



Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases

No. 45 May 2011

Raising public awareness, scrutiny and accountability of American bases and their Agencies in the UK and world wide

Local, National and International News

Dear friends

When Barack Obama announced to the world that Osama bin Laden had been killed he said that the world was now a safer place. Al-Qaida responded by saying that they would seek revenge. Why should we be surprised? This article by Elizabeth Young (see below) takes the place of the Editorial this time.

Asymmetric Warfare and our Ally – the Twenty-first Century

What has been happening in the last few weeks – even days – with the United States' global military activity is instructive and remarkable.

The (still) most powerful military State in the world has publicly, and explicitly, been acting like the terrorists it claims to be at war with: two sets of “targeted killings” – in other words, assassinations – last week, first in Libya against Qhadaffi's family, and now in Pakistan, with Osama bin Laden killed off by a team of US Commandos.

Murder is not what the West has been preaching...but is this what “asymmetric warfare” now will be? Clearly the application of traditional means of warfare (tanks, bombers, submarines, etc., etc.), or weapons of mass destruction, or purported defensive items like Missile Defences can no longer be relevant: the means that remain are “targeted killings” and Cyber War – the former clearly useable by the CIA, either in person or with its distantly targeted unmanned drones; the latter still obscure and confusing.

President Obama spoke of “justice” being done, where most of us saw “assassination”, or perhaps simply “murder, conducted by a branch of the American Armed Forces. What we needed was court proceedings, and a conviction – not an unidentified body thrown into the sea.

The implication has to be that this is now US doctrine: the US military may be used to eliminate individuals deemed guilty by the American public, rather than by a court of law. We shall now see, shall we not, a spate of such murders after bin Laden's computers have identified colleagues and assistants of his. This is Israeli doctrine too. Mossad – or others have long been taking out notable Palestinian activists, or an Iranian scientist or two if they are deemed central to Iran's nuclear activities.

The effective fusing of the CIA – “licensed to kill”, even in “peacetime” – and the Pentagon – only licensed to kill declared and Geneva-Convention defined enemies – promises a revolution in our conceptions of the “legitimate” use of force.

Continued overleaf

What conclusions do we draw? What conclusions does NATO draw? Is there British complicity? Do activities at US bases in the UK participate in identifying individuals, or groups of individuals, who might be “deemed” candidates for US assassination?

After President Obama’s use of the word “justice” there are questions for our MPs to ask, including questions about the American bases in the UK – and indeed in NATO countries. (What will the US Missile Defence base in Romania be up to?)

And indeed new questions about our relationships with the CIA have to be answered – does Dr Fox actually have in his office – did he ever have – a “former” member of the CIA?

[Elizabeth Lady Kennet – widow of Wayland Kennet. Elizabeth also writes poetry and has written extensively about the US empire and hegemony – also see Mrs Elizabeth Young’s blog. Google her name to find out about Elizabeth and Wayland Young’s work on these issues over many years or ask a friend to print off information and also please raise the questions posed with your MP].

Around the US Bases

NSA MENWITH HILL

(near Harrogate, North Yorkshire)

An application for the erection of another satellite dish and radome was submitted to Harrogate Planning Department in early December last year. If approved it would be the 33rd radome to be built at Menwith Hill. The application was made by the US Visiting Forces (the ‘client’ of the Defence Estates). We asked as many people as possible to send in ‘objections’. It is thought that this radome will be connected to the US Missile Defense system. The application was approved in March 2011. We will be monitoring the area when the building starts.

Weekly Tuesday Evening (6.00-8.00pm)

Demonstrations: The Ministry of Defence Police Agency (Divisional Support Group from York) who ‘police’ the demonstration have at last stopped arresting (usually for very petty minor offences). Over the years there have been many arrests but not now. As we have in law the right to peaceful protest we have persistently insisted and have resisted all attempts to put us off. It has been a struggle to reclaim our civil liberties.

Series Of Short Videos On CAAB Website: We have been making short videos about the work of CAAB. In Part 1 Dr Martin Schweiger explains why he comes straight from work in Bradford each week to be at the Tuesday evening demonstration. Part 2 is about Menwith Hill –

Part 3 will be on US bases here and worldwide. The videos can be found on the front page of the CAAB website. We are very grateful to Mark Foster of Black Rock Productions for producing these videos.

