



Army Cadet Exchange (ACE)

2008 PLANNING CONFERENCE MINUTES **OTTAWA, ON (CANADA) - 01 to 03 Oct 2008**

GENERAL COMMENTS

The conference was held at the Holiday Inn, Cooper Street, Ottawa, ON from October 1st to 3rd, 2008. The President of ACE Mr. Terence Whitty chaired the conference.

The following countries were represented:

Australia _____	Maj. Miles Bence
Cayman Islands _____	Capt. Ricardo Henry
Trinidad & Tobago _____	Col Edison Isaac
Germany _____	Rüdiger Borkenhagen
United Kingdom _____	Lt. Col. Andrew Edwards
United States _____	Joseph Bles
Norway _____	LCol. Terje Kristoffersen
Canada _____	Terence Whitty
	LCol. Christian Bergeron
	Capt. Karina Choquette
	Sharmila Biswas-Mistry
	Maxime Corneau

Guest speaker: _____ Col. Craig Fletcher (Canada) Director Cadets & JCR

The conference was hosted by Canada and officially convened 02 Oct 2008, at 0830 hours.

Opening Remarks:

1. In his welcoming speech, Col. Fletcher addressed the importance of the ACE program to the Canadian Cadet Program. The exchange program is one factor that makes the cadet program so attractive to the Canadian youth. This program also offers the young cadets a goal/challenge to aim for during their careers as cadets.
2. The President, T. Whitty, welcomed the delegates and thanked them for taking the time to attend the conference. He stressed that it is essential to an international exchange that representatives of member countries meet face to face to resolve issues and to ensure the safety and efficiency of the youth exchange for the coming summer. This can not be done by telephone or by email. He re-stated the purpose and aims of ACE “to foster international understanding, goodwill and friendship among young people who have an interest in defense and army matters, to build bridges between countries and networks between young persons”. The youth are the most valuable resource of any nation. Anything that we can do to develop their knowledge, tolerance and understanding is a noble cause. ACE is committed to this cause.
3. Mr. Whitty also apologized to the members for the confusion of last summer due to the lack of minutes from the last meeting and also for the absence of the ACE flag both of which were not returned by the 2007 conference Secretary. Points of business conducted at the 2007 conference in Vienna included the acceptance of a standard application form for ACE exchange youth (addressed here below), the acceptance of the Cayman Islands as a full member and the election of Col. Phillip Hyre (Caymans) as Vice-President replacing Maj. Graham Titley (UK) who had to withdraw due to a posting. The members confirmed these points of business.
4. He reported that Austria would not participate in the 2008 conference or the 2009 exchanges due to budget cuts, however there was hope that Austria may join back in 2010. The members agreed that the Austrian exchange was high quality and greatly appreciated by the young people who took part in it previously. Holland (absent at the conference) indicated that it should be able to exchange in 2009, however this still needs to be confirmed and member nations will have to make bi-lateral arrangements in this regard. There was again no news from Korea or Finland. Italy was unable to attend the conference this year. It has to be assumed that these countries have effectively withdrawn. Sweden (absent) indicated that it will not exchange in 2009, but is hopeful to resume in 2010.
5. The delegate from the United States of America, J. Bles, reported that he could not yet confirm that the USA would be able to participate in the 2009 exchange due to budget cuts, but that he will confirm details to member nations no later than December 01, 2008. J. Bles confirmed that the United States would fully take part in the 2010 Exchange program.
6. T. Whitty noted that the major cause of member nations having to drop participation is the result of domestic budget cuts which is beyond the control of the organizations arranging the youth exchange. He reiterated that the aim of ACE was to develop a large group of participating nations that would allow the members to tailor exchanges to their national preferences and activities and within their operating budgets. He invited all attendees to advocate for the exchange program in order to attract more countries and therefore expand the possibilities of the program.

7. T. Whitty also reported that his three year term as President of ACE will end at the 2009 conference. He indicated that as a result of conversations with member nations he was prepared to extend his tenure for one year to the 2010 conference. This extension will be voted at the 2009 conference.

Feedback on 2008 & 2009 Exchanges

8. Feedback of 2008 exchange and the planned activities for the 2009 exchange were presented by each country.

Bilateral talks for 2009 Exchange

9. The official exchange period for 2009 was confirmed as July 18th 2009 to August 1st 2009. These dates do not include additional travel time that may be required.

