

民眾安全服務處
香港加路連山道一百號



CIVIL AID SERVICE
100 CAROLINE HILL ROAD,
HONG KONG.

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By Fax & by E-mail

12 December 2005

Ms Miranda HON
Clerk of Public Accounts Committee
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central, Hong Kong
(E-mail : cwywong@legco.gov.hk)
Fax : 2537 1204)

Dear Ms Hon,

**The Director of Audit's Report on the
results of value for money audits (Report No. 45)**

Chapter 5: Operation and training of the Civil Aid Service

Thank you for your letter of 3 December 2005 regarding the information requested by the Public Accounts Committee on the captioned report.

Attached hereto is the response of the Civil Aid Service in English and Chinese for consideration of the Public Accounts Committee. The response has been cleared by the Secretary for Security.

Yours sincerely,

(Robert M K Chan)
Chief Staff Officer
Civil Aid Service

cc S for S (Attn: Mr Charles Wong)
Commissioner, CAS.
Director of audit

**The Director of Audit's Report on the
results of value for money audits (Report No. 45)
Chapter 5: Operation and Training of the Civil Aid Service**

Information requested by the Public Accounts Committee (PAC)

1. Usage Rate of the Four Training Centres

PAC's Concern

- According to para 5.5 of the Report, the average usage rate of the four training centres, i.e.
 - the CAS Headquarters in Causeway Bay,
 - the CAS Hong Kong Training Centre in Causeway Bay
 - the CAS Kowloon Training Centre in Kowloon City; and
 - the CAS Cadet Training Centre in Hunghomwas 23%
- The PAC is concerned about the low usage rates of these centres.

CAS's Response

- As noted by the PAC from para 5.7(a) of the Report, CAS will return the CAS Kowloon Training Centre and the CAS Cadet Training Centre in mid-2006 to the Government Property Agency (GPA) upon the reprovisioning of the CAS Headquarters to the West Kowloon Reclamation.
- The CAS is not a full-time force. Most members have full-time jobs and they serve with the CAS mainly outside normal office hours. Training venues are more likely to be "under-utilized" if the normal value-for-money formula is applied in assessing their cost-effectiveness.
- The CAS has in fact been sharing its training venues with other government departments, educational institutes and Youth Uniformed Groups; and will continue to do so to maximize the use of these venues.

2. Usage of the CAS Hong Kong Training Centre

PAC's Query

- Given that the usage rate of the morning session of the CAS Hong Kong Training Centre in Causeway Bay was only 4%, PAC would like to know
 - the measures that will be taken by CAS to increase the usage of the Centre; and
 - whether CAS will consider returning the Centre to GPA in view of its low usage; if not, the reasons for retaining it.

CAS's Response

- As explained above, members serve with the CAS mainly outside normal office hours. Hence the usage rate of the morning session of the CAS Hong Kong Training Centre was low.

- The following actions are being taken with a view to increasing the usage rate of the Hong Kong Training Centre and also reducing the number of training venues-
 - With effect from 1 December 2005, the Hong Kong Training Centre has become the training venue for all the four Companies of the Hong Kong Region. Arrangements are being made to return to GPA the training venues in Chai Wan and Aberdeen vacated by two of the above Companies.
 - The Hong Kong Training Centre is equipped with purpose-built facilities for conducting training on mountain rescue, vertical rescue and work safety at height. Other government departments, e.g. FSD, HKPF and C&ED, will be invited to conduct training at the Training Centre during the morning session.
- There is an operational need for the CAS to retain the Hong Kong Training Centre because it is the operational base of the CAS for all operations in Hong Kong Island, including emergency operations such as those during natural disasters.