



# Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases

No. 51 June 2013

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

**Brief look at local, national and international news:**

## Dear friends

In 2007 he said: “As President, I will close Guantanamo, reject the Military Commissions Act and adhere to the Geneva Conventions. Our Constitution and our Uniform Code of Military Justice provide a framework for dealing with the terrorists”. Guantanamo US detention centre remains open.



*London Guantanamo Campaign*

The Pentagon is asking Congress (May 2013) for more than \$450 million for maintaining and upgrading Guantanamo. To date there are 166 detainees, 86 have been cleared for release and over 100 have been on hunger strike since 6 February 2013 with some men being forced fed. The situation is dire. However the hunger strike seems to have rattled some cages including Barack Obama's who made an important speech on 23 May 2013 specifically talking about Guantanamo and the 'legality' of US unmanned aerial vehicles (Drones). Barack Obama talked weasle words; many 'ifs' and 'buts'. As Commander-in-Chief he could close Guantanamo now. The other issue he spoke about – Drones – Drone strikes have grown eightfold under Obama. He vowed in his Nobel prize acceptance speech that the US must remain 'a standard bearer

in the conduct of war'. The Commander in Chief will never match the expectations that he, as president, aroused in his speeches. The Guardian Leader (24 May 2013) thought that he would restrict drones but targeted killings are here to stay. Every Tuesday Barack Obama sits in the White House with his Security staff selecting names on a 'kill list'. There is a growing campaign emerging here and in the US to close Guantanamo and stop deadly, immoral and illegal drone targeted strikes.

### HOW DID THE US GET A NAVAL BASE IN CUBA?

By Chris Suellentrop

The United States seized Guantanamo Bay and established a naval base there in 1898 during the Spanish-American War. Five years later, the U.S. and Cuba signed a lease giving Guantanamo Bay to the U.S. as a “coaling and Naval station.” The lease was required to implement the congressional Platt Amendment which stipulated, among other things, that a naval base “at certain specified points to be agreed upon by the President of the United States” was required “to enable the United States to maintain the independence of Cuba.”

In 1934, Cuba and the U.S. signed a treaty that gave the U.S. a perpetual lease to the area. The U.S. can't open a casino resort there, however: Private enterprise is banned under the terms of the treaty. The lease can be broken only by mutual agreement, so as a practical matter, Guantanamo Bay is U.S. property. *[The U.S. Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay is the oldest U.S. base overseas and the only one in a Communist country].*

**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](http://www.caab.org.uk). We are always pleased to receive constructive comments or suggestions.**

## AROUND A FEW OF THE US BASES (UK)

### NSA/USAF MENWITH HILL near Harrogate, North Yorkshire

**Demonstrations:** We have responded to calls for action from groups in the US and here since the last newsletter. On 27 April 2013 we hastily organised a demonstration to make the link between the role of NSA Menwith Hill, USAF Croughton and yet unidentified US bases in the UK and the use of US military Drones. We thought that it was important to arrange this given that NSA Menwith Hill already has a link with US military Drones (see Drone section on CAAB website and Drone Wars website: [dronewarsuk.wordpress.com](http://dronewarsuk.wordpress.com)).



The demonstration was in tandem with the protest at RAF Waddington in Lincolnshire – “Ground the Drones” from where UK Drones are now to be operated (confirmed by the MOD on 25 April 2013).

**Call For International, National, Local Action Re Situation In Guantanamo:** Lindis Percy completed a 24 hour fast in solidarity with those in the Guantanamo detention centre on 18 May 2013. She wore the iconic orange suit and black



hood. One American woman who drove into the base and was stopped by the Ministry of Defence Police while Lindis stood in front holding a placard saying “I have been released, release me Obama, Close Guantanamo now” was clearly unhappy about being stopped. The MDP officer explained to her about the right to protest in this country and that Lindis would soon move to one side. Before the woman drove in she said, “Well I don’t like what she’s wearing”! Throughout the day people came to join the demonstration.

**Arrival of New RAF Liaison Officer:** Greg Dickson (Squadron Leader) has now been in post since 15 April 2013 when Paddy Currie handed over to him. CAAB welcomes the continued good relations Paddy established. Please note: On Greg Dickson’s ID round his neck (issued by the American authorities) he is referred to as a ‘member of a foreign force’!

