



HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
PRESS OFFICE
No.6 Convent Place
Gibraltar
Tel:20070071; Fax: 20043057

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Cadet Corps of Drums to make their first appearance at Ceremony of the Keys

Formed only in May of this year, the Army Cadet Corps of Drums will perform in public for the very first time at Wednesday's Ceremony of the Keys. The Cadets will join forces with the Royal Gibraltar Regiment's Corps of Drums to perform a 10 minute display prior to the Parade at 6:45pm, after which members of both the Cadets and the Regiment's Corps of Drums will march on together with the Band for what promises to be a historic occasion.

With instruments and uniforms provided by the Government of Gibraltar, the Corps of Drums has just 8 members, all aged between 13 and 16, with more expected to join in the near future. They rehearse every Tuesday and Thursday evenings at Buffadero training camp under the watchful eyes of the Bandmaster, Drum Major Andrew Rowbottom and Colour Sergeant Ochello the chief instructor.

"The cadets have made fantastic progress since they began training in May and I am very proud of the effort and standard they have achieved in such a short amount of time," said the Regiment's Bandmaster, WO1 Craig Philbin. "It is absolutely right that they are rewarded for their efforts by being included in the Ceremony of the Keys on Wednesday. These young men represent the future for our Corps of Drums and I look forward to watching them develop further. It is wonderful to see how much pride they have in wearing their uniforms, their turnout is always immaculate!"

One of the Cadets, 16 year old Gary Cooper, will have an extra special role to play in the parade as he will be the only drummer in the Escort to the Keys. This sees a return to a very old tradition whereby the position of regimental drummer was held by a boy soldier.

The local Army cadet unit is funded by the Government: anyone interested in joining the Cadets should contact Captain Alan Montegriffo on 54117000.