



July 2005 Edition

# Col James H Kasler Senior Squadron Indiana Wing – Civil Air Patrol

Lieutenant Colonel Larry Lopshire, Commander



## Colonel Kasler Visits Squadron

During the May squadron meeting, it was with great pride and pleasure that the squadron hosted its namesake, Colonel James H. Kasler, USAF (retired). Colonel Kasler addressed the squadron and several guests regarding his distinguished Air Force career.

Colonel Kasler served in the Army Air Corps during WWII as a B-29 gunner. During his tour of duty, he saw combat action over Japan. After the war, he returned to Indianapolis where he attended Butler University before entering the Air Force pilot training program in 1950. During his distinguished service in Korea, he became an ace pilot with six MiG shoot-downs to his credit. On August 8, 1966, while flying a mission over North Vietnam, he was shot down and captured. He was held captive at the infamous "Hanoi Hilton". Enduring frequent torture, Colonel Kasler was released on March 4, 1973 after spending 6 1/2 years in captivity.

A new book was published earlier this year about the life and career of Colonel Kasler. *"Tempered Steel: The Three Wars Of Triple Air Force Cross Winner Jim Kasler"* was written by Perry Luckett and Charles Byler. During his visit, Colonel Kasler generously offered to autograph the book for anyone.

Joining Colonel Kasler were his wife, Martha, his daughter Nan, and son-in-law, Alan. ?



Colonel Kasler signs copies of "Tempered Steel" the new biography about his life. (Photo: CPT Tim Turner)



Col James Kasler, USAF (retired) chats with squadron commander Lt Col Larry Lopshire, CAP. (Photo: CPT Tim Turner)

## Brig. Gen. Tony Pineda assumes command of CAP

MAXWELL AFB, Ala. — Civil Air Patrol officials announced that Brig. Gen. Tony Pineda assumed command of CAP on July 1 after CAP National Commander Maj. Gen. Dwight Wheless submitted his resignation citing personal and professional reasons for stepping down.

"During these 10 months (as national commander) I essentially retired from the practice of law to devote full time to this command, but I have clients I have served for more than 38 years who still rely on me for advice, and I have yet to fulfill my promise to finish the completion of our law office's construction of a branch office and the training of new associates," wrote General Wheless in a June 15 letter to the members of CAP's Board of Governors and National Board.

General Wheless went on to write that outside of the joy of his family and personal friends, his greatest joy in life has been his 24 years of service to America through Civil Air Patrol. "The past 10 months since assuming command of this great organization have taken me all

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## Col James H Kasler Senior Squadron

### Pineda

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across the nation, carrying our story of 64 years of commitment to the principles of freedom and liberty for all people, the protection of our shores, the training of young people in the ways of respect and discipline, and the teaching of the lessons of air power.”

According to General Pineda, the national commander’s resignation is a saddening turn of events, but he understands the decision. “The future was bright with General Wheless at the helm — he is an inspirational leader and consummate professional. However, I fully understand his pressing need to focus on family and a host of professional commitments at this point in his life. Needless to say, in light of this decision, I stand ready to assume command of this tremendous organization and lead its membership until such time as a new national commander has been selected.”

General Pineda began his CAP career as a senior member of Florida Wing’s West Broward Composite Squadron when he and his son, Robert, joined in 1988. Since that time, he has

completed all levels of the CAP Senior Training Program, having received the Garber, Loening, Yeager and Wilson awards. He attended both the Southeast Region Staff College and National Staff College, and is a graduate of the National Commanders Course and Air Force Air Command and Staff College.

The general’s CAP awards include numerous meritorious and exceptional service awards for his service as both a squadron and group commander. He received the Distinguished Service Medal for his service as both the Florida Wing and Southeast Region commander. He has also received CAP’s highest senior member academic award — the Gill Rob Wilson Award.

General Pineda holds an associate degree in police science and criminology from Miami Dade Junior College, a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from Florida International University, and he has completed numerous specialized courses in law and criminal justice. The general also holds a Federal Aviation Administration private pilot license. ?



### Kasler Squadron Has Four Graduates

Civil Air Patrol’s annual National Emergency Services Academy (“NESA”) has just wrapped up its training efforts for 2005. Four members of the Kasler squadron were among the graduates. CPT Hugh Cameron, CPT Steve Cuthbert and 1LT Jenny Thompson completed Mission Pilot training and are now just a Form 91 ride away for full certification. CPT Tim Turner completed the Mission Observer training.



Kasler Squadron NESA Graduates (L-R) - CPT Tim Turner, CPT Hugh Cameron, 1LT Jennifer Thompson, and CPT Steve Cuthbert (Photo: CPT Tom Elam)

Headquartered at Camp Atterbury, Indiana, NESA is CAP’s largest National Special Activity, training 300-500 CAP Emergency Services operators from around the nation every summer. Mission Aircrew School (“MAS”) is one of the newer schools at the Academy but the quality of instruction and dedication of the staff quickly established it as a mainstay.

The training at MAS is rigorous and students work diligently to amass the skills they need to graduate as either Mission Pilots or Mission Observers.

Information regarding the 2006 schools should be published in the November issue of the CAP NEWS. ?

## Col James H Kasler Senior Squadron

### Squadron Emblem & Patch

The official patch of the Col James H Kasler Senior Squadron is now complete and available for purchase!