10. The Exchange Matrix (attached) for the 2009 exchanges, following bilateral talks between delegates was approved.

Verification of escort and cadet numbers (Sending and Receiving)

11. The 2009 exchange matrix which includes the cadet and escort numbers is available on the ACE website at:

<http://www.armycadetexchange.com/pdf/ACE%202008%20Matrix.pdf>

ACE Financial Report (Treasurer)

12. The Treasurer J. Bless gave a reported on the finances of the organization. No substantial expenses are planned. A small expense for the purpose of marketing material i.e. decals, flags, crests and other small items will be incurred in 2008. See financial report, attached.

Administration Discussions and Scheduling for Future Conferences 2009 – 2013

13. Member nations agreed to the use of a new Application Form (sample attached) which will provide all personal information of the exchange youth (including any food allergies), but also will contain a statement of confirmation by the sending nations' exchange officer who will personally confirm the exchange youth emergency contact numbers, personal address and next-of-kin information and pertinent medical information and also that the parents or guardians have authorized the participating youth take part in all exchange activity such as (but not limited to) training with military weapons and helicopter flights. This form will be added and available to download on the ACE web site.

<http://www.armycadetexchange.com/pdf/2009%20Consent%20Form.pdf>

14. With regards to future conferences, some host countries were unable to attend the 2008 conference and the members present felt that firm commitments were required for planning purposes. Consequently, the International Conference schedule and host nations was revised as follows:

2009	Australia (Canberra) - 23 rd -25 th September 2009
2010	Germany (Berlin)
2011	United Kingdom (London)
2012	Norway (Oslo or Bergen – TBD)

15. The delegates from Trinidad and Tobago and the Cayman Islands requested that an official invitation letter be sent to them by the host countries of future conferences to facilitate travel arrangements both internally and for Visas.

16. An invitation to attend the 2009 Caribbean Cadet Conference was extended to the President of the ACE committee from Trinidad Tobago on behalf of the Caribbean Cadets. The President tentatively accepted. Trinidad and Tobago will confirm dates to all parties.

17. LCol Edwards from the UK stated in his presentation for the 2009 exchange that it would be efficient if host countries would supply the heavier equipment the cadets require for their activities as this would eliminate the need to carry heavy luggage while travelling.

18. The USA stressed the importance of receiving all personal information for cadets in a timely fashion due to airline and security requirements. It was noted that during the 2007 Stockholm Conference the deadline of no later than May 1st annually had been established to provide the names of exchange youth to the host nations.

Policy changes

19. No changes were made to the policies, however the application form for personal information including deadlines will be added later to the ACE website.

Website availability & updates

20. Countries can choose to add more information about their program to the ACE website as they see fit. A decision was taken to advise member nations when updates were made to the website.

New membership

21. The member nations waived the Article 4 membership of Trinidad and Tobago and welcomed the country as a full member of Army Cadet Exchange.

22. Col. E. Isaac brought forward the interest from the Jamaican Cadet Force to join the program. He would advise them of the application process, which would include a detailed presentation to the 2009 Conference on their cadet program structure and their suggested 2009 exchange activities.

(Secretary Note: The Jamaican Cadet Force is sponsored by the Security Forces (Army) of Jamaica as opposed to the youth cadet branch of the Jamaican Police Forces which gave a presentation at the 2007 Stockholm conference)

23. Member nations felt that it might be more efficient to Army Cadet Exchange if the Caribbean countries were represented by one or two member nations to Army Cadet Exchange.

If the President visits the Caribbean Conference in 2009, he will take this suggestion up with those countries.

Conclusion

24. The meeting was successfully concluded on October 03, 2008. In his closing remarks, the President felt he spoke for all member nations in confirming the value of the international exchange program between international youth who have an interest in army or land force activities and history. The program opens contact between the youth of the participating countries and in this age of social media such as Face Book and email, our young people maintain their contacts far into the future. This can only have positive impacts on international understanding, commerce and peace. He thanked the members for their frank and open discussions and noted that the 2009 summer Exchanges should prove to be exciting and efficient. He looks forward to seeing everyone in Canberra, Australia in 2009.

//signed//

Maxime Corneau
Conference Secretary (Canada)