



History of USAFA CS-19 Patch and Change from “Starship” to “Wolverines” (as of 17 August 2022)

Mark (and Other CS-19 Cadets),

Regarding your question about the name switch of CS-19 from “Starship” to “Wolverines” - you are correct. I was in Starship 19 for my 3^o, 2^o and Firstie years (1978/1979, 1979/1980 and 1980/1981). As luck would have it, last year, before our 40th Class reunion in October 2021, I spent a considerable amount of time investigating the CS-19 name change from “*Starship*” to “*Wolverines*”.

Based on my research and personal interviews, the best that I can tell is that during the 1992/1993 school year the USAFA Commandant’s office pushed a change on the CS-19 cadets as part of a continuing larger effort to “clean up” the Squadron names and/or patches (e.g. Barnstormer’s Zig Zag Man, Seagram’s 7, Pink Panthers, Campus Radicals, 40 Thieves, etc.). In the late Fall of 1992 the CS-19 squadron was told that the squadron name was being changed, they were called to a meeting in the SAR and were given 5 options to choose from; they chose “Wolverines”.

Although that is the “short answer”, in my opinion there is a lot more to the story. So here are some additional details.

Overview and High-level USAFA Squadron Patch History

As a high-level introduction to the entire topic of Squadron patches Wikipedia has a good overview article:

“When the first class entered the academy in the summer of 1955, thee cadets were divided into four squadrons. In the years following, the number of squadrons gradually increased at an average of four to eight per year. By 1970, the size in the cadet wing reached its peak of 40 squadrons. The number of squadrons dipped from 40 to 36 in 1999 but returned to its current strength of 40 squadrons in 2006.”

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Air_Force_Academy_Cadet_Wing

Additionally, here’s the USAFA official webpage related to Squadrons. It contains some summary information related to all the current squadron patches:

“Our 40 cadet squadrons have a proud and rich history as exemplified by their unique and meaningful patches. The insignia of a particular unit is meant to encourage esprit and to make a strong statement about the personality of the group as a whole and its traditions.”

<https://www.usafa.edu/military/squadrons/>

During my investigations one invaluable website that I ran across was the USAFA Class of 1975’s website. It is a treasure trove of information on this topic – corroborating information that I previously had, filling in the details in other areas and adding completely new information related to the “early years”.

"The history of USAFA Cadet Squadron Organizational Emblems (commonly known as squadron patches) is sparse. The first examples of any insignia associated with the squadrons appeared in the 1958 yearbook "Final," published one year before the Class of 1959 graduated. Each of the eight cadet squadrons had an active duty unit sponsor. Initially the sponsor unit number corresponded with the Cadet Squadron number, so that the CS01 sponsor was the 1st Tactical Fighter Wing, the CS02 sponsor was the 2nd Bomb Wing, etc. The insignia depicted in this yearbook (shown below) appear to be artistic interpretations of the sponsor's official organizational emblems."

"In the very early years, prior to the adoption of official squadron emblems, many squadrons developed their own unofficial insignia as an informal means of identification, for unit morale and cohesion, or to project a particular theme or personality. These informal insignia were not permitted on any uniform items, including the athletic jacket, as "it was just not considered military" (Hector Negroni, Class of 1961). However, they were used on a variety of informal items, to include beer mugs and especially cadet bathrobes, which were frequently adorned with a variety of patches, rank insignia, etc."

"At the start of the 1961-1962 academic year, the process of official squadron organizational emblem design was initiated for the 24 Cadet Squadrons then in place. Approval was vested in the Heraldry Office, Headquarters, USAF, Washington, D.C. There were strict guidelines as to what was permitted. This letter (Right) from September, 1961, describes some of those standards and guidelines, although it leaves open the option for deviation, with adequate justification. According to the letter, the goal was to have all designs approved and in place by graduation 1962."

Ltr, Hq USAFA (CS21/3710), 27 Sep 61, Organizational Emblems

1st Ind (AFPMP-12)

Hq USAF, Washington 25, D. C.

TO: USAFA
USAF Academy Colo

1. To assure official approval of emblems for all of the Academy's twenty-four (24) permanent squadrons before June week of 1962, it will be necessary to receive all proposed designs before the end of this year. We strongly urge that they all be forwarded as soon as possible as this will give us time to recommend any modifications which we feel are necessary or desirable.

