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Panel on Security

**Background brief prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat
for the meeting on 6 November 2012**

**Proposal for a two-year extension of a supernumerary Administrative
Officer Staff Grade C Post in the Narcotics Division of the Security Bureau**

Purpose

This paper provides background information relating to the Administration's proposal for a two-year extension of a supernumerary Administrative Officer Staff Grade C ("AOSGC") post in the Narcotics Division ("ND") of the Security Bureau and summarizes the discussions of the Legislative Council on the subject.

Background

2. ND is headed by the Commissioner for Narcotics ("C for N") ranked at Administrative Officer Staff Grade B (D3) level. Before 2008, there was only one permanent directorate post, C for N, responsible for the anti-drug policy portfolio in ND. According to the Administration, in view of the urgent need to reinvigorate the Administration's anti-drug efforts and enhance coordination of work among various bureaux/departments, non-governmental organizations ("NGOs") and stakeholders in the community for a proper response, the Administration resorted to an ad hoc and special arrangement since September 2007 to provide the necessary directorate support for C for N. A supernumerary AOSGC post was created under delegated authority from 3 September 2007 to 2 March 2008 to assist C for N in formulating and launching new initiatives and measures to strengthen the anti-drug policy and strategy. After then, the necessary directorate support was provided through the redeployment of existing manpower resources within the Government.

3. The Task Force on Youth Drug Abuse ("the Task Force"), led by the Secretary for Justice, promulgated in November 2008 a long-term strategy with over 70 recommendations on initiatives in respect of a five pronged anti-drug strategy and fostering a caring culture for young people in the community. In July 2009, the Chief Executive steered a high level inter-departmental task force to further expedite implementation of the Task Force's initiatives along five strategic directions, namely community mobilization, community support, drug testing, treatment and rehabilitation, and law enforcement.

4. Two three-year supernumerary posts of AOSGC, subsequently designated as PAS(N)1 and PAS(N)2, were created in 2009 and 2010 respectively after approval by the Finance Committee ("FC") at its meetings on 13 February 2009 and 22 January 2010 respectively to provide dedicated directorate support to C for N to enable the implementation of anti-drug initiatives. In 2011, the Administration proposed the creation of a permanent post of AOSGC in ND upon the lapse of the supernumerary post of PAS(N)1 in early 2012. The proposal was discussed by the Security Panel at its meeting on 7 November 2011, endorsed at the meeting of the Establishment Subcommittee ("ESC") on 7 December 2011 and approved at the meeting of FC on 6 January 2012.

Deliberations of the Panel on Security, ESC and FC on the proposed creation of an additional supernumerary post of AOSGC in ND

5. The Administration's proposal to create a three-year supernumerary post of AOSGC in ND, subsequently designated as PAS(N)2, was discussed at the Security Panel meeting on 3 November 2009, the ESC meeting on 9 December 2009 and the FC meeting on 22 January 2010. The deliberations are summarized in the following paragraphs.

6. Members noted that the holder of the AOSGC post would be required to undertake extensive high-level coordination with a wide spectrum of sectors in the community to mobilize support and resources, and some of the measures put forward by the Task Force were highly controversial and involved meticulous consultation with a wide range of stakeholders. There was a view that in view of the level of responsibility, experience and political awareness required for the job, the Under Secretary for Security ("US for S") should take on these important duties instead of creating an additional AOSGC post in ND.

7. According to the Administration, while US for S might provide his inputs to the anti-drug cause from the policy perspectives, there remained a substantial amount of work relating to the detailed planning and implementation of the

70-plus recommendations of the Task Force covering the five prongs of the enhanced anti-drug strategies, which had to be shouldered by the proposed supernumerary AOSGC post, who would underpin C for N to focus on anti-drug work relating to drug testing, treatment and rehabilitation, and the post was proposed to be retained for three years to allow sufficient time to take forward the major measures in these domains.