**Arrest Under Section 128 Serious Organized Crime and Police Act (SOCPA) 2005:** ‘No further action’ is to be taken against Lindis Percy after she went to NSA Menwith Hill in the afternoon of 21 January 2013. This was the day Barack Obama was publicly ‘sworn’ for his second term as President in Washington. She had an upside down US flag with the words ‘NOW THEN.... SECOND AND ONLY CHANCE OBAMA’. She was arrested inside the base under section 128 Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 by James Sheehan (PC Ministry of Defence Police). She was not charged as the decision to charge under this odious section is up to the Attorney General. Dominic Green had 6 months to decide whether to bring a prosecution or not. Bail conditions were imposed but varied after an application to Harrogate Magistrates’ Court was made.

*[Question? Does this mean that anyone can walk into Menwith Hill and no further action will be taken as “a prosecution is not needed in the public interest”?].*

**Developments:** Planning Applications and outcomes for NSA Menwith Hill and RAF Fylingdales are listed on the CAAB website. There have been no significant applications for some time.



### This letter was handed in to Christopher Gilmore US Commander at NSA Menwith Hill:

To Colonel Christopher Gilmore US Commander NSA Menwith Hill

CAAB wishes to make plain its abhorrence to the use of drones for military purposes.

There are demonstrations taking place today in different parts of England and in the US to express serious concern over the use of unmanned aerial vehicles for military purposes; commonly called drones.

We are concerned because:

- 1) When used for surveillance they spread fear and anxiety in the general population who associate their appearance with impending missile strikes or bombing. This fear and anxiety damages the lives of countless men, women and children. You will be well aware that from populations who live in chronic fear, the perception grows that we have nothing to lose and new recruits to violence are created.
- 2) When armed drones are used for carrying out strikes, the act of taking human life becomes little more than a game, played out on a key board and a screen. The very act of extra-judicial execution is held by international law to be a crime. The “co-lateral damage” that accompanies these strikes diminishes what ever credible reason there was for undertaking them in the first place.
- 3) The use of drones has even less accountability than most other military actions.

We are not privileged to know the exact nature of the link between the activities undertaken at NSA Menwith Hill and the USA’s drone programme but we think it likely that intelligence gathered at Menwith Hill is used in designating targets.

CAAB would be pleased to learn more of your own opinion of the drone programme and the role played by Menwith Hill. Should you wish to contact us we are usually by your main gates on a Tuesday evening or by all means make contact on e-mail at: [mail@caab.org.uk](mailto:mail@caab.org.uk)

Yours sincerely

Martin Schweiger and Lindis Percy (on behalf of CAAB)  
cc Squadron Leader Geoff Dickson (RAF Liaison officer)

**Stepping Down:** Laila Packer has been jointly coordinating CAAB for several years. It has often been very difficult for her because of periods of serious health problems. She has finally decided that she must step down. Thank you so much Laila for all the work you have done for CAAB. Your humour, ideas and much more will be sorely missed!

We are sure there is someone out there who is just waiting to take up the vacant post! SO PLEASE LET US KNOW WHO YOU ARE!

**Question:** Why does the UK Air Force flag at NSA Menwith Hill come down before the American flag at 6.00pm each evening and taken down by US Visiting Forces when the base, they say, is an RAF base? Answers on a postcard please *[we suggest this question is also sent to your local MP].*



## "Independence FROM America"

The annual demonstration will be held at the main entrance to NSA Menwith Hill (near Harrogate, N. Yorkshire)



### Who's coming?

#### Salma Yaqoob

Psychotherapist,  
Chair of Birmingham Stop the War Coalition, spokesperson for Birmingham Central Mosque

#### Andy Worthington -

journalist and author "The Guantanamo Files"

#### Martin Wainwright -

recently retired Northern Editor, Guardian

#### Mirzan - the Poet

#### Daftasadrum Peace Artistes

#### East Lancs Clarion Choir

Arrival of Quaker walkers celebrating 100 yrs of Northern Friends Peace Board

Thursday  
4 July 2013  
(5pm until 9 ish)

plus FOOD from 1 In 12 Cafe

and much more



Organised by Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases [More details on CAAB website www.caab.org.uk](http://www.caab.org.uk) or phone 01423 884076

## RAF FYLINGDALES near Pickering, North Yorkshire

**Fact Sheet Dated August 2012:** Peterson Airforce base (USAF): The U.S. Air Force presence at Royal Air Force Fylingdales, U.K is a liaison officer who reports through the 21st Operations Group. The USAFLO is a bridge to U.S. operations, maintaining mission-ready status and advising the RAF station commander on U.S. Air Force operational issues. The USAFLO also serves as the quality assurance evaluator for the U.S. communications contractor.