2. Because these squadron emblems will become historical through years of continuous use, we feel they should reflect a serious purpose and should not bear cartoon-type designs. They must be pictorial-type emblems as outlined in AFR 900-3, and we prefer that they do not bear letters or numerals in the design area, because this detracts from the design and gives a commercial appearance. Mottoes and designations look better when placed on scrolls outside the design area. We suggest that the numerical designation of each squadron could be indicated within the design area by grouping stars or other objects within the design area as shown in the attached sketches. However, if you consider letters or numerals within the designs are essential, we will grant an exception to paragraph 4b(2)(f), AFR 900-3.

FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF

1 Atch
Sample emblems

Note that the 27 September 1961 "Organization Emblem" guidance from HQ AF specifically states:

*"Because these squadron emblems will become historical through years of continuous use, we feel they should reflect a serious purpose and **should not bear cartoon-type designs**"*

Although I have not seen the actual documents mentioned below, I have reached out to Betsy Muenger, the Command Historian at USAFA, to see if she has them and any information related to the Starship to Wolverine name change (see additional details on page 17).

"Between about 1976-1978, the Wing Heritage Committee compiled a squadron patch history, covering then current and past patches, with the best information available at the time."

"In 1987 2nd Lieutenant Timothy Matson updated the Wing Heritage Committee history to reflect the status of the patches at the time. He noted that each squadron's section of the 1975 Polaris included a picture of its patch and a brief explanation of its significance. However he also noted that descriptions in the yearbook often differed from those originally compiled by the Wing Heritage Committee:

"Anyone researching the meaning of a particular patch, keep in mind that no official record has been maintained about the significance of the patch's designs. Most of the significances in this book are from word of mouth, so use good judgment when researching the significance of any of the patch's designs." – Timothy Matson, Class of 1987"

https://75bestalive.org/history_pages/history_squadron_patches/history_patches_home.html

Here are a couple of other websites with some good historical information relevant to the topic

USAFA Polaris Yearbooks Online

<https://www.usafa.org/Heritage/Yearbooks>

USAFA Class Histories - has information through the Class of 2010

<http://www.usafaclashhistories.org/>

Wing Traditions - located on Class of 1960 website

<https://www.usafaclashes.org/1960/History/Artifacts/wing-traditions.htm#>

United States Air Force Academy Cadet Insignia

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Air_Force_Academy_Cadet_Insignia

United States Air Force Academy Cadet Wing

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Air_Force_Academy_Cadet_Wing

CS-19 Squadron Patch History

CS-19 was activated in 1960. During its history CS-19 has had three personas and 5 squadron patches:

https://75bestalive.org/history_pages/history_squadron_patches/squadron_patches19.html

1960 to 1975 (15 years) – Playboy 19 – patches from 1962, 1963 and 1968 respectively



1976 to 1993 (17 years) – Starship 19



1993 to 2022 (29 years) – Wolverines



On 16 November 1961, and again on 23 March 1962, CS-19 (through the USAFA Department of Administrative Services) requested that HQ AF approve the use of the initial Playboy-19 insignia.

Although I have not located the HQ AF response to these requests, approval must have been granted since in 1962 CS-19 started using the proposed Playboy insignia as their squadron patch.

190 19th Squadron

X11-4

Capt Walton/gf/3710/8Nov61
(Original typed 12Oct61)

CWOC

16 NOV 1961

Request for Approval of Organization Emblem

Hq USAF (AFFMP-12-C)
Wash DC DC

1. Reference Hq USAF (AFFMP-12) 1st Indorsement to our basic communication, subject "Organizational Emblems," dated 27 Sep 61, and in accordance with Air Force Regulation 900-3, request is submitted for approval of an emblem for the Nineteenth Cadet Squadron, Air Force Cadet Wing, U.S. Air Force Academy.

2. Description:

a. The designs attached depict the emblem for which approval is desired. The rabbit in the background was chosen as the squadron mascot. It is patterned after the rabbit made famous by PLAYBOY magazine.

b. The large falcon in the foreground is the official mascot of the Air Force Academy. In front of the falcon is a four-pointed star resembling the Polaris star of the cadet yearbook. An individual class color is presented on each arm of the Polaris.

c. The number "nineteen" sets the emblem apart as being that of the Nineteenth Squadron of the twenty-four in the Cadet Wing.

3. While Air Force Regulation 900-3 clearly states in paragraph 4b(2) (f) that no numerals will appear in the emblem, exception is requested in this case. There is no tactical significance to the numbering of the cadet squadrons, and these squadrons are unique in that there will be no redesignation of numbered squadrons regardless of any possible future expansion of the Academy.