Freedom of Information Act Request: We have always been concerned about the ability (or not) of Harrogate District Foundation Hospital NHS Trust to cope should there ever be an ‘attack’ on Menwith Hill using chemical, biological and/or radiation materials and what the emergency response might be. After a long time of requesting the information we finally received a copy of the Major Incident Plan 2010. It makes disturbing reading as it is clear that the hospital could not cope [why be surprised?]. If radiation material was involved casualties would have to go to Leeds General Hospital. It is a report with the authors’ heads firmly in the sand! Thank you to John Fox (Lib Dem councillor Starbeck ward in Harrogate) for getting this report for CAAB. Should anyone like to see the report please contact us.

Otley Green Fair (Otley is about 9 miles from Menwith Hill): Many thanks to three of my grandchildren, Jude, Malachi and Eliza who helped on the stall and handed out CAAB leaflets and newsletter. Thanks also to my daughters, Sarah, Gabrielle, Emily and Bella who provided lovely art works for sale. Although we raised only £20, the Fair provided a good opportunity for spreading the word about the campaign. Please

support us next year and see what you were missing! [Christine Dean – Hon Treasurer of CAAB).

COMING UP!

Annual demonstration –
'Independence FROM America'

Monday 4 July 2011 (3.00-8.00pm)

'BLOW THE WHISTLE' on the American base at Menwith Hill near Harrogate North Yorkshire HG3 2RF (bring or buy whistles) – gather outside the main entrance

Speakers:

Peter Tatchell – human rights campaigner

John Sloboda – founder of Iraq Body Count

Yvonne Ridley – journalist and convert to Islam

Musicians:

Roy Bailey – folk singer

Les Vegas and the International Playboys of Rhythm (band)

East Lancs CND choir

Steve Hill (Daftasadrum)

PLUS:

Mr Niblo (escapologist!)

Reading of the Declaration of 'Independence FROM America'

Walk round the base – with information at various points

Food and much more....

See www.caab.org.uk – for more details nearer the time

CAAB Supports Bradley Manning: Private Bradley Manning (USAF) has now been charged for allegedly revealing top secret information to WikiLeaks (which we should know about – including another shocking video of how Afghanistan citizens were treated by the US military). He was being held in solitary confinement and subjected to inhumane and degrading treatment. However an effective campaign in the US and here was influential in getting him moved to military prison at Fort Leavenworth in Kansas - improving his conditions and treatment. More information about Bradley Manning and WikiLeaks can be found on the CAAB website.

RAF FYLINGDALES

(near Pickering, North Yorkshire)

A Right Royal Visit: Princess Anne made a secret visit to Fylingdales on 9 March 2011 arriving by helicopter at 9.30 am. She was there to open the new officers mess building. The building work started in May 2009 and was completed in September 2010 at a cost £12.5M [no problem about finding this massive amount of money!].

Visit to Fylingdales: Some of us visited Fylingdales on 17 May 2011 for a limited tour round the Phased Radar building. Over the years the staff have become much more open about the public visiting the base. To apply contact: Martin Johnson (Wing Commander) RAF Fylingdales, Pickering North Yorkshire YO18 7NT Tel no: 01751 467238 Fax: 01751 467232

USAF LAKENHEATH

(near Lakenheath, Suffolk)

Car Suspected Of Having Bomb Stopped At Lakenheath Gate: A van suspected of containing explosives was stopped early Monday at RAF Lakenheath in England, prompting a cordoning off of the base and closure of local roads. But about 1.30 pm a British army bomb disposal team determined there were no explosives within the van, according to Suffolk police spokesman Nishan Wijeratne. The van's occupants were initially held by Air Force officials for questioning but were released when the van was cleared, he

said. The incident occurred when the van was checked at a Lakenheath gate at about 1.00am, Wijeratne said. The check was part of a random vehicle search a base spokesman, Tech. Sgt. Christopher Stagner said. Stagner would not say what prompted the suspicions. [Geoff Ziezulewicz Stars and Stripes 4 April, 2011]

USAF FELTWELL

(near Brandon, Suffolk)

US Version Of British Culture – ‘UK DAY’ at Feltwell: *Roaming the halls of Lakenheath Middle School, one might have seen a Roman soldier, medieval executioner, court jester and other characters mingling with the students and teachers on May 6, 2011. The reason being; U.K.Day. “U.K. Day is for the [students] to experience British culture and history and to get them involved with the local community” said Fiona Guyer, LMS host nation teacher. “The day is years of British history and culture compiled into one day filled with events and activities that are both fun and educational. [The students] could spend months traveling Britain, and here they get to see (the history and culture) in one day” said Shannon Wheeler,*