8. Queries were raised as to whether there was still a need for the proposed additional manpower support in the event that the pilot scheme for voluntary school drug testing was not effective and hence would not be expanded to other districts and schools after the review.

9. According to the Administration, it was necessary to create an additional AOSGC post to deal with the additional work arising from the escalated and expedited anti-drug campaign, which involved a number of initiatives to facilitate early intervention to help drug abusing youngsters. In overseeing the planning and implementation of the voluntary school drug testing scheme, ND had to work with relevant bureaux, departments and stakeholders and provide information and support for the conduct of the research study. In addition to voluntary school drug testing and consultation on the mandatory drug testing, ND would also play an enabling and coordinating role in the introduction of hair testing service in Hong Kong. The holder of the proposed post would also help take forward initiatives on the provision of downstream support services for drug treatment and rehabilitation.

10. There was a view that more resources should be allocated to frontline anti-drug work, instead of merely providing additional directorate support to ND. Concern was raised as to whether there would be adequate manpower support to facilitate the effective performance of the relevant duties. Concern was also raised over whether the holder of the proposed post would be tasked to examine the resources requirements and allocation for downstream support services, in order to facilitate the provision of these services to cater for the needs of drug abusing youngsters. There was a suggestion that the Administration should review the effectiveness of the work of the supernumerary directorate post before the expiry of the proposed three-year period.

11. According to the Administration, it appreciated the range of complex issues involved in cases of youth drug abuse and was committed to taking forward various initiatives to address these issues along the five strategic directions. The comprehensive anti-drug programme would include initiatives to enhance the provision of support services and additional resources would be

allocated for the purpose. ND would play a central role in coordinating efforts of bureaux, departments, public agencies and NGOs in the anti-drug work. In the provision of downstream support services, the majority of the manpower resources lay with different NGOs and the relevant departments. ND collaborated with the Home Affairs Department in providing resources and enabling the provision of services for the youth in need in various districts, engaging them in healthy activities, providing body check up, motivational interview and other follow-up services.

12. Members noted that the holder of the proposed post would be responsible for preparing the necessary draft legislation for implementation of mandatory drug testing. Concerns were raised over whether the proposed duration of three years for the supernumerary post would be adequate for completing the public consultation and legislative exercise in respect of the proposal.

13. According to the Administration, it planned to launch public consultation exercise on mandatory drug testing in 2010 and embarkation of the legislative exercise in 2011-2012.

14. The proposed creation of a supernumerary AOSGC post in ND for a period of three years was approved by FC at its meeting on 22 January 2010.

Relevant papers

15. A list of the relevant papers on the Legislative Council website is in the **Appendix**.

Relevant papers on the proposal for a two-year extension of a supernumerary Administrative Officer Staff Grade C Post in the Narcotics Division of the Security Bureau

Committee	Date of meeting	Paper
Panel on Security	2.12.2008 (Item IV)	<u>Agenda</u> <u>Minutes</u>
Establishment Subcommittee of the Finance Committee	14.1.2009 (Item No. EC(2008-09)14)	<u>Agenda</u> <u>Minutes</u>
Finance Committee	13.2.2009 (Item No. FCR(2008-09)60)	<u>Agenda</u> <u>Minutes</u>
Panel on Security	3.11.2009 (Item IV)	<u>Agenda</u> <u>Minutes</u>
Establishment Subcommittee of the Finance Committee	9.12.2009 (Item No. EC(2009-10)11)	<u>Agenda</u> <u>Minutes</u>
Finance Committee	22.1.2010 (Item No. FCR(2009-10)46)	<u>Agenda</u> <u>Minutes</u>
Panel on Security	7.11.2011 (Item VI)	<u>Agenda</u> <u>Minutes</u>
Establishment Subcommittee of the Finance Committee	7.12.2011 (Item No. EC(2011-12)11)	<u>Agenda</u> <u>Minutes</u>
Finance Committee	6.1.2012 (Item No. FCR(2011-12)62)	<u>Agenda</u> <u>Minutes</u>