

HONG KONG AIR CADET CORPS
Report of the Chairman of the Executive Board
for the period of April 2019 to March 2020

This has been a very challenging year for both Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Air Cadet Corps. For the last six months in 2019/20, the Corps' activities were first disrupted by social unrest and now by the pandemic. The Executive Board can understand the members' frustrations and disappointments, especially on issues over which they have no control. No one knows what the future holds in terms of a return to a so-called "normal life" and we cannot wait until things settle down before we plan for the challenges of tomorrow. The Executive Board has set up various committees to advise and review matters pertaining to the future direction of the Corps' development policy.

The Corps recognises the importance of confirming a permanent headquarters venue to sustain and enhance our training resources and capacity. During the year, staff and members of the Headquarters Building Committee continued to be involved in the process. Two possible sites have been identified as the new headquarters and training facilities. The Commanding Officer had approached relevant parties from the Home Affairs Bureau and the Lands Department in order to seek for policy support and file a formal land grant application on behalf of the Corps. I am overwhelmed with gratitude for all that the Headquarters Building Committee has done.

As at 31 March 2020, the Corps' strength stood at 2,469 cadet members organized into 50 cadet or university squadrons based at secondary schools, university campuses and community centres. They were led, taught and supported by 1,418 volunteer senior members.

Total revenue during 2019/20 was \$5,044,360 (against \$6,167,400 budgeted), with total expenditure at \$4,417,394 (against \$7,353,001 budget estimate). An operating surplus of \$626,966 (against a projected loss of \$1,186,601) was reported. The Corps' overall financial position continued to be sound, with a cash balance of \$7.5m, hence the capacity to maintain the Corps' services for a year without revenue. As always, financial prudence to safeguard public accountability and best value for money remains the primary objective of both the Executive Board and the Senior Management Team.

The Executive Board met on five occasions during the year to exercise governance on the Corps. One of the meeting held on 24 March 2020 was conducted by circulation of e-documents due to Covid-19 pandemic and Government's social distancing measures. This included decision on the future permanent headquarters for the Corps, formation of the Executive Board Committees, approval of major honours/awards, financial control, formulation of long-term strategies, and the promotion/succession planning of Senior Officers. In this Annual Report, I shall provide an overview of our main activities in 2019/20.

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 prominent events and accomplishments:-

- (a) Members of the Ceremonial Squadron underwent training on PLA style footdrill in Sai Wai Barracks on 6 April 2019 to prepare for the Flag Raising Ceremony to commemorate the centenary of the May Fourth Movement.
- (b) The Operations Groups Parade took place on Sunday, 14 April 2019 at the Police Tactical Unit, Fanling. The Parade was inspected by Group Captain LEE Kwok Wing, President, International Air Cadet Exchange Association, and Honorary Secretary, Executive Board, Hong Kong Air Cadet Corps. Representatives from the PLA Hong Kong Garrison, the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government, and the British Embassy, Beijing, were among the many guests who graced the occasion.
- (c) The Ceremonial Squadron was deployed for honour guard duty at the Golden Bauhinia Square Flag Raising Ceremony to commemorate the centenary of the May Fourth Movement. There were controversies arose concerning the adoption of PLA style footdrill by the HKACC contingent, followed by an email petition. An official response to the petition was issued, along with an internal notice reiterating that the Corps has no plan to change the traditional format of footdrill, and that members are nevertheless encouraged to learn different styles of footdrill in the spirit of holistic and multi-disciplinary training, and to practise and demonstrate such drill formats on appropriate occasions. On 9 June 2019, the Commanding Officer and his Senior Management Team engaged representatives of all ranks through dialogue at meetings to enhance communication, exchange views, clarify objectives and explain policies.
- (d) Captain John KELLY, RN, the new UK Air and Naval Attaché to Beijing, accompanied by Group Captain Mike LAVENDER, RAF, the outgoing attaché, paid a courtesy visit to the Corps on 16 June 2019. They were greeted by the Commanding Officer, Chief Staff Officer and members of the Adult Training Wing.
- (e) The Educational Visit to the Greater Bay Area took place from 1 to 4 July 2019 and was made possible by a generous donation from Honorary Wing Commander Clifford LEUNG. The 70-strong group led by the Commanding Officer was given unique opportunities to visit such flagship industries located in Shenzhen such as Tencent (telecommunications), BYD (electric cars), DJI (remote controlled drones) and XYG (glass manufacturer).

