

THE PACIFIC EXPRESS



18 DEC 2020, SPECIAL EDITION

REGIONAL CADET ADVISORY GROUP

This special edition of The Pacific Express is designed to provide insight into the Regional Cadet Advisory Group (RCAG) meetings. Official minutes from each meeting will also be available, and you can ask your Area OC or Provincial / Area League Rep for more information.

What is the Regional Cadet Advisory Group?

The RCAG is the regional level of collaborative discussion between the CAF and League partners of the Cadet Program. The RCAG is held three times each year and is designed to address issues of regional interest or impact, including items that are raised through the Community Coordinating Committees.

Who is involved in the RCAG?

The RCAG includes the CO RCSU (Pac), DCO RCSU (Pac), CWO RCSU (Pac), Provincial/Regional League Reps, Area OCs, Public Affairs, and any additional attendees or observers based on the agenda.

RCAG MEETING TOPICS

December 16, 2020

Distressed Corps & Squadrons

A primary point of discussion at the RCAG was the status of distressed corps and squadrons. Each Area OC provides an update on corps and squadrons with either a Yellow or Red status and makes a recommendation to change or maintain that status. Many factors are considered in determining status including: effectiveness of the training program, number of cadets, number of uniformed staff, availability of parade facilities, and status of the local support committee. Corps and squadrons cannot operate without at least one uniformed staff member and a support committee.

When a corps or squadron is in Red status, the RCAG discusses options for moving forward. These discussions take into consideration whether there are adults or support groups coming forward in the near future, whether an increase in cadet population is likely based on the current infiltration rate, and whether there are other corps and squadrons in the area. Options for moving forward can include a concentrated public affairs effort, closing or collapsing a corps or squadron into another, or simply providing more time to attract more staff or increase support. Currently, the RCAG is deferring any decisions for collapsing or closing any corps or squadrons until after the COVID-19 pandemic situation improves.

Honours, Awards & Recognition

It is recognized that there are several ways to nominate and receive awards and recognition within the DND/League partnership. The intent is to formalize the recognition process and ensure that cadets, staff and volunteers are being recognized in the right way, at the right level, by the right organization. A list of available recognition and awards will be compiled and League partners will become an integral part of the Honours, Awards & Recognition Committee (HARC).

Community Coordinating Committee Summaries

An executive summary from the CCCs is provided to each RCAG member. Items from CCCs are reviewed by everyone, and items that are of regional impact are discussed within the group.

For the 16 Dec 2020 meeting, most concerns were regarding the conduct of virtual vs in-person training, and the departure of cadets and staff in the COVID-19 environment. We understand that this is simply going to be a difficult training year, with a lot of need for adjustments, and that there is going to be an impact on the program. All we can ask is that everyone continues to engage their cadets where and how they can, and have faith that the Cadet Program will recover from the impacts of this pandemic.

The other main area of concern is the planning and delivery of CAP for Spring Break 2021. As this is a training item and not related to the partnership, it was briefed but not discussed at the RCAG.

It was noted that several air cadet squadrons expressed concern about fees and League costs. As this is not related to the partnership, they were noted, but not discussed at the RCAG.

Air Cadet National Courses (Flying Training)

An update on the process for the Glider and Power Flying Training Course selection process was provided by Maj Deck. Two significant changes in the process are the addition of a behavioural interview (in addition to the merit interview) and transitioning the organization and management of interviews from the League to the RCSU. League members will continue to be part of the interview panel for the merit interview. Look for more information about the process, including important dates and OPIs to come out on SharePoint for training staff soon.

Insurance & Coverage

A discussion was held regarding the importance of continued League screening until the upcoming Group Order on Volunteers is released. Screening by the Leagues will ensure that volunteers are adequately covered.

RCSU Support of League Governance

In places where the respective Leagues are having concerns with the activities or conduct of local committees, requests are made for RCSU (Pac) CO support in engaging staff or the local committee presidents. In some situations, the CO may choose to suspend a corps or squadron with the support of the Regional League. This coordinated approach helps ensure that the DND/League partnership is a united front when addressing local support to corps and squadrons.

Partnership Communications

A communications chart is being created to clearly delineate the communications channels between RCSU (Pac) and each of the League partners, including Command, Admin, Training, Specialized Training and Public Affairs. This will help ensure that everyone is clear about who their appropriate League partner contacts are.

How can we make these discussions more effective?

Use this quick guide to ensure that your queries, questions and concerns are raised in the right group to be addressed at the right level.

RCSU TOWN HALLS

The RCSU Town Hall series is for all staff members to bring forward questions about training and command. Town Halls are held regularly at the direction of the CO RCSU (Pac).

COMMUNITY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

The CCC is where staff, cadets and partners can bring forward any concerns or suggestions related to the CAF/League relationship or the overall direction of the Cadet Program. Many issues can be resolved in this forum and a summary of important points will be provided to the RCAG, including any issues that need to be addressed at a regional level. The CCCs are also an important place to make connections and to share ideas and resources. CCCs are held twice per year.

RCAG

The Regional Cadet Advisory Group will address issues of concern to the region, determine direction for distressed corps and squadrons and provide information updates to ensure that both partners are well-informed. It is expected that each partner will provide more fulsome information back down through their respective internal communications chains. RCAGs are held three times per year.

What happens next?

Some issues from the RCAG will be carried forward for discussion again at the next meeting. Some issues will be brought forward to the Formation HQ or National Leagues. Regional staff and partners are informed of the RCAG issues formally through their Area OC if they are related to distressed corps or squadron lists. This newsletter serves as an overview of the meeting, and formal minutes will be available in the New Year. The main concerns that will be brought forward from this meeting is a request for support committees to be reimbursed for online engagement platforms, and the noted concerns with Logistik delays. Many of the discussion points from the RCAG will be brought forward to the Formation HQ for information.

