



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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HONG KONG'S PART TIME SOLDIERS -- UNEQUALLED VALUE FOR MONEY
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THERE ARE NOT MANY ARMIES IN THE WORLD, SAYS THE COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT, IN WHICH YOU CAN FIND SO MANY SOLDIERS WHO ARE PHYSICIANS, LAWYERS, ENGINEERS, ACCOUNTANTS, OFFICE MANAGERS, CIVIL SERVANTS, SHOP AND PROPERTY OWNERS, OR CLERKS AND SKILLED BLUE-COLLAR WORKERS.

AND HONG KONG'S OWN LITTLE VOLUNTEER ARMY OF ABOUT 700 WORKING PROFESSIONALS AND OTHER PEOPLE REPRESENT +UNEQUALLED VALUE FOR MONEY+ IN THE 400 HOURS OR SO OF DUTIES THAT THEY PUT IN ON AVERAGE DURING THE YEAR, EXPLAINED LIEUTENANT COLONEL MIKE BARNEBY, THE COMMANDING OFFICER.

MORE RECENTLY, FOR INSTANCE, IT AMPLY DEMONSTRATED ITS WORTH WHEN CALLED OUT IN 1979 AND IN 1980 TO HELP STEM THE MASSIVE INFLUX OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS FROM CHINA.

+THE ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT, ON THOSE OCCASIONS, CAPTURED ON AVERAGE MORE THAN ONE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT FOR EACH VOLUNTEER IN ONE WEEK OF SERVICE,+ EXPLAINED THE COMMANDING OFFICER.

IT IS ALSO USEFULLY DEPLOYED IN COUNTLESS OTHER SITUATIONS, HE ADDED. +THE AVERAGE INTELLIGENCE, ABILITY AND MOTIVATION OF THE VOLUNTEERS IS MUCH HIGHER THAN THAT OF THE DRAFTEE BECAUSE THEY JOIN OF THEIR OWN VOLITION, AND WE HAVE THE GOOD FORTUNE TO BE IN A POSITION TO BE EXTREMELY SELECTIVE,+ SAID COLONEL BARNEBY.

FOR THE 1981-82 YEAR, THE REGIMENT HAS HAD TO OPERATE ON A BUDGET OF \$11.3 MILLION, COVERING ALL EXPENSES, INCLUDING A PERMANENT STAFF OF NINE OFFICERS AND WARRANT OFFICERS FROM THE BRITISH ARMY AND A LOCAL FULL-TIME STAFF OF 52, PLUS ABOUT 650 PART-TIME SOLDIERS.

FOR HIS SERVICE, EACH MEMBER OF THE REGIMENT RECEIVES FROM \$4 000 TO \$6 000 A YEAR, AND THE OVERALL COST-EFFECTIVENESS ARISES MAINLY FROM THE FACT THAT HE IS NOT PROVIDED WITH QUARTERS.

THE VOLUNTEER SPREADS HIS 400 HOURS OF TRAINING A YEAR OVER ONE WEEKEND AND TWO EVENINGS A MONTH, PLUS TWO WEEK-LONG CAMPS. NEW RECRUITS ARE REQUIRED ADDITIONALLY TO ATTEND A NINE-DAY BASIC TRAINING CAMP AND ANOTHER NINE-DAY CAMP BEFORE PASSING-OUT SIX MONTHS AFTER JOINING.

APART FROM THE CHANCE TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY, THE VOLUNTEER ACHIEVES SELF-IMPROVEMENT FROM THE MANY BASIC MILITARY SKILLS THAT HE LEARNS, SUCH AS WEAPONS HANDLING, MAP-READING, FIRST AID, COMMUNICATIONS, DRIVING ARMY VEHICLES AND ASSAULT BOATS.

+HE ALSO GETS TO ENJOY THE HEALTHY OUTDOOR LIFE AND THE COMRADESHIP THAT COMES WITH SUCH ACTIVITIES,+ COLONEL BARNEBY SAID.

/+AND THE

+AND THE TRAINING ALSO BUILDS UP SELF-CONFIDENCE AND SELF-DISCIPLINE, ALL USEFUL QUALITIES IN CIVILIAN LIFE.+

KNOWN BY DIFFERENT NAMES IN ITS EARLIER DAYS, THE ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT HAS HAD AN ILLUSTRIOUS HISTORY SINCE ITS FOUNDING IN 1854 TO REPLACE THE BRITISH GARRISON WITHDRAWN FOR THE CRIMEAN WAR. ITS MOST MEMORABLE CHAPTER OF SERVICE WAS DURING THE PACIFIC WAR, WHEN SERVING UNDER THE NAME OF THE HONG KONG VOLUNTEER DEFENCE CORPS, IT LOST NEARLY 300 OF ITS 2 200 MEN IN DEFENDING HONG KONG AGAINST THE JAPANESE. MOST OF THE SURVIVORS EITHER ESCAPED OR WERE INTERNED, OR ELSE WENT UNDERGROUND TO CONTINUE THEIR RESISTANCE.

