

PROPWASH

PINELLAS SENIOR SQUADRON
Civil Air Patrol - Florida Wing
Albert Whitted Airport,



USAF AUXILIARY
CAP GROUP 8 - SER 182 SQUADRON
Albert Whitted Airport, St. Petersburg FL.

www.stpetecap.org

St. Petersburg Phone (727) 821-8354
Sept & October 2007 Vol. XXVII, No. 5

Due to computer problems, this issue of the Propwash was delayed. There have been several changes within our organization and Major Olson is now our interim Commander. This Squadron will return to its original FL182 number and other changes will be announced in the following issues. Please stay tuned as we keep the organization and training going. 1Lt. A. Wynelle Deese , PAO

SAINT PETERSBURG COMPOSITE SQUADRON
Civil Air Patrol - Florida Wing
P.O. Box 352
St. Petersburg, FL 33733

On August 22, 2007, The Avon Park Air Force Range Air-Ground Training Complex Range Operations Center was dedicated to and named after Kenneth R. Beers. Ken Beers served in and retired from the US Air Force. He then spent over 20 years directing range operations at Avon Park. He was an extremely professional and outstanding leader.

A Civil Air Patrol Color Guard from Brevard County, the Florida Wing Commander, several former members of the St. Petersburg Cadet Squadron and other CAP personnel attended the dedication. After several short speeches, Ken's surviving wife, Francis Beers cut the red, white and blue ribbon to open the new Range Operations Center. This was followed by a tour of the facility and a buffet lunch in one of the center's conference rooms.

Kenneth R. Beers was formerly a CAP Cadet Captain. He was the Cadet Commander of the St. Petersburg Cadet Squadron. Ken took over the squadron from former CAP Cadet Captain Herman Slapo in 1955 when Herman became a senior member of the Civil Air Patrol. Cadet Captain Beers was an outstanding cadet leader. He organized many squadron activities including weekend training and overnight bivouacs. It is important to note that in the mid 1950s there were only two seniors associated with the cadet squadron. These were Captain Blanchard and Lt. Pricilla Hoon. Many of the cadet activities were performed with minimum senior guidance and supervision. Cadet Captain Beers provided the leadership and guidance that developed an outstanding squadron that produced many fine adults. Some of these adults include:

- Captain Earnest Lewis, USN Retired, a naval aviator who attended the US Naval Academy
- Colonel Richard Mitchell, USA Retired, an army

Captain Beers provided the leadership and guidance that developed an outstanding squadron that produced many fine adults. Some of these adults include:

- Captain Earnest Lewis, USN Retired, a naval aviator who attended the US Naval Academy
- Colonel Richard Mitchell, USA Retired, an army pilot retired
- These are a few examples of the many of the former SPCS cadets from that era have become outstanding adult citizens.

A dozen years after leaving the St. Petersburg Cadet Squadron, Ken married the former Francis George. Francis was also a Cadet Captain and the Cadet Commander of SPCS. This was a second marriage for both Ken and Francis.

Reported by Captain Walt Pleasants.

SQUADRON DINNER MEETING

On Wednesday, August 29th, a dinner meeting was attended by members of the squadron. The location was at Kings Buffet with Major Jack Wholley making the arrangements. His guest included Colonel Rudy, Delores Z. and Loretta Townsend. Other members included LTC Ken McMahan and guest; CPT Walter Pleasants; Major Bob Scott and his wife, Margaret; Major Olson and LTC Vivian Olson, Major J.W. and Lt Wynelle Deese; CPT Dutch and Mary Hinkle, Lt Skip Munn, Lt. Bob Lynch and LTC Larry McConnell and wife. A good time was had.