HONG KONG AIR CADET CORPS Report of the Chairman of the Executive Board for the period of April 2013 to March 2014

The Financial Year (FY) 2013/14 was another busy year for the Hong Kong Air Cadet Corps, and again one that took in the stride several ground breaking accomplishments, made possible, on one hand, by generous external support in terms of resources and policy, and on the other by a spirited and highly dedicated staff, both volunteer and salaried.

The first of such breakthroughs is the achievement of limited serviceable status by the Ha Fa Shan Training Camp, the first fully equipped campsite ever owned and operated by the Corps in its 43 years of existence. A brief recapitulation might be useful here: with endorsement by the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB), the Corps entered into a tenancy agreement with the HKSAR Government in late 2011 to run a Training Camp at Ha Fa Shan, Tsuen Wan. In 2012, with support from the Tsuen Wan District Council, the laying of site foundation and the refurbishment of the camp infrastructure were completed following a generous \$6.5m endowment from the Yuen Yuen Institute. Again with unflagging support from the HAB, the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust approved a grant of \$3.6m over a three year period to enable our implementation of a Youth Anti-Adversity Project at the Camp. The Project's primary objective, in close alignment with HAB's Youth Policy, is to improve the adversity quotient (AQ) of young people by subjecting them to series leadership tasks and physical challenges, thereby instilling in them determination and a positive mindset in the face of hardship. With the employment of a full-time Camp Officer in September 2013, the Ha Fa Shan Training Camp commenced operation on a trial basis. Using the \$3.6m Jockey Club Charities Trust grant as seed money, the Camp is being run as a self-financing subsidiary with its accounts independent from the Corps' mainstream operation.

The second ground breaking feat was the skillfully planned and executed media campaign to promote the Corps and its Flag Day on 26 October 2013, amidst the hype generated by the popular TVB drama *Triumph in the Skies II*《衝上雲霄 II》. Courtesy of Dr Y C CHOW, our much respected Honorary Adviser, HKACC was given 45 minutes of TV airtime during the primetime infotainment show《東張西望》 and the afternoon talk show《今日 VIP》. Further promotion of the Corps and the Flag Day 2013 on the electronic media included the Commercial Radio show《有誰共鳴》 and *Road Show* videos on public transports, the latter graciously arranged by Ms Scarlett PONG, Executive Board Member.

The third noteworthy accomplishment was the historical participation by an HKACC team in the Inter Service Rifle Meet (ISCRM) at Bisley, United Kingdom, from 29 June to 7 July 2013, attended by the best from the UK Air Cadet Organisation, the Army Cadet Force, the Sea Cadet Corps, as well as Commonwealth cadet forces. An officer trainee and two cadet members were selected to represent the Corps to compete at the Meet after intensive marksmanship training. In spite of the great odds, an HKACC cadet managed to earn the prestigious "Cadet Hundred" badge for being one of the 100 top scoring contestants. Such exhilarating result proved that Hong Kong young people, given sufficient training and practice, could indeed become good competition shooters. This prompted the Corps to strengthen its position in firearms training as a tool to hone cadets' hand-eye coordination and discipline, an area in which more efforts and resources will be invested.

After years in the making, the Corps, along with ten sister uniformed groups under the funding and policy aegis of HAB, became a signatory of the Memorandum of Administrative Arrangements with the HKSAR Government to provide non-formal education opportunities for young people to achieve HKACC's specific organizational vision and missions (viz. Aviation Education, Disciplined Training and Community Service), in return for an annual, recurrent subvention. In line with the Chief Executive's policy statement of placing greater reliance on the uniformed groups to help driving HKSAR's Youth Policy, the annual subvention from FY2014/15 onward (\$2.48m) will be twice the amount we received in FY2013/14. Naturally, with prospects come challenges, and with more resources come greater responsibility and higher performance targets. As always, the position of the Executive Board Chairman is a delicate one to ensuring that the Corps adheres to the strategic directives of the Board. It is not an executive role so the right balance has to be found in chairing the Board, exercising governance over the Corps, supporting the Management, and paying attention to the voice of the frontline. With great prospects and challenges ahead, my Executive Board colleagues and I shall continue to count on the lively engagement with all ranks in the years to come.

Highlights of the Period

As the activities of the Corps are detailed in the Commanding Officer's Reports submitted before each Executive Board Meeting and copies of such Reports are available upon request from the Headquarters, I shall only highlight below the more noteworthy events and accomplishments:

- (a) The Operations Group Joint Wings Parade was held on 28 April 2013 at the Hong Kong Auxiliary Police Headquarters, Kowloon Bay, inspected by Honorary Wing Commander Charles CHAN.
- (b) The Flag Raising Ceremony at the Golden Bauhinia Square to commemorate the 94th Anniversary of the May Fourth Movement was held on 4 May 2013 and attended by 3,000 participants, both on parade and as spectators. Mrs Carrie LAM, GBS, JP, the Chief Secretary for Administration, was the Guest of Honour. Apart from the normal deployment of an honour guard flight, two cadet members of the Ceremonial Squadron were selected as HKSAR Flag Raisers after competing with flag raisers from other uniformed groups.
- (c) The inaugural presentation ceremony of the Grantham Uniformed Youth Groups Outstanding Service Award was organised by the HKACC Public Affairs Flight on behalf of the Grantham Scholarship Fund Secretariat on 12 May 2013 at the Leighton Hill Community Hall, Happy Valley. The Award Scheme, established in 2012, is the brainchild of Executive Board Member Ms Scarlett PONG with a view to recognizing each year 26 outstanding members of the 13 uniformed groups. Each scholarship award carries a cash value of \$8000.
- (d) The Commanding Officer and Commanding Officer Emeritus/Special Adviser paid a courtesy visit to Shandong Province from 12 to 15 May 2013 on invitation by the Shandong Aviation Industries Association (SDAIA).

- (e) Wing Commander John K H LI, AE, Deputy Commanding Officer, Flying, was awarded the Medal of Honour (MH) on the HKSAR Honours List 2013 for contributions to Aviation Education and Youth Development, following nomination by the Corps.
- (f) The 10,000 Miles Friendly Trek (同心同根萬里) was held from 20 to 30 July 2013 mainly in Inner Mongolia but also included a phase in Beijing. The Commandant took part in the Beijing phase, whereas 3 adult members and 18 cadets participated in the full programme.
- (g) 172 campers joined the Summer Camp held from 22 to 26 July 2013 at the Hong Kong Adventure Corps High Island Camp. During the camp period, a total of 17 Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) cases were reported, of which 13 were directed to leave the Camp. The Department of Health Centre for Health Protection (CHP) re-classified the ILI Outbreak as Hands, Foot and Mouth Disease (HFMD) on 29 July 2013, and daily surveillance returns were required to be submitted to CHP until 12 August 2013. A further 38 suspected ILI or HFMD cases were reported to CHP after the Camp, with 26 later confirmed as HFMD. Drawing from experience gained from the outbreak, the Medical Squadron issued operational guidelines to prevent similar happenings in future.
- (h) The International Air Cadet Exchange (Hong Kong Phase) was held over the period of 23 July to 7 August 2013, with 5 escorts and 33 cadets from abroad joining the local programme. 6 HKACC escorts and 30 cadets took part in the outbound exchanges. The Commanding Officer represented the Corps at the IACE Annual Conference held in September 2013 in Istanbul, Turkey.
- (i) The United Kingdom Training Team (UKTT), accompanied by Sqn Ldr T THOMSON, HKACC's UK Liaison Officer, was in town from 23 to 31 August 2013 to conduct locally the UK Air Cadet Organisation Squadron Commanders' Course (SCC) and the Senior Non-Commissioned Officer Staff Drill Instructors' Course (Arms) (SSDIC Arms). The project was supported by a generous \$100,000 donation from the Ng Teng Fong Charitable Foundation. The Commanding Officer and his Management Team also took the opportunity to map out jointly with UKTT and Sqn Ldr THOMSON the way forward for UK ACO-HKACC collaboration over the following five years, which, among other things, culminated in the official visit to Hong Kong by Air Cdre Dawn McCAFFERTY, Commandant, UK Air Cadet Organisation, in late 2014.
- (j) The Annual Parade took place in the Hong Kong Police College, Wong Chuk Hang, on 27 October 2013. The Honourable LAI Tung Kwok, SBS, IDSM, JP, Secretary for Security, was the Reviewing Officer.

- (k) On 30 November 2013, a hillfire broke out at the HKACC Tseung Kwan O Aeromodelling Site after an electrically powered model aeroplane went out of control and crashed into the nearby grassland during a routine training exercise. The burnt out area was estimated to be 200m x 100m, with damages caused to water drains, cables and landfill gas extraction wells. The follow up actions surrounding insurance coverage/compensation issues and involving some eight parties, is still ongoing at the time of the release of this report.
- (1) 30 graduates from the Dragonair Aviation Certificate Programme were honoured at a special event organised by the Airline on 6 December 2013. The Director-General of Civil Aviation was the Guest of Honour at the graduation ceremony. Sixteen of the graduates came from HKACC, the remainder from the general public.
- (m)The Training Group Parade was held on 15 December 2013 at the Customs and Excise Training School. Graduates successfully completed the 35th Officer Cadet Training Course, 16th Recruit Instructor Training Course, and the Disciplined Services Volunteer Scheme XI were passed out at the Parade.
- (n) A Beating Retreat Ceremony was held on the evening of 29 December 2013 at the Sha Tsui Road Sports Ground, Tsuen Wan.
- (o) A Fund Raising Concert held on 3 February 2014 at the City Hall initiated by Image Ambassador Flt Lt Patrick DUNN raised \$80,000 for the Corps.

Appointments

At the first Executive Board Meeting of 11 December 2013, Mr Edwin W C LAU, AE, was elected Honorary Treasurer for a term of one year. He was appointed to the same office by majority vote at the ensuing Annual General Meeting.

Mr Hogan LOH was appointed Vice-Chairman of the Executive Board *cum* Honorary Secretary at the second Executive Board Meeting held on 11 December 2013, for a term of one year.

