



Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases

No. 44 February 2011

Local, National and International News

Dear friends

Not so long ago Hillary Clinton (US Secretary of State) hailed the “partnership” between Egypt and the US as “a cornerstone of stability and security in the Middle East and beyond”. This newsletter is somewhat difficult to write because it goes to print as Egypt is in crisis. Tunisians toppled their long-time dictator Zine El Abidine Ben Ali on Jan. 14 after nearly a month of popular revolt; the Egyptian people having followed the ‘jasmine intifada’ in Tunisia. Hosni Mubarek assumed the presidency in 1981 and took power following the assassination of Anwar El Sadat. Egypt is in a bad economic state with terrible poverty, corruption and grim human rights abuses. Massive U.S. military support of Egypt has coincided with 20 years of rule under Emergency Law – who knows what the outcome of the present crisis will be? In 1999 Egypt received a \$3.2 billion grant from the United States to subsidise a major military modernisation programme and the country continues to receive billions of dollars. With rising unemployment, restless youth and aging, ailing leaders, it looks as if the region is in for huge changes.



*For the people in America who are homeless, jobless, with poor healthcare and desperately struggling, due to the economic crisis in the US, this must be difficult to realise. However many of the people do not know that massive US grants are dealt out to prop up dictatorships like Egypt. Americans certainly have no idea how many overseas US bases there are or how much it costs to maintain them. According to Nick Turse (journalist, author and Harvard Fellow – refer to article 10 January 2011 on CAAB website) nobody – not even the US President knows. Johan Galtung - principal founder of the discipline of **Peace and Conflict Studies** who spoke at the Olaf Palme Peace Lecture in Leeds recently predicted the end of the US military empire by around 2020 – so only 9 years to go!*

In this edition we have deliberately included some information from official US military websites about US Commanders and what the US military say the bases here do. In case anyone wondered who was in occupation and control of these bases (known as ‘RAF’) please read on ...

FUND-RAISER

We shall be running a fund-raising stall at Otley Green Fair in the Court House Arts Centre on Saturday 16 April. There will be original artwork including etchings, photographs and cards (10% of sales to CAAB); and books and bric-a-brac. Please come between 10.00am to 4.00pm and bring and buy. Details of all the stalls are on www.courthouseproject.org.uk

Around the US Bases

NSA MENWITH HILL

(near Harrogate, North Yorkshire)

15 January 1990 to 15 January 2011: Hastily organised by CAAB, some of us were at Menwith Hill at midnight on 15 January 2011 to mark 20 years of war and conflict against Iraq led by the US and UK. On 15 March 2003 George W Bush and Tony Blair illegally invaded Iraq. At midnight on 15 January, on a very windy night, a small group of people turned up. We were part of a global simultaneous vigil which had been initiated by the US Catholic Workers in Washington to mark this date. Twenty years later the conflict still goes on (refer to Iraq Body Count on the CAAB website). Menwith Hill won an award in the first Gulf War for its role.

Recent Planning Application: There have been no planning applications since May 2010 until this on 17 December 2010.

Application for a non-material amendment to allow installation of 24 lights to 6.90.262.B.CROWND – Erection of replacement Building 36.

Disputed 'Yellow Line' Saga: At a meeting with CAAB and North Yorkshire Police (NYP) and the MDPA in May last year, we suggested that NYP might seek a Legal Opinion on the status of the 'yellow line'. This line was painted across the main entrance to Menwith Hill many years ago and is a disputed 'boundary'. This is the response we received from Aubrey Smith (Chief Inspector NYP) at the beginning of January:

'I have obtained an answer for you now although I am not sure it will give you any more clarity but here is our legal position. The yellow line is, according to the last Judge [this was not his position – Editor] that deliberated the issue,

a legal demarcation and therefore used by the police as a good indicator of the boundary. The police have not been criticised for using the line as a proportionate marker and will continue to do so. This means that if any protesters cross the line they will receive a proportionate response from the police. If you do not want that interaction with the police at Menwith Hill I would suggest that you do not cross that line.'

We made various comments in response and asked for a copy of the Legal Opinion. This was refused and we were told by Aubrey Smith:

'I am unable to add anything further to my previous response to you on this matter.'