4. Exception is also requested to paragraph 4b(1) (c) wherein it is stated that principal elements must face to the right. In this design the principal element is the Polaris star and rearrangement of the other elements of the emblem will destroy their continuity, balance, and significance.

5. Approval of this request will result in increased motivation and morale and enhance the prestige of cadets of the Air Force Cadet Wing.

FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT:

JAMES D. FREEMAN
Captain, United States Air Force
Dep/Director of Administrative Services

1 Atch
3 x 10 reproductions
of proposed emblem

COMMAND READING FILE

10
11:6
CAPT WALTON/3710/gf/7Mar62

GWOC

Request for Approval of Organization Emblem

23 MAR 1962

HQ USAF (AFFMP-12-C)
Wash 25 DC

1. Reference HQ USAF (AFFMP-12) 1st Indorsement to our basic communication, subject "Organizational Emblems," dated 27 Sep 61, and in accordance with Air Force Regulation 900-3, request is submitted for approval of an emblem for the Nineteenth Cadet Squadron, Air Force Cadet Wing, U.S. Air Force Academy.

2. Description:

a. The designs attached depict the emblem for which approval is desired. The rabbit in the background was chosen as the squadron mascot. It is patterned after the rabbit made famous by PLAYBOY magazine.

b. The large falcon in the foreground is the official mascot of the Air Force Academy. To the left of the falcon is a four-pointed star resembling the Polaris star of the cadet yearbook. An individual class color is presented on each arm of the Polaris.

c. The number "nineteen" sets the emblem apart as being that of the Nineteenth Squadron of the twenty-four in the Cadet Wing.

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4. Approval of this request will result in increased motivation and morale and enhance the prestige of cadets of the Air Force Cadet Wing.

FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT:

JAMES D. FREEMAN
Captain, United States Air Force
Dep/Director of Administrative Services

1 Atch
8 x 10 reproductions
of proposed emblem

COMMAND READING FILE

1962 "Playboy Nineteen"



Description: The patch is a white, circular emblem, bordered in blue. A blue Playboy bunny is in the center. A falcon clutching two silver lightning bolts is in front of the bunny. The numeral "19" is in the form of dark blue lightning bolts and is to the left of the falcon. Polaris, highlighted by the colors red, blue, silver, and gold, is in front of the falcon.

Significance: The colors red, blue, silver, and gold represent the four classes. The falcon is the Academy mascot and represents a commitment to the Academy's ideals. The playboy bunny depicts the squadron's nickname at this time: "Playboy Nineteen."

History: This was the squadron's original patch.

Nickname: "Playboy Nineteen"

As I recall 19th Squadron had the first squadron patch. We had some made up and sewed them on our athletic jackets. The rest of the Wing and the Commandants office were so impressed that all squadrons were directed to invent squadron patches and add them to their athletic jackets. – Gary Ganong, Class of 1964

In our first year with 19th Squadron, one of the wing-wide "things" just getting started was to have a squadron patch. Due to the avocation of some of our worthy upper class forebears, 19th Squadron was already known as the Playboy Squadron, probably not imagining that such a nickname could turn into a defining element for a whole group of cadets. But it did. And sometime during that year, probably during the Jan-Feb 1961 "dark ages," there became a groundswell of opinion in 19 that a patch would be nice to have. Since I had already designed and purchased patches in bulk in my Boy Scout days, for me it was simply "once more with feeling"—and so I designed the original Playboy 19 patch, shown here. Design elements: a Falcon clasp lightning bolts overlaid on a Playboy bunny, plus a Polaris four-pointed star, with each star point having a class color on one side and a common silver/gray on the other, and a 19 in blue lightning. Relatively simple. The approved patch (was it ever really approved? I don't think so...) was ordered initially from Lion Brothers in Owings Mills MD, just like my previous patches had been, and amazingly, that company is still in business to this day. The patch was a success, and soon thereafter a beret pin followed, and eventually numerous other likenesses of the same basic design. I have been told that, years later, Playboy Enterprises complained, or threatened legal action, or else maybe someone in the Air Force higher-up chain of command decided that would sound like a good excuse, or whatever. But the original Playboy 19 patch was retired, long after we were gone and in the Air Force, replaced by more politically acceptable images and mottos. But ah, before then, those were the days. – James Graham, Class of 1964

