



VALLEY COMPOSITE SQUADRON
CIVIL AIR PATROL MINNESOTA WING
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AUXILIARY
100 CIVIC CENTER PARKWAY
BURNSVILLE MN 55337



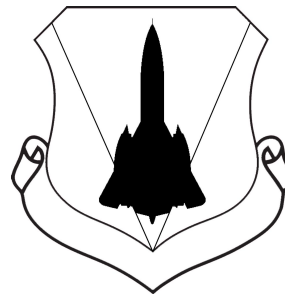
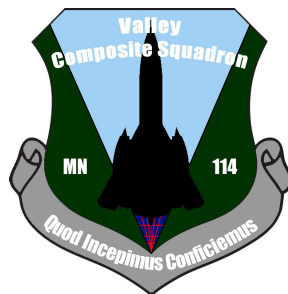
15 March 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR MN065/CC LTCOL MIKE MOEN

FROM: MN114/CC MAJ JANELLE GATES

SUBJECT: New Squadron Patch and Heraldry

1.



2. Valley Composite Squadron has a strong history within Minnesota Wing and the squadron patch is the embodiment of that history and tradition. In 1978 Valley Cadet Squadron was chartered and in 2008 the squadron became a composite squadron. In recognition of this change, Maj. Janelle Gates commissioned a redesign of the squadron patch.
3. The shield, the shape of the patch, is a traditional symbol of military defense, symbolizing the heritage of Civil Air Patrol performing defense duties during WWII and our continuing role in civil defense through Homeland Security. In addition, the shield represented the resiliency and strength of Valley Cadet Squadron during the thirty years of its existence.
3. In the center is the silhouette of the Lockheed SR-71 Blackbird, the U.S. spy plane used heavily during the Cold War. This plane is the symbol of Valley Cadet Squadron and is closely tied to our history. Valley Composite Squadron formerly was responsible for cleaning the CIA SR-71 based at the Minnesota Air National Guard Museum at the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport.
4. The background colors represent the Minnesota River Valley, the geographic location of Valley Composite Squadron and origin of the squadron's name. The green are the hills descending into the valley. The dark blue is symbolic of the Minnesota River. The light blue is the sky, representing the aspirations of Valley Composite Squadron to aim higher as well as the Aerospace Education mission of Civil Air Patrol. This background is also reminiscent of the former patch, representing Valley's strong roots in its history.
5. "Valley Composite Squadron" is written above and "MN114" is written in the hills. These designations are the name of the squadron as well as the unit charter number.
6. Emblazoned across the bottom is the Latin phrase "Quod Incepimus Conficiemus." Translated, this means "What we have begun, we shall finish." This was chosen as the squadron motto for its symbolism of intrepidity, perseverance, and dedication.

JANELLE L GATES, Maj, CAP
Valley Composite Squadron Commander