

The ribbon cutting ceremony is pictured (above left) with Colonel Pineda, Colonel Sharkey, Lt. Wilkins, Major Tremblay and Lt. Barthel. Shown (above right) in the meeting room in front of the mission status clipboard holders are Lt. Col. Monte Lazarus, former commander, Colonel Antonio Pineda, SER Commander, and Lt. Col. Steve Bell, Deputy Emergency Services Director for Florida Wing. Former squadron commanders, Captain Don May, Lt. Col. David Mikelson, and Lt. Col. Fritz Schaller were also recognized for their contribution to the success of the squadron.



At the dedication, Lt. Col. Russ Reichmann, Deputy Director of Florida Wing, Standards and Evaluation, and Lt. Col. David Lehtonen, Florida Wing Director of Operations took the opportunity to review all Marco Island pilot records in the new operations office in preparation for delivery of an upgraded aircraft with a new paint job.

During the ceremonies, Colonel Pineda presented two of the new Southeast Region Coins of Excellence to Lt. Joe Wilkins and Lt. Tom Barthel for their accomplishments in completing the construction supervision of the headquarters. In addition to the large hangar, this facility has office and training space including space for the commander, for personnel/administration, operations, and communications. Major Tremblay announced that the squadron was now in a position to start a cadet program and will be seeking interested young people in the fall.

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