I agree that the patch on the right was the one that Jim [Graham] designed and that we wore on our Blue zipper jacket, Have never seen the other one and think it might have been a one-off design that never went any further. We had it from the end of our first year through graduation and I think it lasted for awhile after that before it became too politically incorrect for the brass to tolerate. When I was stationed there in 1970-74, I believe the patch had already been changed at least once. I also helped Jim and others (can't remember who) embed it into our squadron break room floor when we were second classmen. Jim and I searched for it at one of our early reunions but they had carpeted the break room floor and had glued the carpet down so it was also probably removed when the patch changed. That's the best that I can do with old memories. – Jim Pierce, Class of 1964



1963 "Playboy Nineteen"



Description: The patch is a white, circular emblem, bordered in blue. A light blue Playboy bunny is in the center. A falcon clutching two silver lightning bolts is in front of the bunny. The numeral "19" is in the form of dark blue lightning bolts and is above the falcon. Polaris, highlighted by the colors red, blue, silver, and gold, is to the left.

Significance: The colors red, blue, silver, and gold represent the four classes. The falcon is the Academy mascot and represents a commitment to the Academy's ideals. The playboy bunny depicts the squadron's nickname at this time: "Playboy Nineteen."

History: This was the squadron's second patch, which is a modified version of the squadron's original design.

Nickname: "Playboy Nineteen"

POLARIS 1965 – 1968



On 17 July 1967, ostensibly due to copyright concerns, Lt Col Lawrence Tacker (USFA Director of Information) placed a phone call to Mr. Eldon Sellers (Playboy Executive Vice President) to discuss the official approval for CS-19 to use the name "Playboy" and the associated Rabbit Head logo.

On 18 July 1967 Playboy granted their approval for the use of the copyrighted materials as long as there was a notice posted somewhere in the squadron with the appropriate legal caveats.

PLAYBOY

playboy building · 919 north michigan avenue
chicago, illinois 60611 · (313) michigan 2-1000

July 18, 1967

Colonel Tacker
Director of Information
United States Air Force Academy
Colorado 80840

Dear Colonel Tacker:

This will confirm the telephone conversation of July 17 between you and Mr. Gibson of our Legal Department relative to use of the name PLAYBOY and the RABBIT HEAD Emblem by the 19th Cadet Squadron. We are pleased to grant the squadron permission to use our registered PLAYBOY and RABBIT HEAD Emblem trademarks and service marks, provided no products or services bearing our marks are sold to anyone outside of the squadron.

This permission is granted on the understanding that the squadron will have a small notation (possibly posted in the BOQ or on the bulletin board of the squad room) reading "PLAYBOY and the RABBIT HEAD are the registered trademarks of, and used with permission of, HMH Publishing Co. Inc. (PLAYBOY)," and on the further understanding that the officers in charge of the squadron realize and agree that such use is solely with our permission and will inure to our benefit and that all rights in the trademarks belong to us. Finally, we reserve the right to revoke our permission at any time and acceptance of this permission must be on the understanding that, if we do so, the squadron will immediately cease using the name PLAYBOY and the RABBIT HEAD Emblem.

Colonel Tacker

Page two

July 18, 1967

We are sorry if this letter seems overly technical, but it is necessary, in order that we protect our marks, that you and the squadron understand and agree to these terms. If they are acceptable, please sign and return the enclosed copy of this letter and you may then proceed to use the name PLAYBOY and the RABBIT HEAD Emblem in connection with the name and the shoulder patch adapted by the 19th Cadet Squadron.

Cordially,



Eldon Sellers
Executive Vice President

Accepted and Approved on behalf of the 19th Cadet Squadron

By _____

In response to Playboy's approval letter, on 31 July 1967 Lt Col Tacker sent Mr. Sellers a letter saying that although the Air Force appreciated the "permission to use the name and the emblem", the Air Force had "decided for other internal reasons not to allow the squadron to use the rabbit head emblem".

OI

31 JUL 1967

Mr. Eldon Sellers
Executive Vice President
PLAYBOY
Playboy Building
919 North Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Dear Mr. Sellers

In reference to your letter of 18 July 1967 regarding the use of the name PLAYBOY and RABBIT HEAD, we sincerely appreciate your permission to use the name and the emblem.

We have decided for other internal reasons not to allow the squadron to use the rabbit head emblem. We will continue to allow the use of the word playboy in relation to the squadron with the understanding that it has no connection with PLAYBOY and has the usual meaning it had before adoption by your corporation as a club with commercial implications and intentions.

