



Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases

No. 47 January 2012

Raising public awareness, scrutiny and accountability of US Visiting Forces and their Agencies in the UK and world-wide

Brief Local, National and International News

Dear friends

What sound words we received from Anas Altikriti [the Cordoba Foundation] in his New Year message to CAAB. "We hope that 2012 may bring about our collective desire for peace, justice, conciliation, friendship and truth". Indeed – A HAPPY NEW YEAR from CAAB.

But then, and just as the world entered the New Year, Barack Obama unveiled his military plans in a document entitled **Sustaining US Global Leadership: Priorities for 21st Century Defense** saying it will include cutting at least \$487 billion in defense spending over the next ten years; that sounds good. However we suggest a closer look.

The introduction states, "The United States has played a leading role in transforming the international system over the past sixty-five years. Working with like-minded nations, the United States has created a safer, more stable, and more prosperous world for the American people, our allies, and our partners around the globe than existed prior to World War II. Over the last decade, we have undertaken extended operations in Iraq and Afghanistan to bring stability to those countries and secure our interests. As we responsibly draw down from these two operations, take steps to protect our nation's economic vitality, and protect our interests in a world of accelerating change, we face an inflection point ... I think it's important for all Americans to remember, over the past 10 years, since 9/11, our defense budget grew at an extraordinary pace. Over the next 10 years, the growth in the defense budget will slow, but the fact of the matter is this: It will still grow, because we have global responsibilities that demand our leadership. In fact, the defense budget will still be larger than it was toward the end of the Bush

administration ...

And I firmly believe, and I think the American people

understand, that we can keep our military strong and our nation secure with a defense budget that continues to be larger than roughly the next 10 countries combined".

The US is re-ordering its strategic priorities; "We will of necessity rebalance toward the Asia-Pacific region".

The perceived threats according to the US government and military planners are coming from North Korea and China. At the start of 2012, will subversion, destabilisation, drone killings, other targeted assassinations, global state terrorism and permanent war be the order of the day from the US? Instead of this path, CAAB will work towards a world of our collective desire for peace, justice, conciliation, friendship and truth, understanding and tolerance ... on a path of alternatives to the ever ratcheting-up of fear, violent conflicts and misery for many people in the world.

[We suggest you look at Catherine Lutz's work. She is Professor of the Watson Institute for International Studies and Chair of the Department of Anthology at Brown University, editor of "The Bases of Empire: The Struggle Against US Military Posts" and Co-director of the "Costs of War"].



It's impossible to produce a newsletter of 8 pages (due to cost) giving anything but a taste of the huge and complex issues involving 'all things' to do with US hegemony, US military policy and the US military industrial complex. For more information, the CAAB website is a good resource and gives some up to date news, information, videos, articles and links: www.caab.org.uk. We are always pleased to receive constructive comments or suggestions.

Around the US Bases

NSA MENWITH HILL

(near Harrogate, North Yorkshire)

Developments – Planning Applications: We monitor the planning offices regularly at Menwith Hill and Fylingdales. There have been no new applications since the permission given by Harrogate Planning Office for the erection of the 33rd radome. It appears that no construction to date has started.

Visit to NSA Menwith Hill by local MPs:
[Website of Julian Smith 22 September 2011]

[We have corrected in straight brackets some of the reporting in this article – our information is from well-researched and confirmed legal and other documents]. Julian Smith (MP Skipton and Ripon) and Andrew Jones (MP Harrogate and Knaresborough) had a tour of areas of the base and a briefing from the RAF Commander [Liaison Officer], Squadron Leader Paddy Currie, and Deputy Commander [Liaison Officer] David McCord, on some of the work being done and the efforts to build strong community relations.