THE REGIMENT IS TRAINED MILITARILY AS A LIGHT RECONNAISSANCE REGIMENT ATTACHED TO THE GURKHA FIELD FORCE, ALTHOUGH ITS MAIN CONTRIBUTION WILL BE IN HELPING WITH MAINTENANCE OF INTERNAL SECURITY IN TIMES OF EMERGENCY.

PLANS ARE UNDERWAY TO REPLACE SOME OF ITS OLDER TYPE OF EQUIPMENT, AND THESE INCLUDE ITS RADIOS.

COLONEL BARNEBY, WHO IS A TANK AND ARMoured RECONNAISSANCE SOLDIER BY TRADE WITH THE BULK OF HIS SERVICE IN THE BRITISH ARMY ON THE RHINE AND NORTHERN IRELAND, HAS ALSO SUGGESTED RECRUITING A SMALL SQUAD OF ABOUT 30 WOMEN VOLUNTEERS.

+UNITS IN GURKHA FIELD FORCE,+ HE EXPLAINED, +WOULD FIND THESE LADIES, WHO WOULD HAVE TO BE FLUENT IN BOTH ENGLISH AND CHINESE, INVALUABLE AS SEARCHERS AND INTERPRETERS IN AN INTERNAL SECURITY SITUATION AND ALSO ON ANTI-ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT DUTIES.+

THIS PROPOSAL IS NOW BEING CONSIDERED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

THE REGIMENT ALREADY HAS A JUNIOR LEADERS SQUADRON OF 14 TO 18 YEAR-OLDS WHO ARE TAUGHT MANY OUTDOOR SKILLS INCLUDING DRILL, RADIO, CAMP LIFE, SWIMMING, LIFE SAVING, CANOEING AND WATER SPORTS.

THERE ARE PLANS NOW ALSO TO DOUBLE THEIR NUMBER FROM THE PRESENT 135 TO ABOUT 300 AND BASE THEIR FUTURE TRAINING ON THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD SCHEME.

TRAINING FOR JUNIOR LEADERS TAKES ONE FULL SUNDAY AND ONE SUNDAY MORNING EACH MONTH, PLUS ONE EASTER CAMP LASTING FOUR DAYS, AND ANOTHER WEEK-LONG CAMP IN AUGUST.

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MORE MODERN BUILDINGS FOR BEACH GOERS

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TWO MODERN CONCRETE BUILDINGS, PROVIDING COMPREHENSIVE FACILITIES FOR BATHERS HAVE JUST BEEN CONSTRUCTED, AND WILL BE AMONG TEN SUCH STRUCTURES TO BE PROVIDED AT BEACHES IN THE NEW TERRITORIES AND THE OUTLYING ISLANDS.

ONE HAS BEEN BUILT AT KADOORIE BEACH AND IS ALREADY IN USE, AND THE OTHER WILL BE OPEN TO BATHERS AT LIDO BEACH AT 11.5 MILESTONE, CASTLE PEAK ROAD, TOWARDS THE END OF THIS MONTH, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE NEW TERRITORIES SERVICES DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY (SUNDAY).

FACILITIES PROVIDED AT THE BUILDINGS INCLUDE CHANGING ROOMS, TOILETS, SHOWERS AND A REFRESHMENT KIOSK AT THE TOP PLATFORM, IN ADDITION TO A FIRST AID CENTRE, OFFICE, STORE ROOM AND A CATAMARAN STORE.

SIMILAR BEACH BUILDINGS WILL BE BUILT AT MA WAN ISLAND, TING KAU AND APPROACH BEACHES IN TSUEN WAN; BUTTERFLY BEACH IN TUEN MUN; LOK WU SHA BEACH IN SHA TIN; CAMPERS' BAY, CLEARWATER (FIRST) BAY, HAP MUN BAY, KIU TSUI AND TRIO BEACHES IN SAI KUNG; THE LO SO SHING BEACH AT LAMMA AND THE CHEUNG SHA BEACH ON LANTAU ISLAND.

WORK WILL START SOON ON BEACH BUILDINGS AT MA WAN AND TING KAU BEACHES, SUPPORTED BY A DONATION OF \$2 MILLION BY THE ROYAL HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB.