We have requested various documents, including the Legal Opinion through the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Colonel Johnathan Hughes: Commander of the 421st Air Base Group, RAF Menwith Hill: The Group consists of 675 personnel, including Airmen in 23 different AFSCs, National Security Agency, US Department of State, US Department of Defense, and British Ministry of Defense civilians. The Group provides a full range of support services to 3,800 personnel and dependents. Colonel Hughes is responsible for executing a \$60M annual budget, as well as operating, maintaining, and securing a complex composed of over 370 facilities. The Group supports 10 partner units, including National Security Agency, Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine units.

Colonel Hughes was commissioned in 1988 from the United States Air Force Academy, and graduated from Electronic Warfare Officer Training at Mather AFB, California in 1989. He is a master navigator with over 3,300 flying hours,

including 22 combat missions in the B-52 and more than 180 operational reconnaissance in missions in the RC-135. (*Information from USAF biography*)

A 'MUST' DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Annual 'Independence FROM America' demonstration

Main entrance to Menwith Hill

Monday 4 July 2011 (time to be decided)

Speakers and Musicians confirmed so far:

- Peter Tatchell – *human rights campaigner*
- John Sloboda – *founder of Iraq Body Count*
- Roy Bailey – *folk singer*
- Return appearance of Linda Williams – *US cabaret singer*
- Les Vegas and the International Playboys of Rhythm
- Mr Niblo – *escapologist*
- Steve Hill – *Daftasadrum*

...more details will follow

RAF FYLINGDALES

(near Pickering, North Yorkshire)

Use of s.69 'aggravated trespass' (Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994): The Ministry of Defence Police Agency (MDPA) continue to use and abuse this law; used this law many times by the MDPA in the past where Military Land byelaws are unsafe in law. One of the coordinators of CAAB was at Fylingdales in November last year, walking peacefully on the Yorkshire moors and by the fence line (to do some research). When met by a MDPA dog handler she said she would leave by the approach road. He seemed happy with this and accompanied her along the fence line. Two patrol cars arrived. Graham Lingwood (Sergeant) got out of the car and aggressively said he was 'serving a notice' on her. She said she was

leaving and continued on along the fence line to the road out. He suddenly grabbed her and tried to force her into the van (with the help of another MDPA). She resisted non-violently; objecting strongly to what he was doing. The Sergeant left and she walked on, accompanied by an MDPA officer; and left. A complaint has been made against Graham Lingwood.

USAF ALCONBURY

(near Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire)

New Commander of US Forces in Europe: *Commander of U.S. Forces in Europe, Gen. Mark Welsh, visited 501st Combat Support Wing bases during his first visit to the United Kingdom since taking Command just over a month ago. Chief Master Sgt. David Williamson, USAFE command chief and the general toured Royal Air Force bases Alconbury, Molesworth, Croughton and Fairford as part of their orientation to the command and familiarization of the wing's diverse mission. (Extract from Tech. Sgt. Kristina Barrett 501st Combat Support Wing Public Affairs RAF Alconbury, 1/27/2011)*

Colonel Timothy S. Cashdollar – Commander 501st Combat Support Wing, U.S. Air Forces in Europe, headquartered at Royal Air Force Alconbury: He is responsible for the administrative and operational control of eleven installations and sites throughout the UK and Norway. These geographically separated units consist of more than 6,000 military and U.S. civilian personnel with diverse missions that include the operation and maintenance of a bomber forward operating location, communications access site, as well as providing support to European Command personnel who provide the analysis of intelligence data.

The 501st Combat Support Wing ensures four UK-based air base groups are resourced, sustained, trained and equipped to exacting command standards in order to provide mission support that enables US and NATO war fighters to conduct full spectrum flying operations during expeditionary deployments, theater munitions movements, global command and control communications to forward deployed locations,

support for theater intelligence operations and joint/combined training. (Information from USAF biography)

USAF CROUGHTON

(Brackley, Northamptonshire)

422nd Air Base Group: RAF Croughton is a communications base in Oxfordshire, England, and operates one of Europe's largest military switchboards and processes approximately a third of all U.S. military communications in Europe. The 422nd Air Base Group is presently responsible for the day-to-day operations of RAF Croughton, ensuring it is provided with the resources it needs to meet successful mission execution and a high quality of life for its people. The 422nd ABG is composed of four squadrons: the 422nd Air Base Squadron, 422nd Civil Engineer Squadron, 422nd Communications Squadron and 422nd Security Forces Squadron. (Information from US official website).



