

Special Stamp Issues – “Government Flying Service - Operations”



Mint Stamps

A set of special stamps on the theme of “Government Flying Service - Operations”, with associated philatelic products, will be released for sale on **28 February 2019 (Thursday)**.

The Government Flying Service (“GFS”) is a disciplined service of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. Over the years, members of GFS have been committed to serving our community and the Government, through dedication and teamwork, by providing world-class aviation support. Under the theme of “Government Flying Service – Operations”, Hongkong Post will issue a set of six stamps and a stamp sheetlet to illustrate the major operations of GFS and the types of aircraft in its fleet, enabling the public to gain a better understanding of its aviation services.

\$2 – Air Ambulance

GFS provides air ambulance service to the public in response to emergency call-outs, transferring patients from hospitals and clinics on outlying islands or evacuating casualties from accident scenes throughout the territory. The \$2 stamp displays an EC155 B1 Helicopter and the medical equipment on board.

\$2.60 – Inshore Search & Rescue

Inshore and mountain search and rescue is one of the major tasks of GFS. The \$2.60 stamp depicts an AS332 L2 Super Puma Helicopter fitted with an advanced avionics system and a wide range of mission equipment, as well as the scene of a search and rescue operation on a remote mountain of Hong Kong.

\$3.40 – Offshore Search & Rescue

The operational range of GFS reaches beyond mountains in the territory and covers the

majority of the South China Sea up to 1 300 kilometres south of Hong Kong. The \$3.40 stamp shows a Bombardier Challenger 605 fixed-wing aircraft and an AS332 L2 Super Puma Helicopter on an offshore search and rescue mission.

\$3.70 – Fire Fighting

GFS carries out hill fire-fighting operations in collaboration with the Fire Services Department, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department and the Civil Aid Service. The \$3.70 stamp portrays an AS332 L2 Super Puma Helicopter performing water-bombing at the scene of a hill fire.

\$4.90 – Aerial Survey

GFS conducts surveys and surveillance operations for various government departments. Images captured in the air are used for the compilation of maps, and serve to provide data for the planning and survey of land reclamation or major infrastructure projects. Featured on the \$4.90 stamp is a Bombardier Challenger 605 fixed-wing aircraft. Its capability to perform aerial operations and search for extended hours makes it an ideal choice, particularly for regular patrols, internal security support and aerial surveys.

\$5 – Internal Security

GFS offers support to various disciplined services in their discharge of duties to maintain the internal security of Hong Kong, resulting in better efficacy in tackling potential threats of all kinds. The Airbus H175 Cheetah Helicopter showcased in the \$5 stamp is the newest GFS aircraft. It is installed with state-of-the-art equipment to meet the needs of internal security and diverse missions.

Stamp Sheetlet

The stamp sheetlet is themed on the transition of GFS from its old GFS fleet to the new one. The upper half of the stamp sheetlet shows the retired Jetstream J-41 as well as the AS332 L2 and EC155 B1 Helicopters which are retiring in succession, while the lower half depicts the Airbus H175 Cheetah Helicopter which has come into service in phases since 2018 along with the Bombardier Challenger 605 fixed-wing aircraft that is now in service. With the presence of the GFS motto “Semper Paratus” (meaning “ready at all times”) at the bottom, the stamp sheetlet highlights the mission of GFS to serve the public and the Government with dedication by providing round-the-clock flying services.

Amid the varied challenges, GFS plays a crucial role in search and rescue operations and in the provision of aviation support services. Through its efficient and first-rate flying services, the department has made significant contributions to our community. This set of stamps and stamp sheetlet is issued with the aim of familiarising the public with this outstanding disciplined service.

Acknowledgement: Government Flying Service

Sales Arrangements

Official First Day Covers at \$1.30 each will be put on sale at all post offices from **14 February 2019**. The stamp sheetlet and the associated philatelic products will be displayed at the General Post Office, Tsim Sha Tsui Post Office, Tsuen Wan Post Office, Sha Tin Central Post Office and Tuen Mun Central Post Office from the same day. Advance orders for servicing self-provided covers will be accepted at all philatelic offices from **14 to 20 February 2019**.