Parent Teacher Organization President. The LMS students learned traditional English country dances alongside students from Edmund De Moundford Primary School as well as played cricket, churned butter, received entertainment from a jester, learned of medieval forms of punishment for crimes and many other activities that had the students smiling. “My favorite part was making the scones, because I had never ate them before, and I enjoyed it a lot,” said Jonathan Doss, LMS 7th grader. Nearly 60 performers participated in teaching the LMS students about the United Kingdom. “It’s good to show the students aspects of British history that do not appear in the curriculum and bring it to life,” said John S. White, performance historian, consultant and technical advisor, who portrayed a medieval executioner. According to the staff, U.K. Day was a successful and entertaining event for all involved. “This is our fourth year doing this, and it gets bigger every year,” said Ms. Guyer. [Senior Airman Tiffany M.Deuel 48th Fighter Wing Public Affairs]

USAF MILDENHALL

(near Brandon, Suffolk)

Chamber of Commerce visits RAF Mildenhall:

Col. Chad Manske, 100th Air Refueling Wing commander, briefs visiting members of the Newmarket Chamber of Commerce during a breakfast meeting at the Galaxy Club May 12, 2011. Colonel Manske explained the history, facts and mission impact of Team Mildenhall while also addressing the roles and responsibilities that Airmen play in the local community. The purpose of the visit was to strengthen partnerships, relations, business and social links between the local community and the U.S. Military. (Official website of RAF (USAF) Mildenhall)

Finally Concluded and Acquitted: R v Lindis Percy: Trial for alleged offence: section 128 Serious Organised Crime and Police Act (SOCPA) 2005 (Decisions to prosecute are made by the Attorney General)

On 30 October 2009 at about 12.45 pm Lindis walked into USAF Mildenhall via Gate 1, showed her driving license to US security (Kyler Sherman Brown) at the guard gate. He took it, examined it front and back and said: “OK Ma’am – there you go – have a nice day”. She was on the base unchallenged for about an hour and was making her way out when she was recognised by Richard Fryer (RAF Liaison Officer at Mildenhall) who alerted Robert Curtis (Ministry of Defence Police Agency Officer). She was arrested and taken to Bury St Edmunds Police station and eventually released on conditional bail.

Just before the 6 months were up the Attorney General – at the time Baroness Scotland – made the decision to bring this prosecution. There have been many Case Management hearings and difficulties because of Orders being ignored by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), delays in disclosures and letters not being responded to by the CPS, the US authorities taking a long time to release the CCTV footage and witnesses being flown back to the US – so delaying the trial. The trial was originally fixed for 8 November 2010. However the date had to be vacated as Kyler Sherman Brown had been flown back to the US. He was not available until the end of January 2011. Two other witnesses had also

been flown back to the US and would not be available until August 2011 (apparently serving in Afghanistan).

The case was fixed for two days and eventually heard on 5 April 2011. David Cooper (District Judge) agreed at the previous hearing to hear, as a preliminary issue, an application by Lindis for the case to be stayed (abuse of process). On the day however the DJ said that he would go straight into the trial as there would probably be questions needing to be asked of the witnesses by Lindis.

Lindis's defence was that she was on a public footpath and had been given permission by Kyler Sherman Brown to go onto the base – therefore she could not be committing an offence under SOCPA. The road into the base was not covered by SOCPA. However one of the difficulties facing Lindis was that in his statement Kyler Sherman Brown denied ever seeing Lindis and certainly did not authorise her entry. The CCTV footage of the incident only showed Lindis putting a foot through the gate. There was no apparent footage of the guard gate area (which was surprising given that this was a gate entry). There was further footage of Lindis seen walking on the base however.

The CPS called five witnesses. Robert Curtis (MDPA) was the first witness followed by Richard Fryer (RAF Liaison Officer). Kyler Sherman Brown had apparently that day been flown in from Nevada (where he is now posted). Under cross examination by Lindis he denied all knowledge of ever seeing her or giving her permission to enter the base. When asked what would happen if by a mistake he let someone in – he said he would be disciplined. Lindis reminded him that he was under oath and that he had in fact done just that. He denied all questions put to him by Lindis about the truth of what actually happened. At the end of the cross examination she said: "It seems to me that you are either incompetent or not telling the truth – which is it?" He said he was neither incompetent nor complacent.