- (f) A meeting with the Hon LAU Kong Wah, Secretary for Home Affairs, was held on 4 July 2019 to discuss HKACC's possible future use of the Sung Wong Toi Road site as its permanent headquarters, and the co-location at the site by HKACC and the Aviation Club. The occasion was arranged by the Hon CHAN Hak Kan, Legco Member, with the Commanding Officer, Chief Staff Officer and Deputy Commanding Officer, Skills Development and Support representing the Corps at the meeting. Supplementary plans and proposal were submitted to Home Affairs Bureau to follow up on the matter.
- (g) The Skills Development and Support Group served as the lead unit in organising the Flag Day 2019/20 in the Hong Kong Island region on 13 July 2019. 717 members were turned out for the operation and a total of \$380,847 was raised via flag selling on the day and the gold flag donation scheme.
- (h) The Ceremonial Squadron of Training Group successfully carried out the HKACC Golden Bauhinia Square Flag Raising mission on 14 July 2019.
- (i) The "1,000 miles Friendly Trek 2019" (「同心同根萬里行 2019」) programme was held in Beijing, Jinan and Qingdao from 22 to 28 July 2019 with 14 HKACC participants.
- (j) The International Air Cadet Exchange (IACE) Hong Kong Phase was held from 23 July to 7 August 2019, including a mainland tour from 2 to 4 August 2019. 5 escort officers, 25 cadets and 1 observer from Australia, Belgium, France, Korea, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Philippines, Switzerland, Turkey, UK and USA took part in the Hong Kong programme, in exchange for 1 HKACC escort officer and 28 cadets received by Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Korea, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Switzerland, Turkey, UK and USA.
- (k) The Summer Camp was organized at the Hong Kong Adventure Corps High Island Training Camp from 25 to 29 August 2019 for 175 campers and day visitors. The Camp ended on a high note when members were provided air experience flights by the Government Flying Service on new EC175 helicopters on the final day. The Skills Development and Support Group was the lead unit and organizer of the programme.
- (l) The Chairman of the Executive Board and the Commanding Officer attended the International Air Cadet Exchange Association (IACEA) Annual Conference cum Youth Aviation Education Development Seminar from 15 to 19 September 2019 in Qingdao, China.
- (m) 第五屆港島童軍獨木舟水球制服團體邀請賽 was held on 22 September 2019 at the Tai Tam Scout Centre. The Corps won the champion of the Team Award.
- (n) The Valiant was organized from 27 to 30 December 2019 at the Suen Douh Camp. 51 cadet members have successfully completed the course, in which they have learnt and practiced various skills ranging from leadership, team building, public speaking, to navigation, orienteering and interpersonal communication.

Executive Board Appointments and Resignations

Mr TAM Kwok Chi was co-opted as a member of the Executive Board with effect from 15 July 2019.

At the Executive Board Meeting of 11 September 2019, Group Captain LEE Kwok Wing, the Honorary Secretary, was elected as the Chairman of the Honorary Officer Cadre Committee.

Mr Simon S P TANG was co-opted as a member of the Executive Board with effect from 12 September 2019.

At the first Executive Board Meeting of 11 December 2019, Group Captain Leonard K P LEUNG, was elected Honorary Treasurer on a one-year term. The appointment was agreed upon by all members at the ensuing Annual General Meeting.

At the Annual General Meeting on 11 December 2019, Mr Edmund W C CHOW and Dr Angus H W CHEUNG did not run for the re-election. Group Captain LEE Kwok Wing, Captain Joe Y C FUNG, Mr TAM Kwok Chi and Mr Simon S P TANG were elected as Board members unanimously.