The patch design contains several items symbolic to the squadron and Civil Air Patrol.

The upper ribbon contains the Latin motto, *Viam Ostendere*, meaning “to lead the way or “to show the way”. It is the squadron’s goal to set new standards for excellence.

There are a total of 19 stars representing Indiana’s place as the 19<sup>th</sup> state admitted to the Union.

The light blue half-circle is representative of a directional gyroscope found in aircraft. This image reminds us to always be aware of our direction and keep it properly focused. The eagle represents strength and power and is a symbol of our country. In addition, the eagle is situated to represent the aircraft normally found in a directional gyroscope.

There are three images found in the lower half of the patch. These three images represent the three congressionally chartered missions of CAP.

The aircraft represents CAP’s emergency services (“ES”). Most of our ES missions, whether it is SAR, DR, or homeland security, utilize our aircraft.

### Mt. Comfort EVAL!

Mt. Comfort Airport (MQJ) will host the Air Force search and rescue evaluation. Squadrons from all across the wing will descend upon Indianapolis beginning Friday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Because this is the Air Force evaluation, this is our opportunity to shine. It is very important that all members attend this mission and to be in proper uniform. The new version of CAPM39-1 is available from the national website. Please check your uniforms with the manual before you attend. There may have been changes of which you were not aware.

It will be the responsibility of each member of the Col James H Kasler Senior Squadron to demonstrate the utmost professionalism during this evaluation. ?



The compass symbolizes cadet programs. One goal of CAP’s cadet program is to provide direction for young people. In addition, a large percentage of CAP ground teams are made up of our fine cadets.

You might recognize the center image as one of the early symbols of Civil Air Patrol. It is the traditional civil defense triangle with a three-blade propeller. This image represents the aerospace education mission of CAP.

Finally the lower ribbon contains the squadron name.

This handsome four-color patch is available for only \$3.00. It can be worn on the right breast pocket of either the AF BDU or CAP utility uniform. You can contact squadron finance officer, 2Lt Mary Ann Hess, for payment instructions. ?

### Uniform Items

The new version of CAPM39-1 is available from the national website. Some changes you may not have noticed include:

- deletes region commander authority to substitute region patch for the CAP command patch on the AF-style flight suit
- authorizes (*requires*) the wear of grade insignia on both sides of the BDU collar

Check the uniform manual for other changes that may affect you. It is our privilege to be permitted to wear the same uniform worn by active duty personnel. Show them the proper respect by being certain to wear your uniforms correctly. ?

# Col James H Kasler Senior Squadron

## Commander's Corner



Once again we are at a critical point in the development of our squadron and our ability to "Lead the Way". There are two elements that we need to address as we leave the summer season and move into the latter part of the year - recruiting and fund raising.

I had sent out a note earlier outlining a recruiting program for the squadron. From 1 August thru 31 October any member that brings a new member into the squadron (and the new person gets their CAP ID number) will be rewarded with three full months of exemption from paying squadron dues. I am not asking anyone to do something that I have not and will not be doing myself. I have given out two new applicants packets in the last month. So, I know that we can do the job. So, let us press on in this endeavor.

We have recently been able to get in contact with and have a dialog with the primary fundraiser at the National Headquarters. He has been a great help to us and we have great support from the Wing folks as well. A corporate partner program has been developed at the national level and we have all of the material to get that in full swing. Our main need in that area is an

introduction to someone that you know or can tell that we will be calling so that we can give them our material and let them know what a valuable asset the Civil Air Patrol is to the community and the benefits that come with their association with CAP. Basically, we are in a position to offer corporate partners the ability to get free advertising to over 60,000 people nation wide and the ability to use the CAP logo and information in their own advertising efforts as well. I want to stress that the project on the table now is not a personal project but one that will benefit all of the squadron and the wing as well.

Some events that will be coming up in the next few months include a table top exercise that we will hold in September during our regular meeting, a local squadron exercise in October (to implement that which we did on the table top) to get the new, and not so new folks some hands on experience and also a CLC course in the fall time frame. We have some really good efforts being made to ensure that all of these efforts will be productive and informative. The primary focus on these efforts will be for the squadron, but we may also have some other wing members participating as well. A SLS course may also be possible depending on the need later on.

We have 4 new graduates from the National Emergency Academy and we congratulate them on their efforts and success.

Lastly, I want to thank you all for the splendid effort you are putting forth to meet the squadron needs. Without the efforts of each individual member, we could not be one of the leading squadrons in the Indiana Wing. Keep up the good work. ?

### IMPORTANT DATES

#### July

Sat 16 9:00a Monthly Squadron Meeting

**July 22 - 24 Mt Comfort - EVAL**

#### August

Sat 13 8:00a **Airport Open House**  
9:00a Monthly Squadron Meeting

Wed 17 National Conference begins  
in St. Louis

**August 19 - 21 Valpo - SAREX**

**August 26 - 28 Mt. Comfort Air Show**

#### September

Sat 17 9:00a Monthly Squadron Meeting

### Col James H Kasler Senior Squadron

Commander: Lt. Col. Larry Lopshire  
Deputy Commander: Lt. Col. Tony Cecere

For member exclusive information, refer to our squadron group on Yahoo!Groups