The base is owned by the Ministry of Defence *[the land is in the possession of the Secretary of State for Defence – nearly all the buildings and infra-structure are owned by the US authorities]* and made available to the US Department of Defense. Its primary mission is to provide intelligence support for UK, US and allied interests. Around two thousand staff from both UK and US work there. Julian said: “We were keen to visit RAF Menwith Hill and talk to those in charge of the base which is a major employer in our constituencies and one of the most familiar landmarks in North Yorkshire. It was positive to hear about the work those at Menwith Hill are doing to forge links with the surrounding communities of Nidderdale. It is important to make sure the base’s necessary tight security does not prevent strong engagement with the towns and villages which surround the perimeter fence.” Andrew Jones added: “I was pleased to hear about the positive relationships that have been built between Menwith Hill and Harrogate. The base puts millions of pounds into the area’s economy every year and I encouraged them to take on more apprentices and to ensure local

businesses have opportunities to bid for contracts at the base.”

CAAB to meet Paddy Currie (RAF Liaison Officer at NSA Menwith Hill): Over the years and whenever there has been a change of the RAF Liaison Officer, we have written to welcome them and ask if we could meet sometime. Up until the arrival of Paddy Currie (May 2011) either there has been no response or the RAF Liaison Officer has refused to meet us. It has been very encouraging, since Paddy’s arrival, that through various communications with him, he has agreed to meet us. We are in the process of arranging this with him. This marks a very welcome development and CAAB is delighted that apparently there is a change of attitude and friendliness towards us.

Report on ‘Keep Space for Peace’ Demonstration 4 October 2011: Every year since 2000, CAAB has responded to the call for a week of international protest by the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space (GN) against the US Missile Defense System (KEEP SPACE FOR PEACE week was from 1-8 October 2011). We had originally planned to have this event on Saturday 1 October 2011. However we were informed by Yorkshire CND that they planned a demonstration on Saturday 16 October 2011. As the demonstrations were too close together we decided to incorporate into the weekly Tuesday evening protest (6-8.00pm) and focus on the US Missile Defense and war fighting in space – including the alarming increase in the use of ‘drones’.

About 20 people attended, which was excellent considering the dark evenings and weather that we could not be sure about. We had the ‘Alternative Tea Party’ – with tea, cakes and the alternative (and true!) view about the US Missile Defense System. A message of solidarity from Oxford Peace Group, who had a demonstration at USAF Croughton on 1 October 2011 was read out. Thank you so much to everyone who came and also who helped.

Supporting Bradley Manning: CAAB has been a supporter of Bradley Manning for sometime.

He is the US soldier who has been detained for allegedly downloading secret US documents. We are grateful that he spoke truth to power.

It was a late notice for people (and just before Christmas) which meant that Lindis Percy was the only one present at the American base at NSA Menwith Hill – in solidarity with Bradley Manning and others showing support, whose pre-trial hearing had started in the US. It was also his 24th birthday. To coincide with these two important

events there were many actions in support of him round the world.

Lindis stayed for about an hour at the main entrance to Menwith Hill holding an upside down US flag with the words “*Thank you Bradley Manning*”. The flag was left on the perimeter fence – a present for the American authorities on the base. For up-to-date information, see the Bradley Manning Support Network: www.bradleymanning.org

SPOTLIGHT ON NSA MENWITH HILL

Dr Steve Schofield has been doing some interesting research about NSA Menwith Hill (on behalf of Yorkshire CND and with a grant from the Joseph Rowntree Trust). In the introduction of the Report Steve Schofield says “This report is divided into two sections: firstly, Menwith Hill’s strategic role in the context of US power projection and secondly, the local impact of the base. The main focus of Section One is to clarify what contribution Menwith Hill makes to the US National Security Agency’s (NSA) global network, as a highly-secret, regional collection and analysis centre for signals intelligence (SIGINT), Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD), and in new forms of intelligence-led warfare. Section Two is concerned with testing the US authorities’ claims that Menwith Hill makes a substantial economic contribution to the local area through the expenditure of base personnel, employment of local people and local contracting”.

