



A short history of the Cayman Islands cadet Corps

The Cayman Islands Cadet Corps began in August 2001 as an initiative of the Ministry of Education, Human Resources and Culture. Subsequent consultation between the Cayman Islands and Barbados took place in regards to establishing a Corps similar in structure to that in Barbados. However, it was not until March 2002 the First Company of the Cayman Islands Cadet Corps, Alpha Company, was formed at the George Hicks High School with over sixty recruits initially signing up.

In 2001, Headquarters (HQ) for the Corps was established in the old AEP Programme building behind the public library on Fort Street in George Town, with its main purpose being to provide administrative and logistical support to the Companies of the Corps through the coordination of developmental programmes and resource distribution

As a training resource, the Corps uses as a guide the United Kingdom's Army Cadet Force (ACF) Manual with customizations influenced by regional and local conditions and traditions. Consequently, the Corps' cadet training programme emphasizes the *value of citizenship, leadership, service to the community, personal responsibility, a sense of accomplishment, self-esteem, teamwork, and self-discipline*. It is meant to prepare the cadets for responsible leadership roles while making them aware of their rights, responsibilities, and privileges as Caymanians.

More recently, the programme has been enhanced with the addition of the British Technical Education Council (BTEC) programme, which is available for senior cadet participation. Completion of the BTEC programme results in the award of the First Diploma in Public Services, which is the equivalent, for the cadet student, to being successful in passing four (4) GCSE academic subjects.

Another recent development has been the preparation for launch of the Corps Marine Detachment, which will focus on Cayman's rich maritime heritage by incorporating, in the standard training programme, subjects such as seamanship,

boat work, rope work, first aid, naval ceremonies, scuba diving, boat and engine maintenance, sailing, and marine heritage.

The Government of the Cayman Islands would have to be recognised as the first and primary source of community support for the Corps. It was the Legislative Assembly in 2003 that passed the Cadet Law, piloted by the then Minister of Education and Culture, and established the Corps as an operating unit within that Ministry. In 2005, recognising the importance of the Corps to the territory's development, Cabinet approved the Corps' transfer to the Chief Secretary's Portfolio of Internal and External Affairs, where it joined the territory's other uniformed public service groups: police, fire, prison, and immigration.

Traditionally, at least in the Caribbean Region, each cadet corps has been established either by or through an existing military-type organisation such as a national army or defence force, but since no such body exists in the Cayman Islands, it was left to the civilian community to provide support for the Cayman Islands Cadet Corps

Most importantly, the Government does provide major budgetary support for the operations of the Corps and plans are in an advanced stage for the Corps' requirements to be included in multiple purpose training facility for the uniformed services which is scheduled for construction shortly in the Bodden Town district.

Volunteers

While the full time staff in the Corps headquarters concentrates on matters of policy implementation, Government liaison, and overall administration, it is the volunteers who carry out the day-to-day operations within the cadet detachments in George Town, West Bay, and Cayman Brac; and with cadets signed up for band and marine activities. Drawn from various sections of the community, volunteers have come forward to contribute their skills and knowledge to the growth and development of the Corps within the context of the Cayman Islands and the needs of the territory's youth. While some of these volunteers are corporate employees and are able to give with their employers' consent and agreement, others are self-employed and do so only by giving up opportunities to earn income.

Cadet Families

If the programme had no cadet or youth participation, it would have no purpose as a youth centred organisation, and hence acceptance and support by Caymanian parents and their families has ensured the programmes success and growth. For family members who have recognised the value of the cadet programme, in addition to allowing their children to participate in the Corps's activities, they have supported the Corps by their attendance at and participation in parent meetings and public Corps functions, by arranging for and sponsoring refreshments at special Corps functions, and by generally being good-will ambassadors on behalf of the Corps.

PRESENT DAY STATUS OF THE CORPS

The Cayman Islands Cadet Corps, is now a department under the Portfolio of Internal and External Affairs. We are also closely knitted to the Ministry of Education, Human Resources and Culture. The Governor's Office also plays a very important role in the Commissioning of Officers of which the Corps currently has seventeen including the Commandant, These officers are:

Phillip Hyre	–	Colonel (retired)
Bobeth O'Garro	–	Lt Colonel
Andy L White	–	Major
Trevor Stewart	–	Major
Victor Hemans	–	Captain
Julius Jacky	–	Captain
Ricardo Henry	-	Captain
Elizabeth Stewart	–	Captain
Robert Sutherland	-	Lieutenant (Naval)
Dave Thompson	–	Lieutenant
Ian Yearwood	–	Lieutenant
James Walrond	-	Lieutenant
Nat King	–	Lieutenant
Donovan Hyre	-	2 nd Lieutenant
Winston Gall	-	2 nd Lieutenant
Opal Stewart	-	2 nd Lieutenant
Alphanso Gayle	-	2 nd Lieutenant

In addition, the Corps is comprised of eighteen other Adult Instructors (AIs) who are not commissioned.

The Cadet Corps Headquarters is administered by 7 full time staff members, Lt Colonel O'Garro – Commandant (Acting), Capt. Ricardo Henry – Training Officer (Adjutant), 2nd Lieutenant Opal Stewart – Cadet Administrative Assistant, WO2 -

Sergeant Major Instructor, Ian Miller and Staff Sergeant Michael Reid, Staff Sergeant Instructor. Adult Under Officer Lawrence Nelson along with AUO Lea Scott are currently stationed in Cayman Brac to manage the unit there.

Subjects Areas:

1. Dress & Turnout – Helps to instill dress discipline and paying attention to details.
2. Drill – Produces a cadet who is alert and obedient and provides the basis of teamwork. It is the basis for instilling discipline by allowing cadets to pay attention to details.
3. Field Craft & Adventure – Learning to operate in a harsh environment and be effective. Learning about and protecting the environment. Disaster & Emergency Preparedness and Search and Rescue.
4. Map & Compass – Learning to operate anywhere, anytime and navigate around any difficulty. Restoration of Cayman seafarers' heritage in navigation.
5. First Aid – Helping to save lives in emergencies.
6. Skill At Arms + competition shooting – Learning to work and operate in dangerous environments safely. Rifles will be used mainly for ceremonial drill.
7. Physical Training & sports – Building strength and endurance
8. Cadet in the Community + Field Trips – Knowing their community and helping to build it.
9. Practical Leadership Training – Learning to control and work with a team from the basic section level.
10. Signal & Technology – Learning effective communications over various mediums using modern technologies.
11. Citizenship – Learning the qualities required for good citizenship. Loyalty to the Cayman Islands and obedience to the rule of law.
12. Music & Band - Learning to play music for concert setting and marching.
13. Camping – Experience life away from home. Learn how to survive without the every day luxury that we take for granted.

In September 2005 the CICC began working with the Cadet Vocational Qualification (CVQ) office in the UK to add a vocational training element that will result in qualified cadets gaining the BTEC First Diploma in Public Service, which is

equivalent to passes in four subjects at the GCSE level. The CICC became the first Cadet Corps in the Caribbean to offer such a diploma. Six cadets (6) have achieved their First Diploma in Public Service and a further five (5) cadets have received partial awards.