We believe that such use (of the word playboy) would not violate your rights or endanger your trademark if used in this manner. If you have a contrary opinion, please advise us and we will consider elimination of any feature which you feel violates your rights.

Sincerely



LAWRENCE J. TACKER, Lt Colonel, USAF
Director of Information

SJA *[Signature]* COC *H* DEP *[Signature]* DIR _____ ADMIN *[Signature]*

In my opinion this conversation was a complete charade, with USAFA, in the guise of Lt Col Tacker, attempting to abolish the Playboy iconography by citing copyright limitations by Playboy. When Playboy granted their approval USAFA stepped up and played the “other internal reasons” card.

This forced the 1968 redesign of the CS-19 Squadron patch – but did not eradicate the “Playboy 19” mindset which would linger until 1975.

1968 "Playboy Nineteen"



Description: This patch is a circular emblem with a dark blue field bordered in gold. A silver falcon holding a gold sabre is in the center. A gold Polaris, with red, gold, and silver stars above it, is to the left of the falcon. The Arabic numerals “1” and “9” are on either side of the falcon.

Significance: The falcon represents the Air Force Academy mascot. Polaris and the sabre are colored gold in honor of the graduating class that designed the patch. Polaris represents the guiding star while the sabre represents the cadet way of life and the military profession. The color of the blue field and the three stars represent all the class colors. The Arabic numerals “19” represent the Nineteenth Cadet Squadron.

History: This is the squadron’s third patch.

Nickname: “Playboy Nineteen”

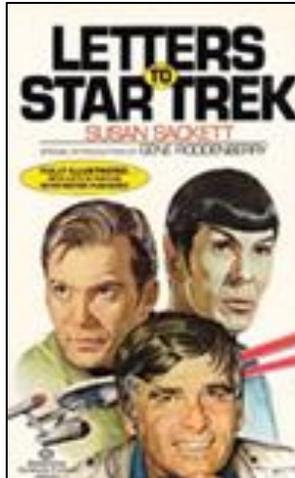
POLARIS 1969 – 1976

Then in 1975, in my opinion, the Commandant’s office moved again and took two actions: 1) they “broke up” the CS-19 cadets by moving some of the Firsties from the Class of 1976 out of CS-19 replacing them with cadets from other squadrons to eliminate the Playboy mindset and, and 2) they forced a redesign of the CS-19 Patch.

“The new patch was required when the old Playboy 19 squadron was broken up. I was drafted into the new squadron from CS-15. I submitted a number of proposed patch designs, but Starship 19 was the runaway favorite. The AOC required me to write Gene Roddenberry a letter seeking permission to use the design. Gene was a WWII bomber pilot, and he was delighted. My letter (signed by the Squadron First Sergeant) was printed in a paperback book “Letters to Star Trek” written by his secretary, along with his reply.” – Brent Glines, Class of 1976 (January 2020)

It is interesting to note that the 1976 Polaris yearbook lists the Squadron as Starship-19 but all the photos (to include the Patch photo on the Squadron page) still show the old Playboy-19 patch with the falcon. (1976 Polaris pages 432 to 434 - <https://s3.amazonaws.com/usafayearbooks/1976.pdf>)

Based on the requirement to obtain the relevant copyright approval, in 1975 CS-19 wrote to and obtained Gene Roddenberry’s approval for the use of the Starship Enterprise on their patch - as detailed below (as documented in the book “Letters to Star Trek” by Susan Sackett, published 12 December 1976, First Edition Printing January 1977 (pages #108 – 110):



Mr. Roddenberry,

The Nineteenth Cadet Squadron recently approved a new squadron patch designed by C1C Brent Glines, which includes a starship as the central figure. The attachment is a photostatic copy of the proposed patch. We are presently awaiting permission from Mr. Gene Roddenberry and from our own Uniform Board before allowing the one hundred members of the Nineteenth Cadet Squadron to wear the patch.

Sincerely, Stephen M. Heartt, C2C, USAF

Dear Stephen,

You not only have my permission to use our starship on your squadron patch, but also my very best wishes to the entire group and its officers. May it convey good luck in carrying you all to places in both inner and outer space, "where no man has gone before."

It is a particular pleasure for me to grant this permission, since I once flew for our country in what was then known as the Army Air Corps, graduating in Class 42G from Kelly Field, and serving through the war in both combat and Stateside assignments. I still get a sentimental and warm feeling when I hear the music and words "Off we go..." and I'm sure that background had much to do with the creation of Star Trek.

