



ST PAUL COMPOSITE SQUADRON
CIVIL AIR PATROL
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AUXILIARY
Meeting Location: 206 Airport Rd
St Paul MN 55107

18 AUG 2017

SUBJECT: SQUADRON PATCH & MOTTO

FROM: MN-042/CC

St Paul Squadron Members,

As I have shared in meetings several times in the past month, it is very important to me that St Paul Composite Squadron submits for approval, orders, and distributes a new squadron patch. The reasons for this include:

1. Providing cadets with unit identity on their utility uniforms. Nearly every other squadrons' cadets in MNWG have a squadron patch on their cadets' utility uniforms. As St Paul cadets become more active in Group, Wing, Region, and National activities, we want them to be proud of their unit.
2. Providing a marketing opportunity for producing squadron T-shirts with the unit patch on the front which cadets can wear to school and to other activities, advertising for the squadron and giving opportunities to share about the Civil Air Patrol and attract new members.
3. Bring St Paul into compliance with current CAP & USAF Heraldry standards.

In researching the history of St Paul's squadron patches, two designs have been uncovered:



Approximate vintage: Late 70s- Mid 80's



Approximate Vintage Mid-90's

Photos of both patches courtesy Maj Ace Browning, CAP. Thanks to Lt Col Graf for bringing an example of the capitol patch to the meeting last night.

Organizational Patches are addressed by CAPM 39-1, which directs would-be patch designers to follow the intent of the USAF heraldic guidelines published by the Air Force Historical Research Agency.



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AFD 130506-005 published by the AFHRA has 17 pages of information and repeatedly references AFI 84-105; some salient points from both documents:

- Squadron emblems must be on a circular shaped shield or disc. Groups, Wings, and higher headquarters must use a heater-shaped shield emblem shape.
- If the squadron has a motto, it should appear on a rocker/scroll above the disc; the unit name appears in a rocker/scroll below the disc. Both rocker/scrolls must be the same size.
- Do not exceed 3 elements.
- Do not duplicate the Air Force symbol, badges, or flag symbols of any type.
- Do not depict numbers, letters, words, codes, gambling devices, assigned aircraft, or specific equipment.
- Do not violate trademark or copyright laws.
- Face horizontal elements to the bearer's right side (dexter).
- Colors: Do not use metallic colors. Do not use more than six colors (black and white count as colors). Use official Air Force colors: ultramarine/reflect blue and Air Force yellow. Border of the disc and scroll are the same color as the letters on the scroll.
- CAP does not allow subdued patches (CAPM 39-1, 2.8.3).
- Must research past unit emblem designs and incorporate same/similar elements where possible.





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Proposed Patch & Motto #1:

Motto: “Ad Astra”, Latin for “to the stars”. This is a shortening of the latin phrase “macte virtute sic itur ad astra” from Virgils *Aeneid* that is translated “those who excel, thus reach the stars”, or “excellence is the way to the stars”. Excellence is one of CAP’s core values, and achievements in aerospace (one of CAP’s core missions) have led to the exploration of space. “Ad Astra” reminds CAP members of their potential for success when applying the CAP Core Values and advancing CAP’s mission of Aerospace Education.



Patch:

Colors: Six: Air Force Yellow (lettering, border merrowing, star, dome finial, and quadriga), Ultramarine/Reflex Blue (background), CAP Red (propeller), light Tan, medium tan, and dark brown (Capitol dome).

Elements: Three: CAP propeller symbolizing CAP’s corporate logo and historical identity in the dexter position, L’Étoile du Nord “the Star of the North” (Motto of the State of Minnesota) in the sinister position which also ties into the “Ad Astra” motto as the outcome of excellence, and the State Capitol dome which dominates the skyline of St Paul Minnesota, where the squadron is based.

Emblem History: The use of the capitol dome element with the quadriga and finial, and the inclusion of the red propeller is consistent with the previous approved squadron patch to maintain unit emblem contiguity; the addition of L’Étoile du Nord as a third element is fitting with the new squadron motto.