USAF LAKENHEATH

(near Lakenheath, Suffolk)

Known to the USAF as the Liberty Wing – 48th Fighter Wing: *'As the USAFE's only F-15 fighter wing, we bring unique air combat capabilities to the fight, such as the most advanced Joint Direct Attack Munitions employed by the F-15E. We provide all-weather, day-or-night air superiority, air-to-ground precision combat capability, and multi-staged improvement program avionics. The F-15E Strike Eagle employs Precision Guided Missiles (PGMs) using the Low Altitude Night Targeting and Infrared Navigation (LANTIRN) system and Sniper Advanced Targeting Pod technology. The F-15C Eagle employs advanced technology including the AIM-9X munitions and the Joint Helmet Mounted Cueing System providing the most advance technology, capable of eliminating enemy air threats anytime, anywhere. When teamed together, the F-15E and F-15C provide an air combat capability never*

before seen in the history of airpower.

Historically, the 48th Fighter Wing has been the foundation of USAFE's combat capability and remains so today. The Liberty Wing led the El Dorado Canyon raids into Libya in 1986 and was the first F-111 fighter unit to deploy to the Gulf during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. The Liberty Wing also anchored NATO forces during Operations Deliberate Force and Allied Force. Since September 11, 2001, the 48th Fighter Wing has played a key role in antiterrorism operations, flying combat missions and providing combat support in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. The 48th Fighter Wing continues to provide responsive combat capability for our NATO allies and the U.S. military at every turn. In addition to supporting three combat-ready squadrons of F-15E Strike Eagle and F-15C Eagle fighter aircraft, the 48th Fighter Wing houses the 56th Rescue Squadron's HH-60G Combat Search and Rescue helicopters. The 56th RQS provides worldwide rapidly deployable combat rescue and reaction force response utilizing HH-60G helicopters and pararescue specialists. They also provide long-range rescue, humanitarian assistance, non-combatant evacuation and disaster relief capability for U.S European Command and the Joint Chiefs of Staff.'

[Information from US official military website]

Did you know? Excavation of three early Anglo Saxon cemeteries at RAF Lakenheath between 1997 and 2002 uncovered a total of 394 inhumation and 17 cremation burials. [from www.suffolk.gov.uk]

USAF MILDENHALL

(near Brandon, Suffolk)

Update of further Case Management hearing on 18 January 2011 at Bury St Edmunds Magistrates' Court: Alleged offence against Lindis Percy (s. 128 Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005)

The CPS handed a letter and album of photographs (of Lincoln Road area at USAF Mildenhall) to Lindis Percy as she walked into court. The letter was from the CPS in response to

a letter written by her requesting a list of documents (ordered by the District Judge She was informed there was no more CCTV evidence. Despite being ordered by DJC at the last hearing that the CPS had to address every question and request for further CCTV evidence and a list of documents the CPS still have not produced all.

Lindis addressed District Judge Cooper (DJC) by saying she was deeply troubled by the progress of this case and in particular the apparent withholding of evidence. She said there was or is more CCTV evidence. She reminded DJC of the length of time (among other difficulties) the case has taken so far – and still no date for trial. A date which was originally set for 8 November last year, was vacated on the request of the CPS. She applied for a hearing for the case to be stayed on the grounds of abuse of process. DJC agreed to the application and said this would be a preliminary issue at trial. The CPS solicitor meanwhile informed the court that Kyler Sherman Brown (who let Lindis pass into the base with her driving license as ID) was ordered to be on 'standby' and would be flown back to the UK sometime after 24 January 2011. She also said however that two US witnesses (USAF) would not be available until August 2011 – both were out of the UK and 'deployed'. One of them would be leaving the USAF in August 2011. A date was set for trial on 5/6 April 2011 at 10 am at Bury St Edmunds Magistrates' Court.

Skeletons Discovered in Washington Square:

The remains of four bodies have recently been uncovered in Washington Square here, as the area is prepared for construction and landscaping. But far from being the gruesome discovery of a horrific murder or other grisly circumstances, these skeletal remains have been there for some time.

In fact, three of the four are thought to be from the late Iron Age, and the fourth could be Roman, according to Rob Brooks, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service excavation supervisor. "We think this area was probably a farmstead – possibly with an extended family living here" he said.

Over the years, many archaeological artifacts have been discovered both here and at RAF Lakenheath, and the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service has been working with both bases for a very long time. Archaeologists are uncertain about how British society was organized in this area under the Romans, but there is good evidence that there were huge farming estates where cattle and sheep were raised alongside the growing of cereals, according to Andrew Tester, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service senior project officer, in an e-mail.