RAF Fylingdales is Site III, of the Ballistic Missile Early Warning System. The unit is a vital portion of BMEWS operations, which include the 12th Space Warning Squadron, Thule Air Base, Greenland, and 13th Space Warning Squadron, Clear Air Force Station, Alaska.

**Missile Warning:** RAF Fylingdales has a primary mission of maintaining continuous missile warning capability for the United States and United Kingdom, demonstrating that a surprise missile attack could not succeed. Missile warning

data is provided to the Missile Warning Center in Cheyenne Mountain, and U.K. MWC. The unit has also recently taken on a fourth mission to support the U.S. Ballistic Missile Defense System to counter the threat of a ballistic missile attack.

**Space Surveillance:** The site's secondary mission is to detect, identify and track man-made objects in earth orbit, contributing to the U.S. Space Surveillance Network. The SSN consists of radar, optical, and passive sensors located throughout the world. The site tracks objects in near earth orbit out to a range of 3,000 nautical miles. When an object penetrates the radar's coverage, the radar tracks the object to identify it as a missile or space object. Over the course of one day, a space object can penetrate the radar's coverage multiple times. By day's end, Fylingdales can rack up 55,000 tracks. As part of the identification aspect of space surveillance, the site routinely collects Space Object Identification information on numerous objects. SOI can be used to discriminate between a rocket Body of satellite payload.

**Satellite Warning Service for the U.K.:** In addition



to missile warning and space surveillance, the site performs a U.K. specific mission - Satellite Warning Service. As the name implies, SWSUK gives U.K. forces warning of surveillance by satellites of potentially hostile or other nations. Until recently, SWSUK's primary concern was military satellites gathering intelligence. With the increasing availability of imagery from commercial sources, SWSUK now focuses on any satellite that an adversary could use to gather information on U.K. forces and operations.

**From the RAF Fylingdales Website:** Four jobs are listed: Second job on the list is: The Station's complementary mission is to support – on a non-interference basis with the warning mission – the United States' developing Missile Defense System.

**Wrong Use Of Law:** On 2 March 2013 Lindis Percy was purportedly warned not to return to RAF Fylingdales within 3 months under section 69 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act ('aggravated trespass') by a Ministry of Defence police officer. She was walking peacefully on the North Yorkshire Moors near Fylingdales. Military Land byelaws, we are told, apply but have not been used for many years. 'Aggravated trespass' has been tried many times. This law is used incorrectly by the Ministry of Defence Police as a form of bail condition (with no arrest or charge).

## **USAF CROUGHTON near Croughton Oxfordshire**

**New Role:** A report in the *Mail on Sunday* on 9th March 2013, revealed that the US base in Djibouti, Camp Lemonnier, has a direct data link to a US intelligence base in Oxfordshire. USAF Croughton is part of a network of US intelligence bases in the UK led by Menwith Hill in Yorkshire. The existence of a secure military communications link between Camp Lemonnier in Djibouti from which US drones operate over Yemen and other countries in North Africa and the UK, shows that Croughton and Menwith Hill are no doubt involved in analyzing information and video from US drone flights in that area.

It is also possible that information obtained in this way and analyzed by US personnel in the UK could be used to direct further US drone strikes.

The *Mail on Sunday* piece also quoted several documents, one of which "requests US security-cleared staff to work at RAF Waddington on a USAF drone called the Predator" and another that "describes a role for a communications technician at the same base 'supporting 24/7 operations of critical real-time USAF/ANG [Air National Guard] mission operations'". RAF Waddington is being readied to operate British Reaper drones over Afghanistan from UK soil for the first time. Up until now British drones have been controlled from Creech Air Force base in Nevada, alongside US drone operators. What these documents appear to show is that the staff are being recruited to work at RAF Waddington who have US security clearance. This does not mean that the US is operating drones out of Waddington as the article implies (and the headline states). Rather these documents confirm that the USAF is sharing information with the RAF and no doubt vice versa. Hence the need for US security cleared staff at Waddington. [This is the opinion and advice of Chris Cole - Director Drone Wars UK]. We strongly recommend Drone Wars UK – an excellent comprehensive resource for 'all things Drones' (UK and US). Website: [dronewarsuk.wordpress.com](http://dronewarsuk.wordpress.com)