Fraternally Yours, Gene Roddenberry

1976 "Starship Nineteen"



Description: The patch is a black circular emblem bordered by two small semi-circular curved emblems on the top and bottom. The inscription "STARSHIP 19" is located in the top emblem. The inscription "WHERE NO MAN HAS GONE BEFORE" is inside the lower emblem. A white starship outlined in black with red highlights is positioned in the left of center of the patch. The starship orbits a celestial body located in the lower right corner of the patch. There are three landmasses, camouflaged green, displayed with blue water between them. Three silver, red, and gold five-point stars are in the night sky in the top of the patch. A four-point blue Polaris star is to the right of the three stars. The patch is bordered in white which sets off the semi-circular curved emblems from the rest of the patch.

Significance: The overall theme of the patch suggests man's future conquest of space, the final mysterious frontier. The four stars represent each of the class colors at the Air Force Academy and the importance of the unity of all classes. The blue star is in the shape of Polaris to represent the class color of the Class of 1976, the class responsible for designing the patch.

History: This is the fourth patch used by the squadron and was designed by Brent Glines, Class of 1976.

Nickname: "Starship Nineteen"

POLARIS 1977 - 1991

My Personal Experience with the CS-19 Patch Issue

I'm a graduate from the Class of 1981 and spent my 3rd, 2nd and Firstie years (1978-1981) in "Starship 19".

During the fall of 1980 the USAFA Commandant's Office decided to crack down on all of the squadrons that had patches that they disapproved of - for a wide variety of reasons.

In the case of CS-19, to get us to change our patch the approach they took was to say that we were infringing on the Star Trek copyright. Fortunately in 1976, when the "Starship 19" patch was first developed the squadron (C1C Brent Glines) had written Gene Roddenberry and obtained his ".....permission to use our starship on your squadron patch." As noted above, the initial request and approval letters were published in the book "*Letters to Star Trek*" by Susan Sackett (published 12 December 1976).

Luckily I knew about the patch history and had a copy of the book to show the Officers from the Commandant's staff. After they saw the proof they moved on to other squadrons; but personally I was sure that they already knew that CS-19 had the appropriate copyright approval and were just hoping to bluff their way through.

FYI - I still have my copy of the "*Letters to Star Trek*" book.



The Change from Starship-19 to Wolverines

Evidently in 1992 the Commandant's Office was at it again, but this time they were successful in actually getting the Starship-19 name eliminated and changed to Wolverines.

1992 "Wolverines"



Description: The Wolverines' patch is a blue circle with a white moon slightly off-center. A gray wolverine's head with gold sideburns and ear, with a red eye and tongue fills the circle and is highlighted against the moon.

History: This is the fifth patch in the squadron's history.

Nickname: "Wolverines"

POLARIS 1993–

Although I have conducted a fairly exhaustive search related to the Starship to Wolverines name change, I was not able to locate any information online.

Consequently I embarked on an effort to find the people that were in place at the time of the change – or other people that might know some of the history. To that end I contacted the following people:

- **Emma Przybyslawski** - the CS-19 Squadron Commander back in 2010 and current USAFA AOG Board member
- **Scott Knaub** - the Class of 1993 Fall 1992 Squadron Commander for CS-19
- **Charles Motsinger** - the Class of 1993 Spring 1993 Squadron Commander for CS-19
- **Steven Clark** - the CS-19 AOC from 1990 to 1993 - and Class of '78 Graduate

Unfortunately they were not able to provide many details about the name change from Starship to Wolverines. Here's what they said:

Emma Przybyslawski - CS-19 Squadron Commander in 2010; USAFA AOG Board Member
+1-719.244.6567
emma.prz@gmail.com
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/emmaprz/>

"I am afraid to report that I do not know why there was a switch from CS-19 Starship to CS-19 Wolverines...in fact, from what I remember, the legacy patch that most squadron mates gravitated towards was Playboy 19."

Scott Knaub - Class of 1993 CS-19 Fall 1992 Squadron Commander
26805 South Overland Drive
Channahon, IL 60410-5392
+1-815-467-0278
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/scott-knaub-113043101/>

From a 27 May 2021 phone call between myself and Scott:
“Although I don’t remember many details, since it wasn’t really a big deal and the cadets hadn’t been pushing to change the Squadron’s name, the only event that I remember was that one evening we called to a meeting in the CS-19 SAR and told by the some officers that it had been decided that the CS-19 moniker of “Starship 19” needed to be changed. We were then given 5 names to choose from. Wolverines seemed the most interesting – so it won. After the vote we all left the SAR and moved on. As far as I can remember there was no big flap over changing the “Starship” name versus keeping the name. But I also don’t remember any people in the squadron requesting or pushing for the change. It was all pretty low key.”