Air Commodore Dicky YIP, BBS, MBE, AE, JP and Group Captain LEE Kwok Wing were appointed Vice-Chairman and Honorary Secretary of the Executive Board respectively at the second Executive Board Meeting held on 11 December 2019, for a term of one year.

Mr Edmund W C CHOW, AE and Dr Angus H W CHEUNG resigned from the Executive Board on 11 December 2019.

Raymond Y K TSE & Co CPA Limited was appointed Auditor for the Financial Year 2019/20.

Staff Movements

Flight Lieutenant LEUNG Chun Fui was employed as Part-time Operations and Training Officer on 1 November 2019. He was then appointed as Technical Supporting Staff on 25 November 2019.

Wing Commander Wilson W S CHAN stepped down from the post of Chief Staff Officer on 16 January 2020.

Squadron Leader Toby Y P NG assumed duty as Staff Officer on 1 February 2020.

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 2020 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 operation. 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 the Youth Development Commission, and for policy support to our key projects by the Home Affairs Bureau.
- (b) The Government Flying Service, for its operational support to the Annual Summer Camp and offering the Government Flying Service Aviation Inspiration Programme (GAINS) exclusively to HKACC as a platform to inspire and empower young people for a possible career in the aviation industry.
- (c) The Community Chest, for its recurrent subvention.
- (d) The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust for sponsoring overseas trip of cadet members under the International Air Cadet Exchange (IACE) programme.
- (e) Chevalier Group to offer its generous "YCC Glider Scholarships" to promising young members of the Corps to undergo a three weeks' glider pilot training in Canada and Australia.
- (f) The Cathay Pacific Airways, for offering the Cathay Aviation Certificate Programme and its support to the Advanced Aviation Education Programme.
- (g) The Honorary Officers, for their financial contributions and personal involvement in supporting events, projects, programmes and individual units.
- (h) Volunteer helicopter and aeroplane pilots of the Flying Squadron, for organising air experience flights for members and friends of the Corps in the past years.

Epilogue

The Corps was proud to be celebrating 50 years of dedicated uniform group that promotes community services and aviation activities among youth. I would like to thank all my fellow members on the Executive Board, as well as to officers, honorary officers, warrant officers, instructors, civilian instructors, salaried staff and cadets, for their selfless devotion to dedicate their time, efforts and skills to make the Corps such a dynamic organisation always ready to meet the needs of the Hong Kong Community. I hope that we could continue to join hands and create a better future of reunion and rejuvenation.

(Edwin W C LAU)
Chairman of the Executive Board
Hong Kong Air Cadet Corps

8 December 2020

HONG KONG AIR CADET CORPS

Executive Board as at 31 March 2020

Chairman

Mr Edwin W C LAU, AE

- Former Vice President, Hong Kong, Guangzhou and Taiwan, Emirate Airlines

Vice-Chairman

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

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

Commandant

Air Commodore Michael C P CHAN, MBS, MBB, GSM, AE

- Former Controller, Government Flying Service

Commanding Officer

Group Captain CHAN Man Lang, IDSM

- Former Assistant Director of Immigration

Honorary Treasurer

Group Captain Leonard K P LEUNG, MH AE

- Commanding Officer Emeritus and Special Adviser

Honorary Secretary

Group Captain LEE Kwok Wing

- Former Commanding Officer

Members

Captain Joe Y C FUNG

- Training Captain, Cathay Pacific Airway

Mr Mason W C NG, MBB, AE

- Air Cadet Liaison Officer (Government Flying Service)
- Air Crewman Officer I, Government Flying Service

Dr Joseph LEE, GBS, OStJ, JP

- Former Hong Kong Deputy to the National People's Congress,
- Former Chairman, Commission on Youth
- Former Chairman, Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education

Mr TAM Kwok Chi

- Executive Director, Wong Tung Group

Mr Simon S P TANG

- Partner, P C Woo & Co
- Accredited Mediator
- Civil Celebrant of Marriages