



HISTORY OF THE SAINT LUCIA CADET CORPS

Updated August 27, 2005

A. FORMATION:

The Saint Lucia Cadet Corps is a para-military youth organization, sponsored by the Government of Saint Lucia, through the Ministry of Education, Human Resource Development, Youth and Sports, and takes part in both para-military and community activities.

Cadetting can trace its beginning in England in 1859 when there was threat of an invasion by the French. The British Army was heavily involved abroad after the India mutiny and there were very few units in the country. Volunteers were formed to repel the possible invasion. History was to repeat itself in 1940 during World War II when the home guard was formed in light of a threatened invasion by the German Army. As in 1859, the 1940 invasion did not materialize.

The cadet movement however continued because many social workers and teachers saw in it a great value as an organization for the benefit of young people.

Seventy (70) years later, the cadet movement was introduced into Saint Lucia on July 13, 1929, with the establishment of a unit at St. Mary's College, as its formation was seen as significant – instilling the highest possible level of discipline and character building in the society.

The cadets at that time were engaged mainly in drill and route marches, as well as attended national parades and camps.

B. AIMS & OBJECTIVES:

The Cadet Corps aims to inspire young people to achieve success in life with a spirit of service to country and their local community, and to develop in them qualities required of a good citizen.

The Corps seeks to achieve these objectives by: -

- *Adventurous training and challenging activities designed to develop powers of*

- leadership and qualities of character valuable alike to the civilian and soldier.*
- *Producing a self-reliant fit young man or woman with an understanding of basic military subjects, initiated into the art of leadership, aware of his/her responsibilities as a citizen and with a well-developed interest in the Cadet Corps.*

The Saint Lucia Cadet Corps is guided by its motto: “**LEADERSHIP-DISCIPLINE-SERVICE**”

C. EXPANSION

The expansion of the Saint Lucia Cadet Corps continued in 1968 with the formation of a second unit at the Vieux Fort Comprehensive Secondary School. The third unit was formed in 1972 at the then Morne Secondary School. Unfortunately, this unit was short lived when the school was upgraded to the Saint Lucia “A” Level College. The students were transferred to the newly built Castries Comprehensive Secondary School in 1974.

Since then, cadet units continued to be established at every secondary school on the island, as follows:

1980: Corinth Secondary School Cadet Unit

1981: Entrepot Secondary School Cadet Unit

1982: Soufriere Secondary School Cadet Unit

Vieux Fort Junior Secondary School Cadet Unit

1984: Micoud Secondary School Cadet Unit

1985: Leon Hess Comprehensive Secondary School Cadet Unit

1986: Choiseul Secondary School Cadet Unit

1994: Vide Bouteille Secondary School Cadet Unit

2000: Babonneau Secondary School Cadet Unit

2001: Anse Ger Secondary School Cadet Unit

In the year 2000, the Ministry of Education, Human Resource Development, Youth and Sports gave its blessings for the Saint Lucia Cadet Corps to expand itself beyond the Secondary School level to the Senior Primary School level.

D. RECRUITMENT & ENROLMENT:

Membership in the Saint Lucia Cadet Corps is open to students attending a Secondary School, or a Senior Primary School.

To be eligible for membership in the Cadet Corps, a student must: -

- Have attained his/her 11th birthday.
- Normally is a citizen of Saint Lucia.
- Have the consent of his/her parent/guardian.
- Be medically fit.
- Have undergone a period of recruit training and successfully completed the recruit exams.

Recruit training in the Saint Lucia Cadet Corps takes just over three months (September to December). In December all recruits island wide assemble in one location for a weekend Recruit Camp. On successful completion the programme and exams, the recruits are then prepared for their enrolment (in January) as full-fledged cadets.

E. TRAINING:

Training in the Saint Lucia Cadet Corps is provided through the Army Proficiency Certificate (APC) Syllabus, which clearly outlines in detail the subjects and programmes to be covered by the cadets – from the recruit stage to the officer level. The training is based on military skills, but the aim is not to produce a highly trained soldier. The aim of the training is carefully planned so that it appeals, in the first instance, as a challenge, and is steadily progressive.

The training is pursued over a four-year period, as follows:

- RECRUIT – done within a three-month period, during which time the recruits are taught the basics of cadetting.
- STAR 1 – usually last for nine months.
- STAR 2 & 3 – both done within a one-year period.
- STAR 4 – also pursued over a nine-month period

The subjects taught during the period of training include: Drill (both foot and rifle exercises), Turnout, Military Knowledge, Skill At Arms and Shooting, Use of Map & Compass, Fieldcraft, Adventurous Training, Physical Training, First Aid, Citizenship and Leadership Training, and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

Cadet Officers are also trained through a Potential Cadet Officers (PCO) Course held annually at the Barbados Defence (BDF) Headquarters. In addition, they also attend other overseas courses whenever these are available.