Charles Motsinger - Class of 1993 CS-19 Spring 1993 Squadron Commander
4113 Shenandoah Street
Dallas, TX 75205
drcharlesmotsinger@gmail.com
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/charles-motsinger-m-d-4182968>

“I received your letter in the mail. I am impressed by your tenacity in finding the answer to the question. Unfortunately, like so many good things about the Academy that have changed, I am afraid you might not like the answer to this one. There were those of us who liked the theme, however many of the members of the squadron did not. I guess by that time, Star Trek was associated with a nerdy-geeky vibe. Hence the change to a name that meant an animal that could kick ass. I don’t remember how the decision came about to change the name, but that seemed to be the main issue. Sorry if this craps on what you guys did back then.”

Steven Clark - CS-19 AOC from 1990 to 1993
6508 Trailhead Rd
Highlands Ranch, CO 80130-5338
78shifty@comcast.net

“First, I can appreciate your concerns as I share the same history with Seagrams 7. Yes, CS-07 long ago was known as Seagrams 7 just like CS-19 was Playboy 19. When I started my time as the AOC of CS-19, the Wolverine 19 moniker was already in place. I did not question it; in my mind, it fell to the same “axe” as 7th squadron and 23rd squadron’s “Zig Zag Man.” Let’s not forget another squadron “Eight ball Eight” [aka evil eight] among many others. The “Bring Me Men” ramp which you witnessed is the best example of change for many political reasons. All these changes and many more are the history of the Academy, and that can never be changed. Finally, of all the squadron patches in the past, the Starship 19 has the best chance of maneuvering the political gauntlet for reinstatement..... Do the paperwork and leverage the AOG... Good luck.”

Other Miscellaneous Information

The Wikipedia article referenced on page 1 above states the following with respect to CS-19:

Air Force Cadet Wing Squadron 19 "Wolverines" – Wikipedia Article

"The patch is a navy blue circle with an aggressive wolverine head in the center. The squadron was originally known as "Playboy 19" with a squadron patch that represented the official Playboy Bunny emblem, perhaps with the endorsement of Hugh Hefner himself. The first USAFA class that introduced (150) female cadets, the Class of 1980, was slated to arrive in the summer of 1976. As a result, the Playboy logo was deemed inappropriate and the squadron became known as "Starship 19," perhaps due to renewed popularity of the television series in the mid-1970's. The patch displayed the Starship Enterprise with the words, "Starship 19" along the top of the patch and "Where no man has gone before" along the bottom. Sometime later, the term "Where no man has gone before" was deemed sexist and the squadron then transitioned to the generic "Wolverines." (as of 17 August 2022)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Air_Force_Academy_Cadet_Wing#Air_Force_Cadet_Wing_Squadron_19_%22Wolverines%22

When I did my initial research back in May of 2021 the Wikipedia article also stated the following and had an editorial citation saying that the information was - *"Edited by a member of the Class of 1979 and Starship 19 who witnessed this transition personally."*

Several other cadet squadrons were mandated to change their patches to eliminate any bastion of maleness at USAFA in the name of inclusion, diversity and a huge push toward "political correctness." Concurrently, the poem excerpt of "Bring Me Men... was removed from the Academy's main entrance ramp and replaced with something "non-offensive."

My Comments on Wikipedia Article

It is my opinion that whoever wrote the original (May 2021) article has conflated several issues. In addition, since they were a 79 grad (who I certainly knew since I was in CS-19 with the classes of 79, 80, 81, 82, 83 and 84) they would not have been at USAFA during the time that the patches were switched or the "Bring Me Men" text above the ramp was removed. For the sake of completeness I'll add my comments to the Wikipedia article here.