Information about the sales arrangements is set out below:

Products	Unit Selling Price (HKD)	Sales Period	Maximum Purchase Quantity Per Queuing Customer on the First Two Days of Issue
(A) Products Available at all Post Offices			
First Day Cover	\$1.3	14 February 2019 to 27 May 2019	No restriction
Mint Stamps (a set of 6 stamps)	\$21.6	28 February 2019 to 27 May 2019	5 sheets of each denomination (viz. 125 stamps of each denomination)
Stamp Sheetlet (\$10)	\$10		10 sheets
Mini-Pane (containing 2 sets of stamp)	\$43.2		5 panes
Presentation Pack (containing a set of 6 stamps and a stamp sheetlet)	\$48		5 packs
Prestige Stamp Booklet (containing 3 stamp sheetlets with a set of 6 stamps and 1	\$63		5 booklets

stamp sheetlet with a \$10 stamp)			
(B) Products Available at 38 Philatelic Offices only			
Serviced First Day Cover affixed with a set of 6 stamps and date-stamped with a special postmark	\$25.4	28 February 2019 to 27 May 2019	5 covers
Serviced First Day Cover affixed with a stamp sheetlet and date-stamped with a special postmark	\$13.8		5 covers
A set of 4 Serviced First Day Covers affixed with stamp sheetlets from the Prestige Stamp Booklet and date-stamped with the special postmark	\$46.8		5 sets

Remarks:

1. The above philatelic products **are included** in the “2019 Local Standing Order Service” and “2019 Overseas and Mainland Mail Order Service”. Ordered philatelic products will be available for collection by the customers of “2019 Local Standing Order Service” during business hours of the post offices.
2. For Overseas and Mainland customers, please ensure there is sufficient balance in your account to pay your advance order.
3. The supply of the above philatelic products are limited and available for sale for three months while stock lasts.
4. Stamp products should be kept in cool and dry places and avoid placing them under direct sunlight or in hot environment.
5. The above philatelic products will be put on sale at "ShopThruPost" (Shophthrupost.hongkongpost.hk) starting from 8:00 a.m. on 28 February 2019 (Thursday). Visitors are required to register and login as member before making a purchase.

Hand-back Date-stamping Arrangements

A hand-back date-stamping service using the office steel date-stamp and the special postmark will be provided on **28 February 2019** at all post offices for official/private-made covers bearing the first day of issue indication and a local address. All philatelic offices will also provide hand-back date-stamping service using the “Philatelic Bureau” pictorial postmark and the philatelic office pictorial postmark concurrently. The GPO-1 date-stamp will only be available at General Post Office.

Stamp Printing Details

Design:	LEE Ying-chi
Printer:	Joh. Enschedé Stamps B.V., the Netherlands
Process:	Lithography
Stamp Size:	45 mm x 28 mm
Stamp Size (\$10 Stamp Sheetlet):	108 mm x 38 mm
Stamp Layout:	Pane of 25 stamps
\$10 Stamp Sheetlet Size:	135 mm x 85 mm
Stamp Sheetlet Size (a set of 4 sheetlets):	150 mm x 90 mm
Mini-pane Size:	162 mm x 230 mm
Perforation:	13.25 x 14.25 (one elliptical perforation on each vertical)
Perforation (\$10 Stamp Sheetlet):	13.5 x 13.75 (one elliptical perforation on each vertical)
Paper:	Paper with security fibres
Date of Issue:	28 February 2019



Special Postmark



Stamp Sheetlet



Mini-Pane



Presentation Pack (Cover)



Presentation Pack (Inside)



Prestige Stamp Booklet (Cover)



A set of 4 Serviced First Day Covers affixed with stamp sheetlets from the Prestige Stamp Booklet and date-stamped with the special postmark



Serviced First Day Cover affixed with a set of 6 stamps and date-stamped with a special postmark

Serviced First Day Cover affixed with a stamp sheetlet and date-stamped with a special postmark