

A Brief History of Cadet Squadron 20 Patches

The United State Air Force Academy Cadet Squadron 20 (USAFA CS20) was commissioned in the Fall of 1960 as the “Can-Do” Squadron. Our Air Force operational unit sponsor was the 305th Bomb Wing at Bunker Hill AFB, IN. The original CS20 “Can-Do” Patch included a generic delta-winged aircraft reminiscent of the Convair B-58, which was proudly flown by the 305th Bomb Wing at the time. The blue elliptically shaped patch had the major axis placed horizontally. A curved silver banner containing the words “20th SQ AFA” sat on top. Similarly, the words “CAN-DO” appeared at the bottom. The aircraft and a lightning bolt were in the center. The squadron motto, “CAN-DO,” suggested that there was no task the squadron couldn’t handle or goal they couldn’t reach. The plane represented air power, and the silver lightning bolt symbolized the Academy. Gerald J Naber, the first Air Officer Commanding (AOC) of CS20, tells us the request for approval of this patch went all the way to the Puzzle Palace. This patch was worn by CS20 cadets until 1972. Here is a picture of the original “Can-Do” Patch:



Sometime during the Fall of 1962 or the Spring of 1963, when Bill Ardern ('63) and Mike Christy ('63), were leading CS20, a decision was made to select a squadron mascot. The entire squadron became engaged in the selection process. In looking for a worthy and unique mascot, we sought alliteration, uniqueness and inspiration for the squadron to accomplish great things. Mascots like “Tigers” and “Tramps” were considered and soon discarded. Finally, the

“Troll” idea sprang from the fertile minds of the cadets of that day. The Troll became the official CS20 mascot because Ardern and Christy put their shoulders to the wheel and made it happen. They worked with Captain Gerry Naber, the CS20 Air Officer Commanding (AOC) at the time, to get this mascot approved.

The seminal Troll image was inspired by Mitch Cobeaga ('64), Todd Jagerson ('64) and Dick Benson ('65). The first-known sketch of the Tough Twenty Troll was drawn by Tim Kline ('64) in the Fall of 1963 for inclusion in a CS20 newsletter entitled Terrible Ted's Tough Twenty Trolls (T-T's T-T-T) after Captain Ted Jensen, deputy AOC and eventual successor to Captain Naber. Tim took advantage of the newsletter to promote everything Trollish. The rag had a staff consisting of Cadets O'Leary ('66), Lichtenwaller ('66), Salsbury ('66), Selecman ('66), Richardson ('66), McCarty ('67), and Sweatland ('67), working under Tim's direction. Here is an early rendition of the CS20 Troll, which appeared in “T-T's T-T-T”:



The "Tough Twenty Troll" idea translated into two Wing Intramural Championships, Soccer and Water Polo, in 1963, which made us believers in sports victory for the first time.

Tim also wrote The Troll Song in that time frame. Here are the words to The Troll Song, sung to the tune of ***A Ramblin' Wreck from Georgia Tech***:

Verse 1:

***O I was born across the ocean, or so the legend's told,
My mother was a monster, a thousand years old,
Just feed me bones, and blood, and brains; a carcass will be fine,
I'll devour in an hour a man or two, and more if you'll give me time.***

Chorus:

***I'm a Tough Twenty Troll, and I'm on the roll,
And I'm out for a fight you see,
And if you know of another Troll,
Then tell him to come with me;
We'll stomp and shout and smash their butts,
And pound and bash their grubby guts,
We're Tough Twenty Trolls who are on the roll,
And mighty mean jocks are we.***

Verse 2:

***O I was living once beneath a bridge, eating up billy goats,
Until a Commie soldier came, and tried to slice my throat.
I'll tell you that sure made me mad, I grabbed him by the neck,
I twisted his arms and legs in knots, until he was a wreck.***

Verse 3:

***O I'm the last of my kind of monster, and didn't know what to do,
Until the Twentieth Squadron, in Colorado grew;
They asked if I would stay with them, I said of course I would,
And here is why; they're as ugly as I, and as beasts they're 'bout as good.***

The Class of 1967 was energized by The Troll Song that Tim wrote and sang it often during their Hell Week in May 1963.