**Military Land Byelaws (MLBs) Proposed:** There have never been Military Land byelaws at USAF Croughton or USAF Barford St John. New byelaws are proposed at both bases making trespass a criminal offence. CAAB has been researching and making sure the Defence Byelaws Review team adhere to the strict rules laid down when making byelaws. We have the conveyance of both bases and have put in objections for USAF Croughton, and will for USAF Barford St John (annex to Croughton). The byelaws at Croughton may affect the area that has been used for many years for peaceful, legitimate protest. We are working on this. [see [Parliamentary Questions on page 7](#)]

## USAF MILDENHALL (near Brandon, Suffolk)

### Are You Ready? Proper Protocol For Real-World

**Readiness:** The 100th Civil Engineer Squadron Readiness and Emergency Management Flight conducts weekly chemical biological radioactive nuclear survival skills classes to train and keep the base prepared to respond to specific CBRN disasters.



The 100th CES R&EMF is responsible for preparing the base to continue its mission in the event of a CBRN incident. This survival skills class will help ensure base personnel will be ready for real-world events as well as the upcoming Combined Unit Inspection in April.

Additionally, the flight provides “Ability to Survive and Operate” tips of the week and a quick reference guide to CBRN preparedness with the Airman’s Manual.

“It’s important that the 100th Air Refueling Wing is prepared and ready for any ATSO events,” said Capt. David Kohlhepp, 100th CES R&EMF officer. “My flight is preparing the base to use the Airman’s Manual, for post-attack reconnaissance routes, unexploded ordnance marking and proper (protective gear) wear.”

Unit emergency management representatives and Inspector General augmentees can assist their unit’s ATSO training program. To prepare for both real-world and exercise scenarios, it is important unit commanders hold their people accountable for knowing how to properly wear M-50 masks and individual protective equipment. Another responsibility of every Airman is to carry out his or her mission in a CBRN environment.

There is an ATSO briefing scheduled for

March 15, 2013, at the base theater on RAF Mildenhall. Any units concerned about preparing for the CUI ATSO evaluation are encouraged to attend the base wide briefing. Information is also available on the Inspector General for Investigations’s homepage and on the RAF Mildenhall website at [www.mildenhall.af.mil](http://www.mildenhall.af.mil) (by Master Sgt. Christopher Williams 100th Civil Engineer Squadron Readiness and Emergency Management Flight superintendent 2/27/2013).

### REFLECTION ON SEEDS

by Martin Schweiger  
(Doctor, Quaker, Activist, CAAB)

Farmers have known for thousands of years that if you want to get a good crop you seek good land and good seeds. You plant at the right time and seek to nurture the crop with water and fertiliser. Unless you have been confronted with bad weather or some other factor beyond your control you should be rewarded with a good crop at harvest time. Nothing new there. Those caring for children know that they tend to follow the examples they are set. A caring and nurturing environment brings forth adults of good will.



If we sow seeds of violence and aggression the plants that grow are a reflection of that violence and aggression. Shock and awe, overwhelming firepower and more recently unmanned drones firing missiles do little to bring about peace, rather they act as a stimulus for further violence. The term collateral damage sounds reasonable, particularly when far away and out of sight, but it serves as the recruiting sergeant for those who want revenge or simply wish to assert that they will not be cowed by the might from the West. There is nothing new here, but when we will learn that peace is built on mutual trust and respect?



## PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (Source: Hansard)

### RAF Fylingdales

**Q: Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when RAF Fylingdales was last refurbished.

**A: Mr Francois:** Work to refurbish or replace the infrastructure at all RAF bases is assessed and programmed on a regular and continuous basis and carried out as required. The recent programme of work at RAF Fylingdales has included the provision of a new combined mess facility and demolition of a number of redundant buildings. (22 Apr 2013: Column 627W)

**Q: Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effect on RAF Fylingdales's work of (a) onshore and (b) offshore wind turbines. [152231]

**A: Mr Francois:** No formal assessments on the effects of wind turbines, onshore and offshore, on RAF Fylingdales' radar have yet been carried out (23 Apr 2013: Column 813W)

### USA

**Q: Angus Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the recent statement by Rear Admiral Barry Bruner, Director of the Undersea Warfare Division of the US Navy, that the navy needs 12 operational ballistic missile submarines to maintain a credible nuclear deterrent.