Mr. Tester added that the land was probably owned by a small minority of wealthy individuals. The people on these estates were probably the direct descendants [ancestors] of many of the people living in Mildenhall and Lakenheath today. (Extracts with US spelling from article - Karen Abeyasekere 100th Air Refuelling Wing Public Affairs 11 September 2010]

Joint Analysis Center MOLESWORTH (near Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire)

The United States European Command Joint Intelligence Operations Center - Europe Analytic Center (JAC) at Royal Air Force Molesworth, United Kingdom is the primary European theater intelligence organization responsible for maintaining situational awareness for 51 countries spanning three land masses. Primary support is to U.S. warfighters, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and coalition partners. Support is provided by all-source, fused, timely and predictive intelligence. The JAC's team of joint military service personnel, Department of Defense civilians, and civilian contractors is augmented by joint service reservists in five locations in the United States to provide 24 hour, seven days a week, 365 days a year support. The Motto is Semper Vigilans – Always Vigilant. The United States Africa Command's Intelligence and Knowledge Development Directorate-Molesworth at Royal Air Force Molesworth, United Kingdom in concert with Intelligence and Knowledge Development Directorate and U.S. Africa Command, both located in Stuttgart, Germany, along with other U.S. Government

agencies and international partners provide primary African theater intelligence for knowledge development and situational awareness for the world's second largest continent and its 53 countries to ensure sustained security engagement activities to promote a stable and secure environment in support of U.S. foreign policy. [Information from official US military website]

USAF WELFORD

(near Newbury, Berkshire)

'RAF' Welford is occupied by the United States Air Force. It is one of the largest ammunition compounds for the USAF in Western Europe for heavy munitions. Welford is now under the command of the 420th Munitions Squadron which in turn comes under the command of the 501st Combat Support Wing, with headquarters at USAF Alconbury. The Ministry of Defence Police Agency have been withdrawn (*Information from various US sources*) – refer to PQs and answers.

BRIEF SELECTION OF PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

MILITARY BASES

Q: Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make an assessment of the effects on the local economy of the US base at RAF Menwith Hill; and if he will make a statement.

A: Nick Harvey: The most recent assessment of the local economic impact of RAF Menwith Hill estimated that the Base contributes in the order of £130 million per year to the local economy. (15 Nov 2010: Column 563W)

Q: Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department owns the buildings and other infrastructure on the American base at RAF Menwith Hill.

A: Nick Harvey: All buildings, fixed assets and

site and infrastructure at RAF Menwith Hill are owned by the Ministry of Defence. (4 Nov 2010 : Column 957W)

[We have pursued this answer by requesting clarification under the US Freedom of Information Act. We believe that all buildings and other infrastructure on US bases are owned by the US authorities].

RAF WELFORD

Q: Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what powers the unarmed guards assigned to duties at the US base at RAF Welford have.

A: Mr Robathan: All Ministry of Defence (MOD) Guard Service personnel have the power to make a citizen's arrest. In addition to this, MOD Guard Service at RAF Welford also have a power of arrest as a crown servant under the RAF Welford bye-laws. These are authorised by the appropriate authority, who in this case is the RAF Station Commander at Welford. (7 Dec 2010)

Q: Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to the public purse is of the security enhancement to the US base at RAF Welford; and from which budget the expenditure was drawn.

A: Mr Robathan: RAF Welford is made available to the United States Visiting Force (USVF) under the NATO Status of Forces Agreement of 1951. The cost of the physical security enhancements made at the base was therefore met by the United States Air Force at no cost to the public purse. (7 Dec 2010)

BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE

Q: Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether RAF Feltwell (a) forms part of and (b) provides support services to the US Missile Defense system.

A: Nick Harvey: RAF Feltwell does not form part of, or provide support services to the US Missile Defense system. (3 Nov 2010: Column 856W)

OPERATION PHOENIX

Q: Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make an assessment of the purposes of Operation Phoenix activities at the US base at RAF Menwith Hill.

A: Nick Harvey: Project Phoenix is the name given to the demolition and replacement of one of the original operations buildings at RAF Menwith Hill. Construction works are estimated to be completed by June 2011. (15 Nov 2010: Column 564W)

CLUSTER BOMBS [related US bombs on UK territory]

Q: Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will urge the US Administration to remove stores of cluster bombs on US bases in the UK; and if he will make a statement.

A: Nick Harvey: The US Administration has removed its stores of cluster munitions from its bases in the UK. There are no US or any other foreign cluster munitions stockpiles in the UK. (16 Nov 2010 : Column 736W)

Q: Lord Chidsey: To ask Her Majesty's Government on what date cluster bombs were removed from the United Kingdom.