Todd Jagerson ('64), provides this recollection: "My memory of the Troll name comes from our being allowed to set aside one of the cadet rooms (nearest the stairwell) as an informal place to hang out -- doing what I can't imagine. The "Troll" business came up when, after fixing the place up to look like a warehouse, we were trying to find a name for this room. The winner was 'Troll Hole' -- Mitch's idea, I think -- and I painted a small sign for the door declaring it so."

Here is a picture of Todd in the Troll Hole in February 1963:



Todd Jagerson, Troll Hole Project Officer, February 1963

Todd's graphic arts skills were also put to work in designing a silk screen of the Troll for a pea-green sweatshirt available for sale to cadets, girlfriends and anyone else who would wear it. Here is a picture of my then-girlfriend, now-wife Lois, taken in the Fall of 1963, wearing that infamous sweatshirt:



Lois "Sunshine" Ojala, Fall 1963

CS20 Class of 1964 cadets were a crazy but talented bunch of guys, destined to accomplish great things. Our potential for greatness is well hidden in this picture of us taken on our way to the Leadership Reaction Course in Jacks Valley in the Spring of 1963.



***Left to Right Standing: Flower, Belmont, Levins, Neeland; Fant, Olmsted, Kline, Frazee, Jenkins, Fister and Keating
Left to Right Kneeling: Walker, Jagerson, Griffith and Cobeaga***

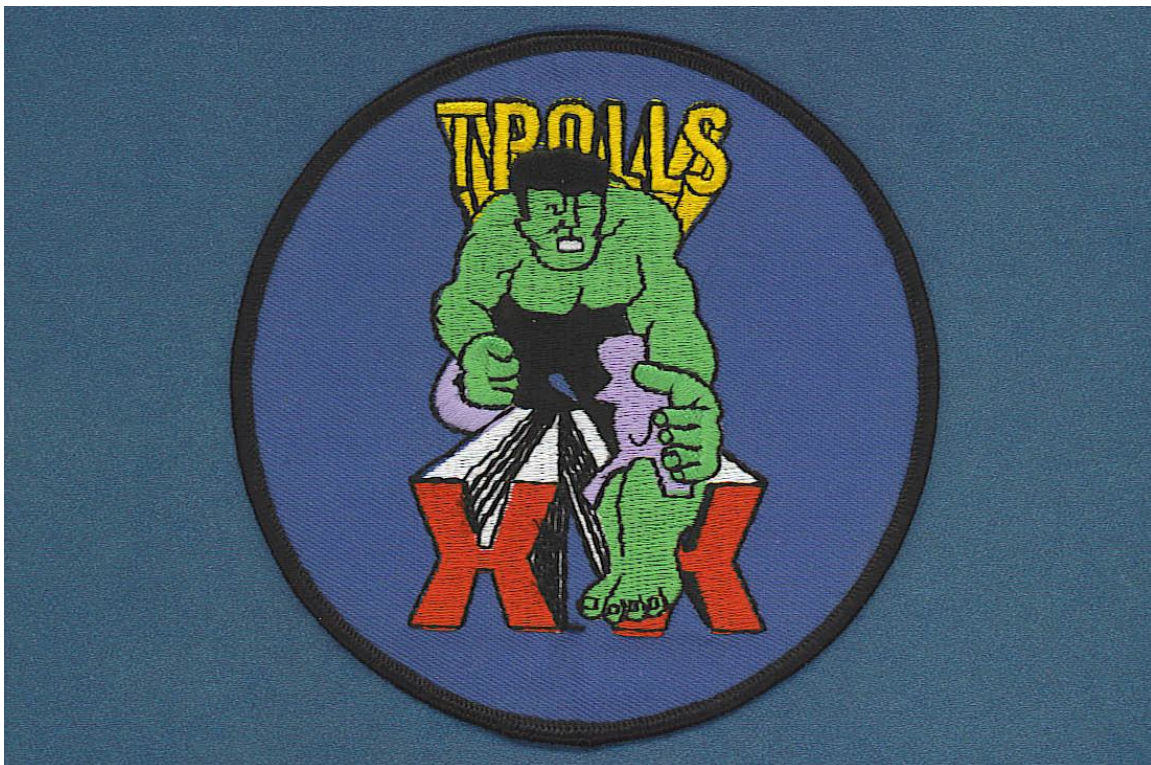
In the Fall of 1963, the USAFA Varsity Football Team, including our own Todd Jagerson, enjoyed a very successful season, garnering 7 wins and 4 losses. We beat the likes of Colorado University, Nebraska, UCLA and Boston College and earned a trip to the Gator Bowl that year.

