

Hong Kong Rotarian Commissioners of Civil Aid Service

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The Civil Aid Service (CAS) (民眾安全服務隊) of Hong Kong is a civil organization that assists in a variety of auxiliary emergency roles, including search and rescue operations in Hong Kong. CAS is funded by the Hong Kong Government and its members wear uniforms.

Duties

The stated duties of the CAS are:

- to provide support to the government regular emergency forces on counter disaster activities, mountain search and rescue, flood rescue, countryside fire protection duties;
- to provide crowd control and management services in major public functions;
- to patrol country parks and hiking trails and to assist people in need of help;
- to stage performances to enhance public attention on major campaigns or activities organized by government departments and non-government organizations;
- to provide training activities and professional services on mountain safety/rescue for government departments and non-government organizations.

Organization

CAS are headed by the Commissioner and CAS (Department) by Chief Staff Officer (also Deputy Commissioner).

Mountain Search and Rescue Company

The Mountain Search and Rescue Company (民安隊山嶺搜救中隊) or CAS MSaR consists of two search and rescue teams specializing in mountain terrain within Hong Kong (mainly in the New Territories). MSaR team is made up of auxiliary members of CAS. Formed in 1967, it has a combined total of 246 members. MSaR works with Hong Kong Fire Services Department (香港消防處) and Government Flying Service (政府飛行服務隊) (air support) when deployed to incidents. (*see photo on Page 8*)

CAS Cadet Corps

The CAS Cadet Corps (民安隊少年團), a uniformed group focusing on disciplined training and social service, was established in 1968 as a youth wing under the Civil Aid Service. As the number of units continue to increase, there are altogether 4,000+ youths in 80 platoons under 5 companies in Hong Kong, Kowloon and New Territories.

Rotarians served as Commissioners

In the Rotary Hong Kong History, there have been 2 members from the Rotary Club of Hong Kong (香港扶輪社), in volunteer basis, to serve the Civil Aid Service as commissioners:

- (1) The Honourable Charles Edward Michael Terry (泰利議員), CBE, CStJ, JP, (Active Member) – The Founding Commissioner of CAS (1951-1967)
- (2) Dr. The Honourable Sir Rogerio Hyndman Lobo (羅保爵士), Kt, CBE, *HonLLD* (*HKU*), JP, (Honorary Member) – The third Commissioner of CAS (1977-1992)



The Honourable Charles Edward Michael Terry (泰利議員), CBE, CStJ, JP

Active Member, Rotary Club of Hong Kong

Assistant General Manager, Hong Kong & Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd.

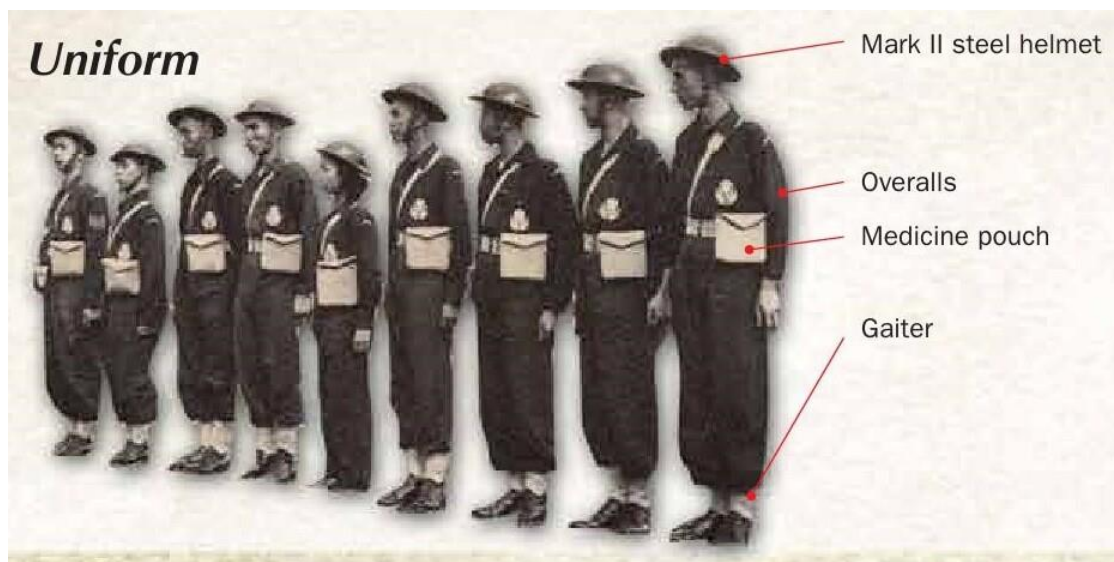
Unofficial Member of Hong Kong Executive Council/Legislative Council

In April 1938, the Colonial Hong Kong Government established the Hong Kong Corps of Air Raid Wardens (香港防空救護隊), the forerunner of the CAS. During the turmoil of war in early 1940s, the Government set up the Hong Kong Corps of Air Raid Wardens to provide citizens with defense knowledge and skills in case of air raid. Terry was appointed Chief Air Raid Warden for Kowloon, New Kowloon and the New Territories commencing on 1 August 1941.