**A: Mr Robathan:** This is a matter for the US Government (23 Apr 2013 : Column 813W)

**Q: Fabian Hamilton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether US law applies on US military bases in the UK. [156007]

**A: Mr Robathan:** The United States Visiting Forces are subject to both US and UK law, as set out in the NATO Status of Forces Agreement 1951, and enacted through the Visiting Forces Act 1952. 21 May 2013, c728W)

**A: Fabian Hamilton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence who is in overall charge of security at (a) NSA Menwith Hill, (b) USAD Mildenhall, (c) USAD Lakenheath, (d) JAC Molesworth, (e) USAD Croughton, (f) USAD Barford St John, (g) USAF Fairford and (h) USAF Alconbury. [156053]  
**Mr Robathan:** Policing and security arrangements at bases made available to the United States Visiting Force are covered under the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency and the United States Visiting Force. The United Kingdom, as the host nation, is responsible for security outside the perimeter fence of the bases, with the United States Visiting Force

responsible for internal security (21 May 2013 : Column 729W) [MOU is on the CAAB website].

### Military Land Byelaws

**Q: Fabian Hamilton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons military land byelaws are proposed for introduction at USAF Barford St John. [156055]

**A: Mr Robathan:** The proposed new byelaws for introduction at RAF Barford St John are designed to facilitate the effective policing and regulation of activity on Ministry of Defence land, while ensuring the safety and security of USAF service personnel manning the site (21 May 2013, c729W)

### Space Based Infra-Red System

**Q: Fabian Hamilton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Space-based Infra-red systems radomes (SBIRS) at the American base at NSA Menwith Hill are actively operational; and if SBIRS have been used to date. [156063]

**A: Mr Robathan:** The Space Based Infra-Red System (SBIRS) at RAF Menwith Hill achieved operational status during 2011. We do not comment, for security and operational reasons, on the specific use of the SBIRS facilities at the base (21 May 2013, c729W)

### Chagos Islands

**Q: Andrew George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to enable Chagossians to return to the Chagos Islands. [145896]

**A: Mark Simmonds:** The European Court of Human Rights decision in December gives us the chance to take stock of our policy on the British Indian Ocean Territory. We will be as positive as possible in our engagement with Chagossian groups and all interested parties, but we should be clear there are fundamental difficulties with resettlement (5 Mar 2013: Column 904W).

### US Unmanned Aerial Vehicles

**Q: Fabian Hamilton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence who is in overall charge of security at (a) NSA Menwith Hill, (b) USAD Mildenhall, (c) USAD Lakenheath, (d) JAC Molesworth, (e) USAD Croughton, (f) USAD Barford St John, (g) USAF Fairford and (h) USAF Alconbury. [156053]

**A: Mr Robathan:** Policing and security arrangements at bases made available to the United States Visiting Force are covered under the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency and the United States Visiting Force. The United Kingdom, as the host nation, is responsible for security outside the perimeter fence.

## Repeal the “War on Terror”



After more than 11 years the Authorization for Use of Military Force – the congressional resolution that launched the “war on terror” – has not been repealed. Congresswoman Barbara Lee (Democrat) has introduced a bill to repeal it. (ROOTS ACTION)

### Quaker Meeting for Worship – 2013

- NSA Menwith Hill 2pm – 3 pm; 1 June, 3 August
- RAF Fylingdales; 12 md – 1 pm; 6 July, 7 September
- USAF Croughton: main gate 4th Saturday each month – 2.00pm for 1-2 hours.

Contact: Elisabeth Salisbury 01865 515163.

### CAAB TALKS, MEDIA INTERVIEWS, ARTICLES

- Harrogate Advertiser
- Morning Star
- Big Issue (North)
- Stray FM
- Talk to Bolton Stop the War Coalition/CND group

### MONEY MATTERS – NEW TREASURER FOUND!

We are delighted that Judith Rushby has agreed to take on the job of Honorary Treasurer of CAAB. It's sometimes rather difficult to find Treasurers so thank you so much Judith!

### IT IS NOW POSSIBLE TO DONATE TO CAAB ON THE WEBSITE.

A PayPal account has been set up which will make it much easier to donate money for the work of CAAB:

CAAB account No: 500095311

Sort Code: 089229

The Cooperative Bank, 1 Balloon Street, Manchester M60 4EP

### WHO'S WHO AT CAAB?

**Hon Treasurer:** Judith Rushy

(Bank signatories Judith Rusby and Martin Schweiger)

**Webmaster:** Ray Middleton

**Mailing list organiser:** Melanie Ndzinga

**Monitoring planning applications:** Steve Hill

**Photographer:** Steve Schofield ([sdschofield.wordpress.com](http://sdschofield.wordpress.com))

**Coordinator:** Lindis Percy

**Contact:** Email: [mail@caab.corner.org.uk](mailto:mail@caab.corner.org.uk)

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