Also, CS20 under the leadership of the Class of 1964, took the Wing Intramural Soccer Championship in the Spring of 1964.

We graduated on 3 June 1964, with Air Force Chief of Staff Curtis E. LeMay speaking and awarding diplomas and commissions. We headed off to pilot training and graduate school with high hopes, little knowing the adventures we would experience, the contributions we would make to our great nation and the bonds we would forge in the ensuing years. CS20 Class of 1964 grads would eventually produce a 3-star general; a wing commander; several colonels; numerous fighter, bomber & cargo pilots; a navigator; a missile man; a Mig Killer; multiple PhDs; several lawyers; a rocket scientist and even a pastor.

As was mentioned earlier, the roots of the Troll mascot go back to 1962, but the Troll did not grace the CS20 Patch until 1972. In that year, CS20 stirred up a hornet's nest when they asked to have their patch changed from the "Can-Do" to the "Troll" design. Ultimately, their efforts were successful. The second patch to be worn by CS20 cadets, The "Troll" Patch, consists of a circular emblem on a royal blue field bordered in black. An aggressive depiction of a strong and powerful Troll is centered in the field. The Troll is green in color and wears black trousers highlighted in violet. He is striding forward, stepping over the bright red three-dimensional Roman numerals XX; the word "Trolls" appears behind him. The Troll is a robust character symbolizing the aggressiveness and confidence of the Twentieth Cadet Squadron. The three-dimensional perspective of the Roman numerals and the word "TROLLS" symbolizes enduring spirit. The area of the patch surrounding the Troll contains the four class colors.

Here is the "Troll" Patch as it first appeared in the 1973 USAFA *Polaris*:



When the Class of 1964 returned to the Academy to attend our 10th Anniversary Reunion in 1974, we observed cadets of CS20 wearing this patch, which appears to have borrowed some of its design from the Incredible Hulk genre of trolls. Evidently, there was some process of mutation and evolution at work in the ensuing 10 years!

When the Class of 1964 returned to the Academy to attend our 45th Anniversary Reunion in 2009, those of us who graduated from CS20 met with the current CS20 cadets to discuss our common heritage and present a signed copy of the book, ***My Enemy, My Friend***, in which our own Fred Olmsted ('64) is a principal character. This meeting was certainly a highlight of our weekend. During the discussions, the current CS20 cadets asked us about the history of our patches, hence this epistle.

Here is a picture of 15 of the 20 survivors of CS20 Class of 1964 at our 45th Anniversary Reunion:



***L to R Standing: Malmstrom, Bevelhymer, Fister, Keating, Olmsted, Cobeaga, Lennon (not CS20), Belmont, Blunt and Kline
L to R Kneeling: Flower, Neeland, Levins, Echegaray, Sullivan and Jenkins***

Respectfully Submitted,

Doug Jenkins

LtCol, USAF (Retired)

CS20 Cadet Commander, Fall 1963

November 20, 2009