heraldry**" which is the profession, study, or art of devising, granting, and blazoning arms, tracing genealogies, and determining and ruling on questions of rank or protocol, as exercised by an officer of arms. **b.** A branch of knowledge dealing with the history and description in proper terms of armorial bearings and their accessories. Then we address "**Lineage**" **a.** Direct descent from a particular ancestor; ancestry. **b.** Derivation. The descendants of a common ancestor considered to be the founder of the line. So one must ask and record the following: When it started Why was it started, Who started it, Where was it started, and What has happen since.

To Design a Wing patch first of all it should reflect the major role and unique attributes of the wing, and the state over all. It also should reflect its CAP history, and most of all make it recognizable.

Its shape varies but traditionally selections are round, but pointed shields, triangles, squares, and state outlines are also useable. Distinctive is the key, want to send the message I'm in the XYZ Wing of the Civil Air Patrol. And proud

Unnecessary verbiage is not in the military keeping, Yes Civil Air Patrol flash with red back ground and white letters was added to our basic World War II shoulder patch in December 1944 so as to have CAP members remove the "Red Epaulets" that made us so distinctive in but was in fact it was the Army's way of recognition to CAP and the magnificent efforts to support the War, Coastal, Forestry, Border, Tow Target, Search And Rescue, Southern Liaison

So try and limit things to just the words Civil Air Patrol, or letters CAP or better still try to use the CAP emblem, which is officially, consist of the Blue Circle, the White Triangle and the three bladed Red Propeller. But don't be redundant and use them both, its either one or the other Now for where your from use if you can the full name of the State or 2 Letter Abbreviation or like CAP try to included its flag, motto, or colors, or some well know and distinguishable object. Again use one or the other but never both...

Quickies The Civil Air Patrol Seal is not practical, or is it protocol perfect, moreover it has just to much verbiage, make it look like and City or State Emergency Service Patch, or Police. A visual object makes it look like it belongs there, in the military sense.

Things to avoid in the design:

Rockets, Missiles, Jet Planes, Battle-Axes, Mace, Arrows, Spears, Knives, Swords, Mailed fist and Eagles in attack mode, Just think anything relating to warriors or battles. Why Because CAP is a federal chartered as a humanitarian Organization.

Credits:

Lt. Col. Axel I. Ostling, CAP Historical Researcher-Archivist
Lt. Col. Allan F. Pogorzelski, CAP Historical Researcher-Archivist
Lt. Col. August "Bill" Schell Jr., CAP National Curator
Major James Shaw, CAP Assistant to the National Historian
Major Andy "Ace" Browning, CAP Historian



Attention..... Mister and Misses America..... and all the ships at sea we go to press: ... --- ...



A large and truly important piece of Civil Air Patrol's History was cruelly dashed against the rocks...and now snatches from the past, current and future CAP Membership historical lineage. This tragedy occurred at the 2006 Winter National Board, Washington, DC (3-4 March, 2006) when the National Board voted the **complete removal of Civil Air Patrol "Wing Patch" from the United States Air Force uniform shirt, and outer garments** thus removing it from the USAF approved Uniform. See next Page

But the National Board with some arm twisting left the door open slightly when they included wing patches as an optional item for wear on CAP's field Uniform...

Let me assure you that the author put up a valiant fight to have CAP retain this piece of history. But was out numbered **sixty-five (65)**, (one absent and one absenting)... to **one (1)**!

Fear notI as appointed "Keeper of the Flame", "Guarding of the Corps"...is diligently waiting for an opportune moment to strike! To bring Historical Harmony once again to the Corps....Always.....Semper Vi.....
Copy of the Original Action (Draft) Minutes...

March 2006 National Board Minutes

AGENDA ITEM 19

Action

SUBJECT: New Business

1. **ITEM:** Elimination of Wing/Region/National Patches from the Light Blue Shirt and AF Blue Outer Garments

COL McCABE/NJ MOVED and COL LEVITCH/FL seconded that the National Board vote to approve a change to CAPM 39-1 eliminating wearing of Wing/Region/National patches on the shoulder of the light blue shirt (long and short-sleeve) and all AF blue outer garments currently requiring the patch, and leave it as an option to wear these patches on non-dress uniforms including flight suits, CAP Utility/Field uniforms and BDUs. Removal of patches will be completed by 1 August 2006.

COL HODGKINS, SR AF ADVISOR, stated that if the board decides to eliminate wear of patches on the blue uniform, he would need to seek Air Force approval.

COL OPLAND/DE MOVED TO TABLE and COL TODD/SWR seconded to refer both to committee and to allow time for CAP-USAF to provide CAP feedback as to how this proposal would be received at HQ USAF.

MOTION TO TABLE CARRIED

LATER IN THE MEETING, COL LEVITCH/FL MOVED TO BRING FROM THE TABLE and COL KAUFFMAN/CS seconded the motion.

COL HODGKINS/CAP-USAF/CC apologized for his earlier statement and stated for the record that on the question of whether CAP wears the wing patches or does not wear the wing patches the Air Force is officially neutral on that CAP decision.

THE PARLIAMENTARIAN ruled that it is proper procedure to bring from the table a motion that is tabled in the same session without a specified time to bring back.

MOTION TO BRING FROM THE TABLE CARRIED

ORIGINAL MOTION CARRIED

FOLLOW-ON ACTION: Implementation of policy, notification to the field of removal of patches, as appropriate, by 1 August 2006, and change to CAPM 39-1, *CAP Uniform Manual*.