A: Lord Astor of Hever: All UK cluster munitions were withdrawn from service in May 2008. To date 48 per cent of the UK's stocks have been destroyed. As the UK has no specialist cluster munitions destruction facilities of its own, destruction has had to be contracted overseas. As a result, UK cluster munitions continue to be removed from the UK as they are called forward as part of the ongoing destruction process. It is our intention to have completed the destruction of all UK cluster munitions by the end of 2013.

As was announced to Parliament during the passage of the Cluster Munitions (Prohibitions) Act 2010, the US agreed to remove all of their stockpiles from UK territory by 2013. Since then the UK was able to announce to the First Meeting of States Parties to the Cluster Munitions Convention in November 2010 that, in fact, the US has now withdrawn all stockpiles from UK territory ahead of schedule. (HL Deb 21 December 2010, c277W)

Q: Lord Chidsey: To ask Her Majesty's Government where cluster bombs removed from the United Kingdom have been relocated.

A: Lord Astor of Hever: All UK cluster munitions are in a destruction programme and have been removed from service. As part of this destruction programme UK cluster bombs are only removed from the UK for destruction. As part of the destruction process, UK cluster munitions are securely stored at specialist facilities in Germany, while awaiting collection by the disposal contractor. Under current plans, it is our intention to have destroyed all UK cluster munitions by the end of 2013. [single spacing please – I can't make it!]

We cannot comment on where US cluster munitions have been relocated. That is a matter for the USA. (HL Deb, 21 December 2010, c277W)

Q: Lord Chidsey: To ask Her Majesty's Government where cluster bomb stocks owned by the United Kingdom are stored and maintained.

A: Lord Astor of Hever: Approximately 48 per cent of UK cluster munitions have now been destroyed. The remainder are stored safely either in the UK or in Germany, pending disposal. The majority of the remaining stocks are stored by Joint Support Chain Services (JSCS) (formerly the Defence Storage and Distribution Agency) at their explosives storage facilities at Kineton (Warwickshire), Longtown (Cumbria), Eastriggs (Dumfries and Galloway) and Wulfen (Germany). Some stocks of UK M26 rockets are also stored at the **US** ammunition base at Miseau (Germany), due to JSCS's temporary storage capacity limitations and by one of our disposal contractors, NAMMO Buck, in Germany. All stocks are maintained for the purpose of ensuring their safe storage and, where appropriate, transportation. It is our intention to have completed the destruction of all UK cluster munitions by the end of 2013. (HL Deb, 21 December 2010 c278W)

Q: Lord Chidsey: To ask Her Majesty's Government what arrangements have been made with United States officials for the stockpiling and maintenance of cluster bombs;

when those arrangements were agreed; and when they were last reviewed.

A: Lord Astor of Hever: Section 8 of the Cluster Munitions (Prohibitions) Act 2010 sets out that the Secretary of State is able to grant authorisation for visiting forces of states not party to the Convention on Cluster Munitions to possess cluster munitions on, or transfer them through, UK territory.

The US were made aware of this provision within the Bill, not least as it was required to enable the removal of their cluster munitions stockpiles. Authorisation was subsequently granted to the US to allow them to remove their cluster munitions in accordance with the legislation. This removal has now been completed and there are no foreign stockpiles of cluster munitions on UK territory.

No arrangements have been made with United States officials for future stockpiling and maintenance of cluster bombs. (HL Deb, 21 December 2010, c278W) [*Information Act request*]

The American authorities at Menwith Hill have produced a book to celebrate 50 years of operations (of occupation and control).

We have a copy - if anyone would like one we suggest you contact Menwith Hill – 01423 770421 and ask for Angela Marquand (PA)

Activity and talks by CAAB since the last Newsletter:

- **One to One interview - Radio Leeds**
- **Interviews with Radio Leeds and York**
- **Article in Yorkshire Evening Post**

MONEY MATTERS!

Each time the CAAB Account Bank Statement arrives I give a silent 'Thank you' to the generous supporters who send regular donations. This money enables the campaign to continue and is especially appreciated in these difficult times.

New Standing Orders can be arranged with the Co-operative Bank Plc: PO Box 250, Skelmersdale WN8 6WT or on-line at www.cooperativebank.co.uk/business sort code 089229.

Thank you
Christine Dean, Hon Treasurer.

Meeting for Worship:

Continue outside various US bases: Contact CAAB for details.

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