CAAB highly recommends this Report. It contains much of the work that CAAB has been involved with over the years. It is excellent that this Report has been done. This extremely significant and important American base needs all the attention we can shine on it. Further details of the launch of the report (early February) contact Yorkshire CND –

Email: dominic@yorkshirecnd.org.uk

Telephone: 01274 730 795

Trial at Harrogate Magistrates’ Court – 18 and 19 January 2012 (refer to previous newsletters): This case (brought against Lindis Percy – see CAAB reports on website) will have happened by the time this newsletter is published and sent out. There will be a report of the outcome on the CAAB website.

RAF FYLINGDALES

(near Pickering North Yorkshire)

Planning Applications: No new planning applications since 2005.

Change of Commander at RAF Fylingdales: [Malton & Pickering Mercury 1 January 2012]

Rayna Owens, the new Wing Commander has taken over at RAF Fylingdales and the 3,000 nautical miles around it. Rayna Owens has assumed control of everything from monitoring activity in space, to looking out for missile attacks, to looking after 360 members of staff.

She has come to the wilderness of the North York Moors from RAF High Wycombe where she was Acting Director for the majority of Op ELLAMY which was part of the peace process in Libya. Rayna is an Aero Systems Battle Manager and has served on a number of UK Surveillance and control systems posts as well as jobs at the Air Warfare Centre and within the Ministry of Defence.

She has completed operational tours in the Falkland Islands, with the Navy for Op Tellic (British Military operations in Iraq) and in the ISAF Joint Command in Kabul. Rayna joined the RAF on a sponsored cadetship, passing up a career in finance, after studying maths and computer science and is already familiar with the North York Moors.

On a daily basis Rayna and her team track objects that are in space such as NASA satellites and

debris. She said: "There is a big catalogue of data of objects in space and we will see if they are where we think they are. In 2008 it was all over the papers about the satellite that crashed and with more and more objects in space that sort of thing in itself creates more debris."

In 2013 RAF Fylingdales, which has become an iconic sight on the moors, celebrated *[will celebrate]* its 50th birthday. "The work which takes place in the station may differ from when it was used to look out for nuclear attacks and missiles but should the need arise the team are ready". Rayna added: "If someone wanted to fire a missile I would know, that is what it was designed for years ago but fortunately we are not at war with other nations."

USAF ALCONBURY

(near Huntingdon Cambridgeshire)

Fancy Being a 'Landlord'?: [from official website] A vacancy has arisen for a Squadron Leader (any branch) to serve as the RAF Commander at RAF Alconbury. It is a demanding and challenging post on a busy, high tempo base *[US]* and calls for energy, commitment, diplomacy and a good sense of organisation. The ability to develop relationships at all levels is crucial to success and as a member of the Base Crisis Action Centre, the incumbent will be required to respond to specified call-outs. The RAF Commander is responsible for providing advice and support to the (US) Commander, 423rd Air Base Group on all matters of UK

policy, protocol and regulations concerning the Station and its satellites (RAF Molesworth and RAF Upwood, which form the RAF Alconbury Tri-base). RAF Alconbury is also the HQ for the 501st Combat Support Wing (CSW) and the RAF Commander will be required to provide advice and support to this HQ as required. In addition, the RAF Commander is to establish and maintain close liaison with the appropriate UK Authorities (local and national) and deal with complaints from British civilian sources. Acting as Landlord for the Estate, the incumbent is to convene and preside over all Siting, Handover and Takeover Boards. The RAF Commander is the Head of Establishment for all MOD Civil Servants working directly for 501st CSW and 423rd ABG at the RAF Alconbury Tri-base and chairs the Employment Relations and the Station Health, Environment and Protection Committees.

Some Essential Qualifications:

- Must either have been, or currently be a Squadron Leader;
- Have experience of working within a multi-national environment;
- Self-reliant and calm under pressure.