EARLIER THIS MONTH, A BUILDING WAS ALSO CONSTRUCTED AT SILVER MINE BAY, PROVIDING SUCH FACILITIES AS CHANGING ROOMS, SHOWERS AND TOILETS. AT SAI KUNG, MEANWHILE, ANOTHER NEWLY-COMPLETED BUILDING, PROVIDING SIMILAR FACILITIES WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC NEXT MONTH.

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YUEN CHAU TSAI ROADS NEARING COMPLETION

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WORK ON THE YUEN CHAU TSAI NETWORK OF ROADS AND BRIDGES IN TAI PO WHICH WILL FORM PART OF AN INTERCHANGE FOR THE SHA TIN-TAI PO COASTAL TRUNK ROAD IS NOW IN THE FINAL STAGES.

THE ROADS ARE EXPECTED TO OPEN TO TRAFFIC THIS SUMMER, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE TAI PO DEVELOPMENT OFFICE OF THE NEW TERRITORIES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT SAID TODAY.

THE AIM OF THE PROJECT, HE SAID, WAS TO PROVIDE A GRADE-SEPARATED CROSSING BETWEEN TAI PO ROAD AND THE RAILWAY, THUS ELIMINATING THE EXISTING LEVEL CROSSING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY'S ELECTRIFICATION AND MODERNISATION PROGRAMME NEXT YEAR.

/+WHEN THE

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+WHEN THE ROADS ARE COMPLETED, TRAFFIC ALONG THE SECTION OF TAI PO ROAD NEAR YUEN CHAU TSAI SHOULD BE CONSIDERABLY IMPROVED,+ HE SAID.

MEANWHILE, WORK ON THE SHA TIN-TAI PO COASTAL TRUNK ROAD IS PROGRESSING SMOOTHLY.

THE COASTAL TRUNK ROAD WILL BE A SEVEN-KILOMETRE LONG HIGHWAY WITH THREE LANES IN EACH DIRECTION FROM THE NORTHERN END OF SHA TIN NEW TOWN TO TAI PO NEW TOWN.

IT IS SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION IN 1984.

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YUEN LONG TO CELEBRATE TIN HAU FESTIVAL

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A TRADITIONAL EYE-DOTTING CEREMONY WAS HELD TODAY (SUNDAY) FOR A GOLDEN DRAGON OF WAH YAN TONG AT TAI SHUE HA, SHAP PAT HEUNG, HERALDING THE YUEN LONG TIN HAU FESTIVAL WHICH, THIS YEAR, WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY (APRIL 16).

THE FESTIVAL WHICH CELEBRATES THE BIRTHDAY OF TIN HAU, THE GODDESS OF HEAVEN, HAS SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE TO BOAT PEOPLE WHO PRAY TO HER FOR FAIR WEATHER AND GOOD FISHING ALL YEAR ROUND.

PERFORMING THE EYE-DOTTING TODAY WAS THE YUEN LONG DISTRICT OFFICER, MR FUNG KWOK-KEUNG, WHO SAID: +TIN HAU FESTIVAL IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT RELIGIOUS FESTIVALS FOR YUEN LONG PEOPLE.

+THE CELEBRATIONS DATE BACK TO THE 17TH CENTURY WHEN YUEN LONG WAS A COASTAL FISHING VILLAGE AND THE RESIDENTS WERE MAINLY FISHERMEN.

+ALTHOUGH YUEN LONG IS NOW DEVELOPING INTO A NEW TOWN AND FEWER LOCAL PEOPLE EARN THEIR LIVING FROM THE SEA, THE TRADITION IS STILL MAINTAINED,+ HE SAID.

BEING ORGANISED BY THE SHAP PAT HEUNG RURAL COMMITTEE, THIS YEAR'S CELEBRATIONS WILL FEATURE A TWO-HOUR PROCESSION AND A +FA PAU+ DRAW.

MORE THAN 7 000 PEOPLE FROM 34 LOCAL ORGANISATIONS WILL TAKE PART IN THE PROCESSION WHICH WILL INCLUDE LION, DRAGON AND UNICORN DANCES, CHIU CHAU GONGS AND DRUMS, FLOATS, TRADITIONAL CHINESE FOLK DANCES, AND FLORAL VEHICLE PARADE.

THE PROCESSION WILL SET OFF FROM THE EASTERN BUS TERMINUS OF YUEN LONG TOWN AT 10.30 AM, ARRIVING AT THE STADIUM VIA FUNG CHEUNG, CASTLE PEAK AND TAI YUK ROADS. THE +FA PAU+ DRAW WILL TAKE PLACE AT TAI SHUE HA AT 4 PM.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE CELEBRATION WILL ATTRACT MORE THAN 50 000 PEOPLE THIS YEAR.