Raymond Y K TSE & Co CPA Limited was appointed Auditor for the Financial Year 2013/14.

Staff Movements

Headquarters Office:

- (a) Sergeant Instructor CHAN Wai Hong resigned from the post of Operations and Training Assistant on 17 November 2013.
- (b) Pilot Officer LEUNG Chun Fui assumed duty as Operations and Training Assistant on 25 November 2013.

Ha Fa Shan Training Camp:

- (a) Mr MAK Sui Lun assumed duty as Camp Officer on 9 September 2013.
- (b) Ms LIU Sum Yee was employed as Part-time Social Worker on 10 February 2014.
- (c) Mr CHOI Wai Lok was employed as Part-time Instructor on 10 February 2014

Finance

The Corps continues to rely on subventions through the Home Affairs Bureau and the Community Chest as its principal funding for capital and recurrent expenditures. Additional funding was available in the form of corporate, personal and charitable trust donations, as well as Honorary Officer endowments. In order to balance the budget, the Corps also generates income from membership fees, course fees, and sales of stock items. The Corps' audited accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2014 will be presented later at the meeting.

Votes of Thanks

I would like to express my gratitude to donors and sponsors for their financial assistance which is crucial to the continuation of our work. The following individuals and organizations deserve special mention for their long-standing support to the Air Cadets:

- (a) The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region for recurrent and one-off subventions released through the Home Affairs Bureau, and for policy support to our key projects by the Home Affairs Bureau, Home Affairs Department, and Tsuen Wan District Council.
- (b) The Community Chest, for its recurrent subvention.
- (c) The Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators, for continuing to offer its generous "GAPAN Fanny LI Youth Flying Scholarships" to promising young members of the Corps to gain full Private Pilot Licenses (Aeroplane).
- (d) The Hong Kong Dragon Airlines, for offering the Dragonair Aviation Certificate Programme.
- (e) The Cathay Pacific Airways, for their support to the Advanced Aviation Education Programme.
- (f) Dr Y C CHOW, GBS, OBE, Honorary Adviser, for his unflagging help in terms of resources and social connections.

- (g) The Honorary Officers Cadre, for its financial contributions and support to Corps' events, projects, programmes and individual units.
- (h) The Flying Squadron, commanded by Wg Cdr John K H LI, MH, AE, Deputy Commanding Officer, Flying, for organizing rotary and fixed wing flying activities for members and friends of the Corps.

To conclude, I should like to express my eternal gratitude to all my good colleagues: fellow members on the Executive Board, officers, honorary officers, warrant officers, instructors, civilian instructors, salaried staff and cadets, for their selfless contributions and superb efforts to make the Corps such a spirited organization and uniformed group second to none in Hong Kong in terms of creativity, discipline and innovation. With challenges come great prospects. Hand in hand we shall meet them with our typical cheerfulness and fortitude.

(Peter C C CHAU)
Chairman of the Executive Board
Hong Kong Air Cadet Corps

8 December 2014

HONG KONG AIR CADET CORPS Executive Board as at 31 March 2014

Chairman

Mr Peter C C CHAU, BBS, MBE, QPM, CPM

- Merchant
- Honorary Commandant, Hong Kong Auxiliary Police Force

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Commandant

Air Commodore Norman S M LO, AE, Médaille de l'Aéronautique, JP

- Director-General of Civil Aviation

Vice-Chairman and Honorary Secretary

Mr Hogan LOH

- Merchant
- Committee Member and Former President, Hong Kong Aviation Club

Honorary Treasurer

Mr Edwin W C LAU, AE

- Area Manager, Hong Kong & North East Asia, Emirate Airlines

Commanding Officer

Group Captain LEE Kwok Wing

- Senior Manager, Hongkong Land

Members

Mr Edmund W C CHOW, AE

- Civil Servant

Mr Steve H W LAU, SBS, BEM, CStJ, JP

- Merchant
- Former Commissioner, Road Safety Patrol
- Former Deputy Commissioner, Auxiliary Medical Service

Ms Scarlett O L PONG, JP

- Merchant
- Shatin District Councillor

Captain Joe Y C FUNG

- Pilot, Cathay Pacific Airways

Mr Kelvin S Y PANG, SBS, CSDSM

- Former Commissioner of Correctional Services

Mr Alan K L WONG

- Former Senior Executive, Cathay Pacific Airways

HONG KONG AIR CADET CORPS Executive Board as at 31 March 2014 (cont'd)

Group Captain Leonard K P LEUNG, MH, AE

- Commanding Officer Emeritus and Special Adviser
- Former Air Crewman Officer I, Government Flying Service

Honorary Group Captain CHAN Kwok Chiu, MH, JP

- Senior Honorary Officer

Air Commodore Peter Dicky YIP, BBS, MBE, AE, JP

- Honorary Commandant
- Former Commanding Officer, Royal Hong Kong Auxiliary Air Force
- Retired Banker

Air Cadet Liaison Officer (Government Flying Service)

Mr Mason W C NG, MBB, AE

- Air Crewman Officer I, Government Flying Service