Desirable: Diverse service experience to include:

- Operations, Security, Estate, Personnel Management and Budget Management;
- Corporate Communications experience;
- Diplomatic and politically astute;
- Polished interpersonal skills;

EXTRACT FROM STUKELEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – AUGUST 2011:

Colonel Mike Reiner, Base Commander at Alconbury, his Assistant Civil Engineer and one member of the public attended the Council August meeting. Col Reiner told members that he was disappointed that members had concerns over the provision of a new entrance to the base north of Little Stukeley. He explained that the American Government would only provide funding for an entrance of the type applied for, which would only give access to commercial vehicles, buses and contractors' machinery, the existing gate would remain open for 'light' traffic. He said the plans would without doubt remove all the heavy traffic from travelling through the villages and that was the main aim of the American Authorities. He considered that the Council's concerns over landscaping could be addressed within their budget but that road signage was a matter for the highways authority as was the cycle way 12 route across the entrance. Members later agreed to remove their objections to the old entrance remaining and also to matters of landscaping, but the other concerns already registered were to remain.

[We understand that USAF Upwood is to be handed back to the MOD soon].

www.fpif.org/articles/repurposing_military_bases

- Successful track record on representational duties and willingness to maintain a high profile locally (and On-Base), including during 'off-duty' hours.

Telephone enquiries should be made to Wing Commander P, Nicholson on 01638 543566 or 9205238 3566. Closing date 12 February 2012.

USAF LAKENHEATH

(near Lakenheath, Suffolk)

Boost From US Air Bases Down £84m:

[Lawrence Crawley East Anglia Daily News 22 September 2011] Community leaders last night rallied to defend the value of the county's American air bases despite figures showing their economic impact had dropped by more than £84m. Both RAF Mildenhall and RAF Lakenheath are home to thousands of US service personnel and employ hundreds of civilian workers. They also inject millions of pounds into the local economy as a result of commercial contracts and the spending of their staff. However, latest figures show the total combined value of the two sites dropped from \$1,045m (£669.9m) in 2009 to \$913.5m (£585.6m) last year – a fall of 12% in total. In 2007, the financial boost from the bases was estimated at £826m.

The biggest drop was at RAF Lakenheath, which was worth \$669.3m in 2009 but \$580.8m in 2010 – a fall of almost \$90m (£57m). The base has also decreased the number of British staff it employs – from 1,027 in 2009 to 969 last year. Meanwhile, the value to the economy of nearby RAF Mildenhall has also dropped, from \$375.8m (£240.7m) in 2009 to \$332.7m (£213.1m) last year, a decline of 11%. And the number of British workers employed fell from 797 in 2009, to 769 in 2010. Despite this, John McGhee, Forest Heath District Council's Market ward member, said: "It is obviously a big employer of all different types of jobs. The impact might be down 10% but they are very, very good for the area." He said he had not noticed a drop in the number of service staff out and about in Mildenhall.

Lindis Percy, of the Campaign for the Accountability of American Airbases (CAAB), urged communities in Suffolk not to become economically dependent on American air bases

because they might one day move as operational requirements changed.

She also questioned whether the presence of US military bases made Suffolk a safer place to live. Lieutenant Colonel Michael Bennett, 100th Comptroller Squadron commander, commented on the economic impact analysis for the fiscal year 2010.

"Nearly every sub-section of the analysis shows that contributions to the local economy increased during fiscal year 2010, this includes money spent in the local economy by individuals and the value of indirect jobs created on the local economy," he said.

"The one area detailed where a decrease is identified is in the spending by US Air Force units, organisations and activities on materials, equipment and supplies. This is shown across the board for US Air Forces in Europe installations.

RAF Mildenhall is committed to contributing to the local economy and our host nation. Our investment in promoting growth in the local economy is part of our obligation to our hosts in return for the continuous support they have always bestowed.

We take every opportunity to show we are good neighbours and our mission would not be possible without the support of our gracious hosts."

USAF MILDENHALL

(near Brandon, Suffolk)

PLEASE NOTE: This is interesting in the light of Steve Schofield's Report re Menwith Hill: Mildenhall's Fiscal Year 2010 Economic Impact Statement: *[From official website]* The US Air Force in Europe has published the Economic Impact Analysis for fiscal year 2010. The entire RAF Mildenhall community was evaluated for the study.

