

CSD's exercise Concord XIX tests emergency response

The Correctional Services Department (CSD) carried out an exercise today (December 12) to test the emergency response of its various units in different scenarios, including mass indiscipline of persons in custody and a hostage-taking situation at Hei Ling Chau Addiction Treatment Centre.

Code-named Concord XIX, the four-hour exercise aimed to test the department's emergency command and communication capabilities, the implementation of contingency plans at different levels, departmental response and information dissemination and testing of the CSD's co-ordination efficiency with other government departments.

The exercise focused on a number of scenarios including mass indiscipline of persons in custody, hostage-taking, suspected terrorism and fire breakouts. More than 200 staff members of the CSD, the Hong Kong Police Force, the Fire Services Department and the Government Flying Service took part in the exercise.

The CSD's Assistant Commissioner (Operations), Mr Leung Kin-ip, took command of the operation from the department's Central Control Centre in Stanley.

He said the exercise enhanced the response capabilities of the department and colleagues, as well as the effectiveness of emergency support procedures. The exercise also improved inter-departmental communication and co-operation, and enhanced the CSD's ability and efficiency in handling emergency situations in future.

The CSD holds regular emergency exercises of various types in correctional institutions and at regional and departmental levels to enable staff members to familiarise themselves with handling different incidents. The objectives are to provide a safe and secure custodial environment to facilitate rehabilitation work and help maintain Hong Kong as one of the safest cities in the world.