



**CIVIL AIR PATROL
HISTORICAL TIDBITS
20 JANUARY 2014**

By Colonel Leonard A. Blascovich, National Historian Emeritus

BEAM ME UP SCOTTY!

By June 1942 CAP was actively involved in Coastal Patrol missions we had received permission from the US Army Quartermaster General to wear the Army uniform with distinctive red epaulets, red braid both on the sleeve and the hat. Silver buttons with the CAP prop and triangle emblem, and block letters C.A.P. Along with silver propeller and wings to be worn on the lapels.

The Army was concerned with whether or not CAP members wearing of Army grade would be a conflict of title 10 of the United States code which prohibits civilians from wearing U.S. Army or Navy metal and cloth rank insignia.

Col. Harry H. Blee, USAAC CAP's Executive, Operations, and Training Officer plus a multitude of other task. Had requested that the Heraldry Department of the Army's Quartermaster General Corps to design a distinctive CAP Commissioned, Warrant Officer and Enlisted grades .
























Before these designs went into effect a decision was made by the Quartermaster General, in 1942 since CAP was doing Army Air Corps approval Coastal Patrol missions, and the uniform was distinctive enough it was recommended and approved that CAP members would be authorized to wear the metal grade of the Army Air Corps on the red epaulets including modified enlisted grades on the sleeves. This was described in detail under CAP General Memorandum - 45, dated 17 July 1942. - National Headquarters, Civil Air Patrol,)ffice of the Civilian Defense (Washington)

Attached you will find a copy of the letter to the Heraldry Department U.S. Army requesting the design of CAP insignias including the insignias themselves.

It's interesting to note that the request designs are Art Deco and very attractive would fit very well in the television and movie series of Star Trek episodes and even by today's standards are quite beautiful and unique.

I certainly believe that Gene Roddenberry the producer of the Star Trek series had seen these insignia designs he might've use them.

From the archives of **The Institute of Heraldry**

	Private First Class						
	Corporal	COLONEL	LT COLONEL	MAJOR	COLONEL	LT COLONEL	MAJOR
	Sergeant						
	Staff Sergeant	CAPTAIN	1ST LIEUTENANT	2ND LIEUTENANT	CAPTAIN	1ST LIEUTENANT	2ND LIEUTENANT
	First Sergeant	20 June 1942					
	Technical Sergeant					JR. GRADE	JR. GRADE
	Master Sergeant	Sr. GRADE	JR. GRADE	WARRANT OFFICERS			
		<i>PROPOSED</i> INSIGNIA OF GRADE CIVIL AIR PATROL				<i>PROPOSED</i> INSIGNIA OF GRADE CIVIL AIR PATROL	

WAR DEPARTMENT, O. O. M. G.

DATE: June 20, 1942

FILE NO:

SUBJECT: Rank and Grade Insignia for CAP, QCD

FROM: Deputy Director of Production

TO: Resources Division
Att: Mr. DuBois

1. Colonel Blee telephoned late this afternoon that he understood the Chief of Staff had approved their uniform except in the case of rank and grade insignia; that the latter was to be distinctive and not easily confused with Army rank and grade insignia.

2. He requested that this office originate design for rank and grade insignia in the grades of Corporal to Master Sargeant, and the rank of 2nd Lieutenant to Colonel that would be

- a. Simple
- b. Easily recognizable
- c. Easily obtainable.

3. I asked what he thought of embroidered insignia. He inquired as to whether this would match the medal and buttons on their uniforms (silver or white).

4. As per our conversation this afternoon, please have several sets of designs ready for Colonel Blee Tuesday, June 23rd.

bm

BM
GITE