There were two other US witnesses, one being Mika Byrd who 'archived' the CCTV footage. She said that the camera at the gate did monitor the guard gate and 'quite a long way up the road'. She said she had produced all the CCTV

footage. After being cross examined there were still concerns as to where the rest of the footage was – covering the gate area and beyond. This was crucial to Lindis's defence as it would show that Kyler Sherman Brown did let her through.

Cross examined by Lindis, Tavarus Melton (US Security Flight Chief and 'tasked' to interview Kyler Sherman Brown) said that 'someone monitoring the camera thought an intruder had been let in'. He said it was a significant incident (in the scale of 1-10 – rated 10). He said when questioned further that Kyler Sherman Brown had been disciplined for not giving 'giving enough attention to detail' because 'you had entered the base'. Kyler Sherman Brown had said that he did not see her go through the gate as he was busy with another person. This was not true.

Lindis then gave evidence and told it as it had happened. Ms Booth (Barrister CPS) attempted to get her to agree that her intention was to test the security and that she had 'sneaked' in under the 'cover of a lorry'. Lindis said that she entered the base to continue her research. She said that she had entered the base on the footpath – she had been asked for ID by Kyler Sherman Brown, she showed it to him, he carefully examined it and gave her permission to continue into the base.

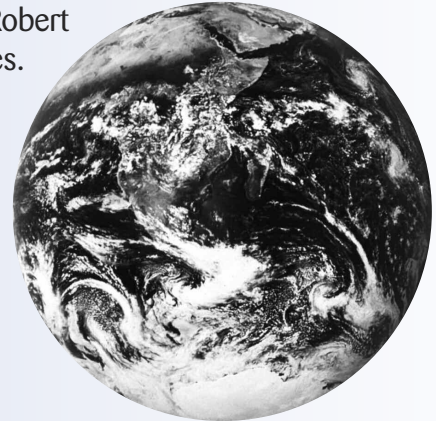
At the end of her evidence Lindis made an application for 'no case to answer'. The DJ said he had 'got what the issue is now' and went straight on to read out his decision. He said that Kyler Sherman Brown was a 'good man – an honorable man who served his country'. He said however that 'like any human being he 'reran the incident to make it look rather different'. He knew he would be in 'hot water' and 'being human may have blotted out this incident'. His statement was made a month later. The DJ said 'anyone listening to Ms Percy would believe her'. He said she was not a trespasser – she was permitted to go in'. The CPS had not proved their case. He dismissed the charge and awarded costs to Lindis.

[Thank you to everyone who gave advice, support and came to the trial – we have asked a PQ as to the cost to the public purse of this failed prosecution].

WHAT ARE THE US MILITARY UP TO ROUND THE WORLD?

Drones Aren't the Problem. The Stalemate is the Problem: Robert Gates announced that in Libya, the US is sending in the drones.
[Adam Server Washington Post blog 22 April 2011]

United States Ballistic Missile Defense Site at Deveselu Air Base in Romania: The United States and Romania jointly selected the Deveselu Air Base near Caracal, Romania, to host a U.S. Ballistic Missile Defense System.
[Bureau of Arms Control, Verification and Compliance – 3 May 2011]



U.S. Military Launches New Missile Warning Satellite (Space Based Infra-Red System) into Space: On Friday, May 7, the first Space Based Infrared System (SBIRS) geosynchronous satellite was successfully launched into orbit from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, FL. Bad weather delayed the launch. *[Doug Mohney, Contributing Editor Satellite Spotlight]*
[There is an excellent video on CAAB website which explains this].

In the opinion of Anne Lee and Duncan Campbell the GRAPNEL radomes and CASTLEMAINE building at Menwith Hill are possibly downlinks Two SBIRS radomes were constructed at Menwith Hill in 1999. /relays for the STSS or SBIRS Low system. SBIRS High is the upgraded Defense Support Programme which has 3 satellites in geostationary orbit. The European one downlinks to Kapuan in Germany. It is possible that this recent launch is to replace the one downlinking to Buckley AFB in the US.
[thank you to Dave Webb Yorkshire CND for this].