This community consists of US Air Force personnel and civilians, as well as host-nation civilian employees that work in military units and support activities like dining facilities, recreation centers, the exchange, and the commissary. Non-military activities like banks, credit unions, and local vendors round out the RAF Mildenhall community. There were 354 officers, 2,600

enlisted, 423 US Civilians and 769 local-national civilian employees stationed here that were included in the report.

The findings show that people stationed at RAF Mildenhall boost the local economy by spending portions of their income off-base on housing and utilities, restaurants, entertainment, and basic necessities. Last year, military personnel stationed here spent \$110.9 million (all references are USD), U. civilian employees spent \$14.4 million and local-national employees spent \$44.2 million on the economy.

RAF Mildenhall also boosts the economy of its host community by spending on locally-purchased materials, supplies, equipment and contracts. In addition, recreational and other support organizations like on-base vendors and banks also make purchases that benefit the local economy. Over the studied year, RAF Mildenhall spent \$47.5 million for construction-related purchases or materials and services, \$39.4 million on services, and \$18.1 million on material, equipment and supplies for daily operations.

Off-base spending also has an economic ripple effect as businesses hire employees to meet the demands of their RAF Mildenhall customers. This increases local employment and further benefits the local economy. During fiscal year 2010, RAF Mildenhall contributed to 1,369 indirect jobs created in the local area that value \$58.3 million.

The total amount spent on the local economy as a result of RAF Mildenhall's presence was \$332.7 million. For more information, contact the public affairs office at 01638 542654.

JOINT ANALYSIS CENTER AT MOLESWORTH

(near Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire)

What They Say About the Intelligence Fusion Centre at JAC Molesworth: Opened in 2006 "in support of NATO," located at RAF Molesworth in the United Kingdom, the Intelligence Fusion Centre (IFC) is a unique organisation in that it has 26 of 28 NATO nations sharing intelligence in order to provide a truly fused strategic and operational level intelligence product. **Mission:** To provide SACEUR [Supreme Allied Commander Europe] and subordinate

commanders of ACO [Allied Command Transformation] with timely, effective, and full-spectrum network enabled intelligence in support of the planning and execution of NRF [NATO Response Force] CJTF [Combined Joint Task Force] and other NATO operations.

CAAB was on base at JAC Molesworth for a visit on 12 December 2011 to monitor what they were doing.

UPDATE ON THE STRUGGLE OF JEJU ISLAND (SOUTH KOREA)

In the last newsletter we raised the question of what was happening far away on the island of Jeju



(known as 'Island of Peace') where a port is planned to harbour US Aegis destroyers for the dangerous US Missile Defense system. The Korean government deny this. It is part of the

US military strategy to move over to southern Asia because of perceived threats from North Korea and China. There have been many arrests and people imprisoned, but throughout the protesters' long struggle they have maintained their non-violent and persistent resistance. What they have done is inspirational. The struggle continues – refer to www.savejejuisland.org

image from: http://space4peace.blogspot.com/2010_12_26_archive.html

ATTITUDES and THINKING



We suggest you have a look at the official websites of these American bases (if you do not own computer ask a friend or visit your local library). It's educational and will give

you a flavour of how they think and act.

For Feltwell, Lakenheath and Mildenhall, visit: www.lakenheath.af.mil/

For Tri-bases at Alconbury, Molesworth and Upwood go to:

www.501csw.usafe.af.mil/units/alconbury

REPURPOSING MILITARY BASES

(Washington, DC: Foreign Policy In Focus, December 15, 2011)



The rooftop of Devil's Mountain in Berlin

Annual competition for architects (or anyone else) to deploy their skills for the common good – this year the challenge is to come up with alternative uses for military bases ... there are several ... and we are sure you could come up with very interesting ideas.

To register for the competition visit the [UN] RESTRICTED ACCESS webpage:

www.fpif.org/articles/repurposing_military_bases or ask a friend to download information for you.

