



## HISTORICAL NOTES NO. XX

April 2011

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*"The power of words!"*

### *Semper Vigilans*

The History behind **Semper Vigilans** (*Always Vigilant*) and its meaning for Civil Air Patrol.



### AIRCRAFT WARNING SERVICE/

Volunteers were organized in May 1941 into the Aircraft Warning Service, on 5 July 1942, the War Department created the civilian arm known as AAF Ground Observer Corps . On the east coast, the AWS was under the auspices of the Army Air Force's 1st Interceptor Command (later First Fighter Command ) based in Mitchell Field, New York. On the west coast, the AWS was under the auspices of the 4th Interceptor Command (Later Fourth Fighter Command) based in Riverside, California. On both coasts and including the Gulf of Mexico, observation posts, information centers and filter centers were established. Some 1.5 million civilian observers at 14,000 coastal observation posts used naked eye and binocular searches to find invading German and Japanese aircraft. The program ended in May 29, 1944.<sup>1</sup>

*See: Attachment (A) number 1. Certificated Of Honorable Service, Army Air Forces Aircraft Warning Service you will find **Semper Vigilans** is lightly outlined in the banner*



### CIVIL AIR PATROL

In 1952 National Headquarters, Civil Air Patrol, United States Air Force, Bolling AFB Washington, DC requested the Heraldic Division, Office of the Quartermaster General to design a new Civil Air Patrol Officer Hat Emblem to replace the upswept wing CAP Disk designed (Office of the Quartermaster General) and approved January 8, 1943 and was worn on the US Army approved uniform, CAP in 1948 became the USAF Auxiliary and was now transitioning to

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<sup>1</sup> The Army Air Forces in World War II Edited by Wesley F. Craven and James L. Cate. Originally published by the University of Chicago Press, 1948-1958. Reprinted 1983.

the approved (January 25, 1951) USAF Blue Uniform and wanted to dilute the vestiges of the USAAF. The Heraldic Division submitted a number of updated upswept wing and disks variations and two totally new designs

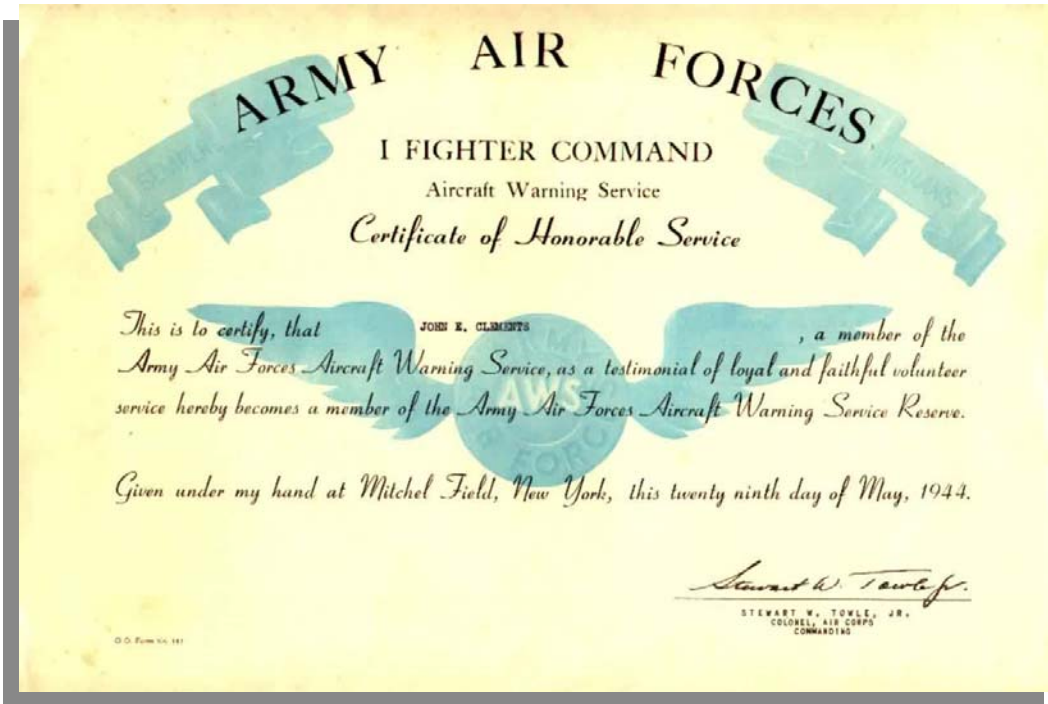
On 18 December 1952 the exchange of a letter to Mr. Arthur E. DuBois, long time Chief, Heraldic Branch Office of the Quartermaster General from Colonel Early E.W. Duncan, Deputy Commander, Civil Air Patrol, Colonel Duncan, recommended the follow changes be made to the selected designs. "Delete colors in the basic CAP insignia and prepare in oxidized silver. Use the Latin phrase "**Semper Vigilans**" on the scroll instead of words "Civil Air Patrol." Use a wreath across the bottom of insignia in place of the fasces". These requested changes were accomplished and two updated designs were submitted on 15 January 1953<sup>2</sup>

**National Board Meeting 5-6 June 1953, Elks Lodge, Cheyenne, WY**, The National Board approved the new CAP Officers cap device which was recently endorsed by the National Commander Major General Lucas V. Beau, USAF, and the National Executive board, at their 4 June 1953, Plains Hotel, Cheyenne, WY meeting and has the approval by both CAP National Headquarters and Headquarters USAF. And will be incorporated into official CAP wear as soon as manufacturing sketches can be completed.

*See Attachment (A) Number 2, The approved (New) Civil Air Patrol's Officers hat device*

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<sup>2</sup> Department of the Army, Institute of Heraldry, historical records



(Number 1)



(Number 2)

ATTACHMENT A