

LETTERS TO STAR TREK

SUSAN SACKETT

SPECIAL INTRODUCTION BY GENE RODDENBERRY

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When young STAR TREK fans go off to college, they seldom forget their former fan experiences. Even the students at the Air Force Academy in Colorado hold STAR TREK in special esteem:

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. Herlt
C2c, USAF

I passed the letter on to Gene, who answered as follows:



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