After the Pacific War (1941-1945), in August 1945 the Hong Kong Corps of Air Raid Wardens was dismissed. With passage of the 《Essential Services Corps Ordinance》 in December 1949 and the order for compulsory service in September 1951 by the Hong Kong Government, Terry was appointed by Hong Kong Governor Sir Alexander William George Herder Grantham (香港總督葛量洪爵士) to take up the responsibility in forming the new organization of Civil Aid Service which was modelled after Civil Aid agencies in the United Kingdom. Terry became the first Commissioner of CAS.

The CAS expanded to the size of about 10,000 members. Most of the members came from the former Hong Kong Corps of Air Raid Wardens. At that time, the CAS was mainly tasked with air defense and rescue work including training on surveillance, air raid rescue,

first aid and handling of damaged public facilities. In the early days of the CAS, its uniform design was similar to that of the Hong Kong Corps of Air Raid Wardens, i.e. deep blue blouse and trousers with unit and rank insignia on the shoulder, grey-blue garter and waist belt, blue beret and peak-cap.



The headquarters of the early CAS was situated at No.8 Connaught Road Central (干諾道中) (the present Chater House) and later moved to No.39 Gloucester Road (告士打道) (the present Harcourt House). The Command Centre of the CAS was first set up in the basement of the Peninsula Hotel (半島酒店) at Tsim Sha Tsui (尖沙咀) and subsequently moved to the basement of the Main Wing of the Central Government Offices.

Since 4 January 1952, the CAS established with respective wards at Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and New Territories. The next year in 1953, the Hong Kong Training Centre was completed at Hawthorn Road, Happy Valley (跑馬地荷塘道). The Centre, providing with indoor and outdoor training areas, was officially opened by Hong Kong Governor Sir Alexander Grantham on 15 November 1953.

After completion of the CAS Headquarters in 1966 at No. 100 Caroline Hill Road, Causeway Bay (銅鑼灣加路連山道), Terry retired from the CAS the next year in 1967.





Dr. The Honourable Sir Rogerio Hyndman Lobo (羅保爵士)

Kt, KSG, CBE, *HonLLD (HKU)*, JP

Honorary Member, Rotary Club of Hong Kong

Hong Kong-Macanese businessman of Portuguese and Scottish descent

Unofficial Member of Hong Kong Executive Council/Legislative Council/Urban Council

During Lobo's tenure from 1977 until 1992, the following was made in the history:

- (1) 1977 -- The CAS Yuen Tun Camp (民安隊圓墩營) was completed.
- (2) 1982 -- There was the formation of Tactical Force by combining the 3 district emergency rescue teams, liaison unit and mountain rescue team.
- (3) 1985 -- The CAS Cadet Corps Training at old Sham Sui Po Barracks commenced operation.
- (4) 1987 -- The first girl cadet section was formed.
- (5) 1989 -- The Special Operation Unit was set up to manage the Vietnamese refugee/boat people centres. The administration building and campsite at Tai Tan commenced operation. The Cadet Corps Training Centre was moved to Hok Yuen Street, Hung Hom (former Hung Hom Police Station).
- (6) 1991 -- The highest sports climbing wall in Hong Kong was built at the CAS Kowloon Training Centre.





A volunteer of the CAS for decades that made Roger awarded the Long Service Medal in 1970.



22 July 1977 -- The Commissioner for Civil Aid Service, Roger Lobo (right), presents a silver salver to his predecessor Woo Pak-Chuen (胡百全) at his farewell party. (Getty Images)



25 October 1977 -- The Mountain Rescue Unit of the Civil Aid Service helping a victim during an exercise on Beacon Hill. (Getty Images)



31 December 1977 -- Roger Lobo (centre), Commissioner for Civil Aid Service, inspecting a passing-out parade staged by policemen at the Aberdeen Police Training School. (Getty Images)



22 January 1978 -- Group Captain Dan Honley, Commander of the Royal Air Force, reviews the new recruits of the Civil Aid Service at a passing-out parade at the CAS Training Centre in Kowloon.



12 March 1978 -- Civil Aid Service volunteers rescuing "victims" during an operational exercise on typhoon emergency work in Kowloon. The idea of the exercise was to test the preparedness of all CAS personnel before the start of the typhoon season. (Getty Images)



23 June 1978 -- Governor Sir Murray MacLehose (centre) going to attend the Civil Aid Service's annual dinner, greeted by Roger Lobo (right), Commissioner for Civil Aid Service. (Getty Images)



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