

# SQUADRON 50 HISTORY

By

Lt Col William H. Correll

*Modesto Composite Squadron 50 appears in the 15 April 1965 Wing Locator, assigned to Yosemite Group 16. It does not appear in the 1988 locator. California Wing did not find a squadron logo or patch in research of the history of this Squadron and nothing in chartering between 1965 and 1988.*

*On 15 April 1965; Charter: 04146, Unit: Modesto Composite Squadron 50  
Radio call signs White Bear 350, White Bear 550,  
Held meetings at 131 Phoenix Ave., Modesto, Calif., on Monday at 1930 hrs  
The COMMANDER was Captain Richard C. Barham (Deceased), and the  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER: Captain Warren C. Purviance,*

*Lt Col Arthur David King was a cadet member of Modesto Squadron 50 between 1963 and 1965 where in 1965 he was awarded the Cadet Certificate of Proficiency (the highest award in the cadet program at the time), and served as the Cadet Commander. Lt Col King served on active duty with the United States Air Force and was a crew chief on a C-141 flying supplies in and out of Vietnam during that war. After his service with the Air Force Lt Col King was in the United States Coast Guard, and was assigned to cutter duty in Seattle and later in the Great Lakes. After leaving cutter duty he was assigned as an investigator to the Captain of the Port at the Great Lakes- Milwaukee Station. Upon release from active service, Colonel King served with the California Army National Guard; Support Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 184<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, 40 Division, located in Modesto California.*

*Colonel King received the following military awards; National Defense Service Medal, Air Force Good Conduct Medal, Air Force Presidential Commendation Medal, Coast Guard Meritorious Unit Citation, Coast Guard Good Conduct Medal, Coast Guard Expert Pistol Medal, Coast Guard Expert Rifle Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Air Force Air Crew Wings, Expert Rifle M16, Army Service Ribbon, Coast Guard Special Operations Service Ribbon, Non-Commission Officer Professional Development Ribbon and the Coast Guard Meritorious Team Award.*

*Colonel King's Civil Air Patrol Awards included all of the Senior member training awards, including the Gil Rob Wilson Award, Commanders Commendation with bronze device, Search and Rescue Award with three silver devices, CAP Find Award with two silver devices, Command Service Award, Red Service Ribbon with two devices, CAP Senior Recruiting Ribbon with four bronze devices CAP Unit Citation Award with one bronze device, CAP Encampment Ribbon, the Cadet Mitchell Award, and the CAP Achievement Award, for his life time achievement in CAP.*

*A Modesto Squadron formation committee met during March and April of 2010 with Lt Col William Correll and then Major Arthur King as Chair and advisor respectfully. This formation committee consisted of Charlene Fulton, AOPA representative and committee organizer, Glenn Mount, and Ron Thomas both CAF representatives, and Ralph Saucedo, Modesto Aviation President.*

*With the assistance of Officers and Cadets from Squadron 72 an Open House and Recruiting day was held in the CAF hanger at the Modesto Airport on April 28<sup>th</sup> with a formation committee present. Applications were collected and demonstrations conducted during most of the day. That night Major King passed away in his sleep, and upon recommendation of Lt Col Steven England, Sq 72 Commander, and approval on Colonel Kenneth Parris, California Wing Commander, and Colonel Larry Myrick, Pacific Region Commander Major Art King was posthumously promoted to Lt Colonel, and the formation Committee agreed to name the Modesto Squadron 50 the Lt Col Arthur King Composite Squadron 50.*

*On 19 May 2010 Modesto Squadron 50 was officially granted the re-charter as the Lt Col Arthur King Composite Squadron 50, PCR-CA-146, in honor of Colonel King's long service to his community, state, nation, and Civil Air Patrol.*