BRIEF SELECTION OF PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (taken from Hansard)

*We are very grateful to John Vogler who has been collating PQs asked on all things 'US bases' over the years. He is in the process of putting on the CAAB website – under **Parliament and Politics** page*

RAF Menwith Hill: Manpower

Q: Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK national (a) full-time employees and (b) full-time equivalent employees there were at Menwith Hill on the most recent date for which figures are available; and in what capacity they are employed.

A: Nick Harvey: As of 30 June 2011 the following number of UK nationals were employed at RAF Menwith Hill:

| | |
|--|------------|
| Ministry of Defence | 389 |
| Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency | 165 |
| UK Contractors full-time | 54 |
| UK Contractors part-time | 24 |

I am withholding further information in the interests of national security [6 July 2011 Column 1294W]

US Military Personnel Based in the UK Make Use of the NHS

Q: Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether US military personnel based in the UK make use of the national health service.

A: Mr Simon Burns: US military personnel are able to make use of the national health service, although our understanding is that US forces primarily make use of private health care services. Generally, overseas visitors to the United Kingdom are chargeable for NHS hospital treatment unless an exemption applies to them under the NHS (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 2011. There is an exemption for those who are serving with the armed forces of a country which is part of NATO when the necessary services cannot readily be provided by the armed forces of the overseas visitor's own country or those of the UK. The spouse/civil partner and dependent children of such a person are also exempt in this way [Written Answers 25 October 2011].

FINALLY: *What about this for a crazy bit of news?*

Boeing Wins \$3.48 Billion US Missile Contract

[...here missile defense is referred to as 'the shield'....]

Reuters; 3 January 2012

The shield has been shaped initially to guard against ballistic missiles that could be fired by Iran and North Korea. It is the only U.S. defense against long-range missiles that could be tipped with chemical, biological or nuclear warheads.

Read in full: www.reuters.com/article/2011/12/31/us-boeing-missiledefense-idUSTRE7BT19T20111231

MEETING FOR WORSHIP

Held for people of all faiths and none outside these US bases:

RAF FYLINGDALES:

On the first Saturday of every **odd** month, main approach road:

12.00noon-1.00pm in January, March, May, July, September, November
please contact **01751 432416**
or **01751 472827**

or Northern Friends Peace Board
<http://nfpb.gn.apc.org/calendar.htm>

NSA MENWITH HILL:

On the first Saturday of every **even** month – main entrance

2.00-3.00pm – February, April, June, August, October, December

Please contact: Robin Wilson, 44, Saint Clement's Road, Harrogate, HG2 8LX
Phone: **01423 540 423**.

USAF CROUGHTON:

Regular Meeting for Worship
4th Saturday each month – 2.00pm

The Meeting for Worship at USAF Fairford no longer happens since the base went into 'moth balls'.

A REQUEST: If you receive a paper copy of the CAAB newsletter and an e-newsletter would be acceptable in future please let us know your email address.

Interviews, Articles and Talks by CAAB since the September 2011 Newsletter:

- **BBC Today programme – Radio 4**
- **East Anglia Daily Times**
- **Radio Leeds**
- **Radio York**
- **Stray FM**
- **BBC Politics Show (North)**
- **Letters published in *The Guardian* and *Harrogate Advertiser***
- **Article in *Communiqué* journal – MEDACT**

Joint Co-ordinators: Lindis Percy and Melanie Ndzinga

Hon Treasurer: Christine Dean
5 Garnett Street, Otley, West Yorkshire, LS21 1AL

Webmaster: Ray Middleton

Monitor of Planning Applications at Menwith Hill and Fylingdales: Steve Hill

CONTACT: 59 Swarcliffe Road, Harrogate, HG1 4QZ

Tel/Fax no: 01423 884076

E-mail: mail@caab.org.uk

Website: <http://www.caab.org.uk>

This newsletter is printed on 100% recycled paper by: **Enid Taylor Ltd, The Printing House, 8 Cold Bath Road, Harrogate, HG2 0NA.**
Tel: 01423 567764 · Fax: 01423 567765
E-mail: info@enidtaylor.co.uk