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WORK OF FRENCH ART STUDENTS ON DISPLAY

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AN EXHIBITION OF DRAWINGS BY GRADUATES OF THE ECOLE NATIONALE DES BEAUX ARTS IN PARIS, ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS ART SCHOOLS IN THE WORLD, WILL BE HELD FROM APRIL 13 TO 24 AT THE CULTURAL CRAFTS CENTRE IN NORTH POINT.

+THE EXHIBITS ON DISPLAY WILL EMPHASISE THE IMPORTANCE OF DRAWING AS A FORM OF EXPRESSION, AND ALSO THE VERY HIGH LEVEL OF ACHIEVEMENT BY THE STUDENTS OF THE SCHOOL,+ AN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THE EXHIBITION, WHICH WOULD BE OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO ART TEACHERS AND STUDENTS, HE SAID.

THE EXHIBITION WILL BE OPEN FROM 9 AM TO 5 PM ON WEEKDAYS, AND FROM 9 AM TO 12 NOON ON SATURDAYS, EXCLUDING PUBLIC HOLIDAYS.

THE VENUE IS THE EXHIBITION ROOM OF THE CULTURAL CRAFTS CENTRE, 4 PAK FUK ROAD, FIFTH FLOOR, NORTH POINT, HONG KONG.

THE EVENT IS JOINTLY ORGANISED BY THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE CONSULAT GENERAL DE FRANCE IN HONG KONG.

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NIGHT CLOSURE OF APPROACH ROAD TO TUNNEL

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THE APPROACH ROAD FROM HAPPY VALLEY AND CANAL ROAD FLYOVER TO THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL IN WAN CHAI WILL BE CLOSED TO TRAFFIC FOR FOUR CONSECUTIVE NIGHTS BETWEEN 9.30 PM AND 6 AM FROM TUESDAY (APRIL 13) FOR ROAD WORKS.

DURING THE CLOSURE, VEHICLES HEADING FOR THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL WILL BE DIVERTED TO USE THE APPROACH ROAD FROM CANAL ROAD FLYOVER TO NORTH POINT, AND THEN TRAVEL VIA EASTBOUND GLOUCESTER ROAD, CAUSEWAY BAY FLYOVER WESTBOUND GLOUCESTER ROAD, AND THE UP-RAMP OF THE EASTERN APPROACH ROAD TO THE CROSS HARBOUR TUNNEL.

SIGNS WILL BE PUT UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENT IN NORTH POINT
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NEW TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE INTRODUCED IN NORTH POINT FROM 10 AM ON TUESDAY (APRIL 13) FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE ISLAND EASTERN CORRIDOR.

THEY ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- * WHARF ROAD BETWEEN TONG SHUI ROAD AND NORTH POINT ROAD WILL BE ROUTED ONE WAY WESTBOUND.
- * NORTH POINT ROAD BETWEEN WHARF ROAD AND JAVA ROAD WILL BE ROUTED ONE WAY SOUTHBOUND.
- * THE BAN ON MAKING RIGHT TURNS FROM NORTH POINT ROAD SOUTH OF JAVA ROAD INTO THE EASTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF JAVA ROAD WILL BE LIFTED.
- * THE NORTHBOUND CARRIAGEWAY OF TONG SHUI ROAD BETWEEN JAVA ROAD AND WHARF ROAD WILL BE DESIGNATED A PUBLIC LIGHT BUS CLEARWAY FROM 7.00 AM TO 12.00 MIDNIGHT DAILY WHERE PICKING UP AND SETTING DOWN OF PASSENGERS ARE PROHIBITED.
- * THE EXISTING PUBLIC LIGHT BUS CLEARWAY ON WHARF ROAD BETWEEN A POINT 47 METRES WEST OF ITS JUNCTION WITH TONG SHUI ROAD AND A POINT 87 METRES WEST OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE RESCINDED.

UNDER THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS, EASTBOUND TRAFFIC ON JAVA ROAD HEADING FOR WHARF ROAD WILL BE DIVERTED VIA TONG SHUI ROAD.

WESTBOUND TRAFFIC ON JAVA ROAD TRAVELLING TOWARDS WHARF ROAD WILL BE DIVERTED VIA POWER STREET, KING'S ROAD, NORTH POINT ROAD, JAVA ROAD AND TONG SHUI ROAD.

TRAFFIC SIGNS WILL BE PUT UP TO GUIDE MOTORISTS.

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