US to Set-Up Permanent Air Base In Poland: The detachment that will permanently service the F-16 and Hercules crews and land personnel periodically visiting Poland would begin in 2013. Meanwhile, Russia warned Poland against hosting US fighter jets, saying it would counter the move.
[Extracts from Press TV 9 May 2011]

THINK YOU ARE ON THEIR LIST?

Rob Evans (Guardian reporter) told us that the Guardian has just published this on how to get your file from the “domestic extremist” database. They are interested in what people get back from their own files–

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2011/apr/11/domestic-extremist-police-databases>

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2011/may/03/protester-sue-police-secret-surveillance?intcmp=239>

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2011/apr/11/protesters-found-themselves-police-databases?intcmp=239>

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

BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENCE: COSTS

Q: Fabian Hamilton (Leeds North East Labour):

To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost to the UK of the NATO share of the contribution to the US missile defence system. [42436]

A: Mr Gerald Howarth: In November 2010 Alliance members agreed that they would develop a NATO Ballistic Missile Defence capability, of which the US missile defence system will form an important part. The cost of developing the NATO system is estimated to be between €864-928 million over 10 years. The UK currently contributes 11.5% to the NATO Security Investment Programme, from which this capability is funded. [2 Mar 2011: Column 455W]

USA: MILITARY BASES

Q: Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence who is responsible for bearing the cost of each development on a US base in the UK

A: Andrew Robathan (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Defence Personnel, Welfare and Veterans), Defence; South Leicestershire, Conservative)

The US forces use land and building in the UK in accordance with the terms of the North Atlantic Treaty – Agreement regarding the Status of Forces of Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty (UK ratification 13 May 1945) and the Cost Sharing Arrangement (CSA) (1973). The US authorities are responsible for bearing the cost of any development, unless that development is a requirement of UK legislation or Ministry of Defence policy and there is no equivalent United

States legal or policy requirement, in which case the costs fall to the Department. [28 February 2011 Column 84W] – *more questions being asked – Ed.*

Q: Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 4 February on USA; military bases, what the location is of each area on United States Visiting Forces bases which is held on a leasehold basis.

A: Andrew Robathan: The following table details the areas at the United States Visiting Force bases which are held on a leasehold basis:

AREA		TOTAL HECTARES
RAF Croughton	Pumping Station	0.01
	(3 separate areas)	0.01
		0.059
RAF Fairford	Landing Lights	0.041
RAF Lakenheath	Vehicle Holding Area	1.28
	Leased Area of Lords Walk	0.908
RAF Mildenhall	Waterworks Access	0.074

[7 March 2011 Column 812W]

Q: Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date his Department reached agreement with the US administration on freehold arrangements affecting (a) buildings, (b) fixed assets and infrastructure and (c) the site at Menwith Hill.

A: Andrew Robathan: Arrangements covering the freehold of buildings, fixed assets and infrastructure at all United States Visiting Force (USVF) sites, including RAF Menwith Hill, are covered in the UK/US Cost Sharing Arrangement (CSA) dates 1973. This document updated the initial CSA from 1953. The Ministry of Defence has made the site at RAF Menwith Hill available to the USVF since 1960.



IN SEARCH OF AN ALLOTMENT?

Garden plots are available at USAF Feltwell



“Grow your own crops in the Fenland soils for only \$20 per year. Annual fee includes plot and water access”.

Call 226-2146 for more information

(Official website of RAF [USAF] Lakenheath)

FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT'S PORTLAND SPEECH

21 September 1932

(<http://newdeal.feri.org/speeches/1932a.htm>)

“As I see it, the object of Government is the welfare of the people. The liberty of people to carry on their business should not be abridged unless the larger interests of the many are concerned. When the interests of the many are concerned, the interests of the few must yield. It is the purpose of the Government to see not only that the legitimate interests of the few are protected but that the welfare and rights of the many are conserved. These are the principles which we must remember in any consideration of this question. This, I take it, is sound Government – not politics. Those are the essential basic conditions under which Government can be of service.”

Interviews, Articles and Talks by CAAB since the last Newsletter:

- *Risk and the Criminal Justice System* – Leeds Quaker Criminal Justice Group
- Stall at Otley Green Fair
- BBC TV – The One Show
- Tiger Aspect Productions
- Various interviews with Stray FM and Radio Leeds
- Article in *Private Eye*

Meeting for Worship:

- **4 June 2011** 2.00pm at Menwith Hill
- **2 July 2011** 12.00 noon at Fylingdales

Contact CAAB for information about other US bases

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