- It wasn't until 1992/1993 that "Starship 19" became the "Wolverines".
 - You can see this timeline by comparing the 1992 Polaris yearbook (pages 399 – 403 – which still shows the Starship patch circa May 1992) to the 1993 Polaris yearbook (pages 421 – 424 which shows the new "Wolverine" nomenclature circa May 1993).
- The "Bring Me Men" text was taken down on the ramp on 28 March 2003
 - 10 years after the Starship to Wolverine patch changeover in 1992/1993.
- In 1961 and 1962 CS-19 did indeed get HQ USAF approval to be "Playboy" 19 – but from Mr. Eldon Sellers (Playboy Executive Vice President) – not Hugh Hefner
 - See attached letters above – dated 16 November 1961 and 23 March 1962 respectively
- On 18 July 1967 CS-19 did indeed get permission from Playboy to use their trademark logo – but on 31 July 1967 USAFA - Lt Colonel Lawrence Tracker, sent a letter stating *"We have decided for other internal reasons not to allow the squadron to use the rabbit head emblem"* (see attached letter above).
 - Consequently, although the CS-19 patch from 1968 to 1975 had a falcon who's wings were slightly evocative of the Playboy rabbit head – if you knew that there previously had been a rabbit head on the patch - there was no Playboy logo to deem inappropriate prior to the arrival of the arrival of the Class of 1980, the first USAFA class that introduced

female cadets, and therefore no specific reason to change the patch from "Playboy 19" to "Starship 19".

- Because of this I don't believe the article's specific comments related to the patch, but I do agree that it was probably likely that the Comm shop wanted to stamp out the informal playboy culture of the squadron and pushed for a new identity for CS-19.
- So, perhaps due to the renewed popularity of the original Star Trek television series based on constant TV reruns in the mid-1970's, the fact that "Star Trek: The Motion Picture" (which premiered in 1979) was in production, and the fact that the Space Shuttle was in full scale development (first launched on 12 April 1981) the factors all combined to make a Star Trek themed Squadron identity and patch a desirable option.
 - I guess that I'll have to look into this switch more once I've sorted out the Starship to Wolverine switch.
 - It's also an interesting cultural phenomena that when Emma Przybyslawski was in CS-19 in 2010 that the "*legacy patch that most squadron mates gravitated towards was Playboy 19*" – 42 years after the patch had been eliminated in 1968 and well after Playboy's mid-70 heyday.
- In the Fall of 1980, when the Comm Shop attempted to force us to eliminate the CS-19 Star Trek patch due to copyright issues, we also discussed the issue of the "*Where No Man Has Gone Before*" on the patch since by that time all four classes were populated by both male and female cadets – even though the Comm Shop didn't raise the issue since they wanted to do away with the entire patch.
 - Interestingly enough, our proposal (which we did not share with the Comm Shop since they didn't raise the issue) was to change the wording to "*Where No **One** Has Gone Before*" – exactly what Star Trek the Next Generation did when they premiered in 1987.

Urban Legend of Where the CS-19 Wolverine Name Came From

One of the Urban Legends related to the name switch is that the "*Wolverines*" name came from the 1984 John Milius movie "*Red Dawn*" where a group of teenagers band together to defend their town (Calumet, Colorado), from invading Soviet Union, Cuban and Nicaraguan forces. The high school students resist the occupation using guerrilla warfare, and name themselves the "*Wolverines*", after their high school mascot. I've heard this legend, but have never been able to confirm it.

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0087985/>

Nonexistent USAF Legacy of Wolverines

As to a potential historic USAF legacy for "Wolverine" I am not aware of, and cannot find any reference to, any aircraft named Wolverine or to any Air Force unit that was called the Wolverines.

As far as I know it wasn't until February 2021 that the USAF ever had linkage to anything named Wolverine when they accepted the first new Beechcraft AT-6E Wolverine Light Attack aircraft into the USAF inventory on 17 February 2021.

<https://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/39302/the-air-force-finally-has-its-first-new-at-6e-wolverine-light-attack-aircraft>

<https://defense.txtav.com/en/at-6>

<https://www.airforcemag.com/weapons-platforms/at-6/>

Elon Musk's A-Jacket

As a proud "Starship 19" grad I was glad to see that when Elon Musk visited USAFA on 7 April 2022 the Academy gave him a A-jacket with a Starship-19 patch on it.

However, I also found it ironic since CS-19 became the "Wolverines" 29 years ago - and they could only find a small patch for the jacket; not the correct size patch – as seen on the A-jacket that General Terrence O'Shaughnessy (USAFA Class of 1986) is wearing.



Please let me know if you have any questions or require any additional details about the CS-19 "Starship" to "Wolverines" name change.

I'll let you know if I hear back from Betsy Muenger or locate any additional relevant information.

Cheers,

Geoff Phillips
Starship 19
'81 *Second to None*