F. ATTENDANCE AT OVERSEAS CAMPS:

In the summer of 1967, a contingent of 30 cadets traveled to Barbados for the first Caribbean Camp. It was at that camp that the Saint Lucia cadet Corps was introduced to the Army Proficiency Certificate (APC) training programme.

The Caribbean Camp was repeated in 1968, and it was there that the Saint Lucia Cadet Corps gained membership to the Canadian/Caribbean Exchange Camp, which lasted for three years.

The exchange camp was revived in 1986 with the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Exchange Camp. With the inclusion of Barbados, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago, the camp was renamed to the “Caribbean Cadet Camp”. As a result of the high standards set at these camps, representative groups from Canada and England often participate.

G. RANK STRUCTURE:

The Cadet Corps is a youth movement with a difference. The difference being that it is a discipline organization with a rank structure. Working within that environment, the youth are given a feeling of stability and sense of purpose.

The ranks range from Lance Corporal (L/Cpl) and ascend to Corporal (Cpl), Sergeant (Sgt), Warrant Officer Class I (WOI), Warrant Officer Class II (WOII), Under Officer (UO), Second Lieutenant (2Lt), Lieutenant (Lt), Captain (Capt), Major (Maj), Lieutenant Colonel (Lt Col) and Brigadier (Brig).

However, to be eligible for promotion, one will have to achieve the standards as outline in the APC Syllabus, and more importantly be recommended for consideration as a candidate for promotion by your officers and instructors:

- To Lance Corporal not before passing your 1 STAR
- To Corporal not before passing your 2 STAR
- To Sergeant not before passing your 3 STAR
- To Master Cadet, having completed the Master Cadet Course, and subsequently been recommended by your Commandant.
- To Under Officer not before you have passed your 4 STAR, and also been recommended by your Commandant.

Changes to these rules will only be permissible in very exceptional circumstances and with the approval of the Commandant.

H. BENEFITS:

There are several benefits to be derived by being a member of the Saint Lucia Cadet Corps, and these include, among others:

- The opportunity to travel overseas for the Caribbean Cadet Summer Camp, which is held in a different island every year.
- Serving as the foundation for the Cadet who wishes to join the Army or Police Force, by providing him/her with the necessary skills required. As a cadet you will naturally have an interest in the armed forces, although it does not automatically follow that you are to join one of them as a career, but should you choose to do so.
- The opportunity to make new friends, not just locally but regionally and internationally.
- The opportunity to develop both as a member of a team, as an individual and as a full member of your family and the community in which you live.
- Prepares you for the field of work, as the knowledge and skills acquired as a member of the Cadet Corps make you a different person on the job.

I. ADMINISTRATION:

The Cadet Corps is administered by an Executive, headed by the Commandant, and includes the Deputy Commandant, Adjutant, Staff Officer, Finance Officer, and Legal Adviser. This is the policy making body of the Corps. In addition, there is also a Headquarters comprising the Executive, Administrative Officer, Training Officer, Stores Officer and Corps Sergeant Major.

The persons currently holding those offices are as follows:

- **COMMANDANT** – Major Andre Mathurin
- **DEPUTY COMMANDANT** – Captain Lawrence James
- **ADJUTANT** - Captain Nathan Hyacinth
- **STAFF OFFICER** – Lt. Sean Wells
- **FINANCE OFFICER** – Lt. Herald Emanuel
- **TRAINING OFFICER** – Warrant Officer Class I Trevor Alfred
- **STORES OFFICER** – Lt. Sean Wells
- **CORPS SERGEANT MAJOR** – Warrant Officer Class I Trevor Alfred

J. UNIFORM:

According to the regulations of the Saint Lucia Cadet Corps, a cadet will be issued with boots, belt and beret. All other items of uniforms will be sold at cost price.

All items issued must be returned when one leaves the Corps, or when requested by Cadet Headquarters.

Neatness and tidiness are most important and the cadet should wear his/her uniform with **PRIDE** and **DIGNITY** at all time.

K. SLCC BANNER:

The banner of the Saint Lucia Cadet Corps was first presented on August 14, 1995, during the closing parade of the summer camp, which coincided with the retirement of Major Roger Eudoxie, MVO, SLPM, who served as Commandant for approximately 30 years.

At that historic event, the Banner, carried by Lieutenant Bernadette Saltibus, was taken by Major Roger Eudoxie and handed over to Captain Curtis Glace to signify a change in command of the Saint Lucia Cadet Corps. Governor General Sir Stanislaus James witnessed the ceremony.