



Campaign *for the* Accountability of American Bases

News & Appeal

Issue No. 22: May 2003

Dear friends

This newsletter should have been out a long time ago; in February in fact! We apologise to everyone. The events in Iraq were changing minute by minute. Nobody knew what the outcome of the terrifying conflict would be so we decided to postpone publi-

cation. Much has happened since the last newsletter including many arrests and court

appearances. We were also, (like many thousands of people) very involved with opposing the immoral, unlawful and unjustified war.

Ali Ismaeel Abbas was just one of many children (and

adults) to be horrifically injured by the tonnage of bombs that were released by the US and the UK. The numbers of people killed and injured may never be known. What next? Will the US now go on to attack another country and steadily work it's way down the list of countries named by the US as 'rogue states'. The Bush administration relentlessly stake out their plans

for the world. A new world order a la US plans....and the US model of 'democracy' for any state that gets in the way of these plans. We continue to live in very dangerous times as a precedent of 'pre-emptive' strike has been set.

Many people demonstrated on the streets and at US bases for the first time. There has been an awakening about the presence and roles of US bases in this country and around the world

Independence FROM America



CAAB has been working for years to bring public scrutiny and awareness to these issues and will continue to do so... the work of CAAB is long term.

We campaign for

INDEPENDENCE FROM AMERICA, ultimately sending the US Visiting Forces back to within their borders, an end to weapons of mass destruction (where are those weapons?!) ... and don't forget the issue of 'Star Wars' – we haven't - off the agenda because of the war against Iraq.....we have to stop this madness.

AROUND THE BASES

NSA MENWITH HILL STATION (near Harrogate, North Yorkshire)

Entrance upgrade: Planning applications continue to be submitted to Harrogate Planning office. Recently a bevy of applications came in which are to do with a significant change to the siting of the entrance at present situated at Nessfield gate.

There were one or two hitches with the 'electrics' before the Main entrance was opened once again. There have been major changes to the gates (looking rather like the gates of Buckingham Palace) security barriers, guard posts and anti-ramming fixtures. The lighting is very inadequate despite CAAB continually bringing this to the attention of the base.

Planning Applications since last newsletter:

- ◆ **PA No: 6.90.327.CROWND** – Replacement canopy to AFFES station
- ◆ **PA No: 6.500.229.CROWND** – Removal of 4000 litre underground fuel storage tanks and replacement of 16000 litre overground fuel storage tanks
- ◆ **PA No: 6.90.328.CROWND** – Erection of community conference centre
- ◆ **PA No: 6.99.143.CROWND** – Erection of maintenance workshop and roadway
- ◆ **PA No: 6.90.333.CROWND** – Construction to gate area of following: visitors control centre; vehicle inspection building; sewage pumping station with balancing pond; illuminations; fencing, gates and crash barriers; roadway and parking areas; tyre shredder, and pass return box

New Radome at NSA Menwith Hill: In early March 2003 we noticed heavy plant and earth moving equipment near to Radomes GT8 and GT9 on the S.E. aspect of the base. We contacted Harrogate Planning Office who were unaware of any new PA in that area and suggested we kept an eye on the site for any building which we did.

In late March we noticed that a concrete ringwall for a radome was being constructed at the site and contacted the Planning Office again. Eventually at the beginning of April Helen Sephton, Planning Officer for Menwith Hill, confirmed that the radome being constructed was the GT7 radome which had

been submitted for (and granted) planning permission back in November 2001 but had never been built:

- 23.11.2001 – P.A. No. 6.99.139.CROWND – Erection of 1 x GT7 Radome, 30.5metre diameter radome with 4 metre ringwall.

Regular witness and protest at MHS – Tuesdays 7-9 pm:

Anni amazingly has kept this going with the help of friends and supporters. It is even more important than ever that there is a regular presence at the Main entrance to show the people who work there that there is opposition to what Menwith Hill is engaged with. Lindis has had a succession of bail conditions imposed. She has been backwards and forwards to the Magistrate and High courts for variation of bail conditions since the last newsletter.

Menwith Hill Shuttle: On 21 February 2003 the 'Menwith Shuttle' bus was held up for about 40 minutes this afternoon. Lindis boarded the bus to protest to the people who work on the base at Menwith Hill about the pending attack on Iraq and to highlight the vulnerability of this bus.

The bus makes regular trips to Harrogate and surrounding areas from the base at Menwith Hill. An ID card is required and members of the public cannot use this bus.

Lindis easily boarded the bus and went to sit at the back of it. She had the US flag with her with the words 'The world's rogues - GWB and friends' written on it. The driver asked her to show her ID card and then told her to get off. Lindis quietly declined and while the driver phoned for help she continued to speak to the passengers about the role of Menwith Hill in the pending US/UK attack on Iraq and related issues.

Lindis pointed out that the presence of the US Visiting Forces and their Agencies at Menwith Hill (and all US bases) put all our security at risk. She had immediately said to the passengers when she got on the bus that she was not there to alarm anyone. Her quest was peaceful and non-violent.

After about 40 minutes North Yorkshire Police arrived and threatened her with arrest under a Public Order offence. Lindis suggested that would be unwise as the proposed arrest would not come under this Act. The police went into a huddle and eventually came back with the driver who again asked her to get off the bus. By this time another bus had arrived and all the passengers were transferred to the other bus. Lindis left too and declined to further engage with the police who wanted 'a word'.

Later on Lindis was walking on the base at Menwith Hill and was arrested under the RAF Menwith Hill military land byelaws. [Refer to item re Byelaws]

Arrests and court: There have been many spurious arrests since the last newsletter. For example:

- Christine Dean (CAAB Treasurer) and Mike Davis were arrested for alleged 'obstruction of the highway' on Christmas Eve as soon as they arrived for the CAAB Tuesday evening demonstration. The case was eventually discontinued and costs awarded by Harrogate Magistrates' Court.
- Several arrests under the Menwith Hill byelaws for 'interfering with MOD property' (hanging banners on the fence) – none of the cases were pursued but liberty was taken away yet again.
- Arrests under Section 25 PACE – not pursued

Harrogate Magistrates' Court - 10- 13 March 2003: Anni and Lindis were on trial for four days for 'aggravated trespass' (s.69 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994) after being arrested and charged at the weekly CAAB Tuesday evening demonstration at Menwith Hill in February last year. In April Lindis was again arrested and charged for the same offence.

The case was heard before District Judge Prowse from Teeside and was referred to as a 'test case'. This was because two important matters of law were being challenged:

- The lawful attestation of several officers of the Ministry of Defence Police Agency
- The 'yellow line' which suddenly appeared on the ground at the Main entrance to Menwith Hill in June 2001.

Judge Prowse ruled against both issues and also found Anni and Lindis 'guilty' of committing 'aggravated trespass' (both charges brought against Lindis). In his lengthy ruling he said that Anni and Lindis were 'barely criminal' and strongly criticised the Ministry of Defence Police Agency for bringing these cases. He likened their actions to 'using a sledgehammer to crack a nut'.

As soon as Judge Prowse had given his verdict Lindis said 'excuse me' and quietly left the court. Anni left a few minutes later as soon as 'money matters' were mentioned. The court was adjourned but Anni and Lindis declined to take part in any further proceedings and were therefore not present when the sentence was given.

Judge Prowse gave Anni and Lindis (both charges) an 'absolute discharge' and awarded no costs against them although the Crown Prosecution Service asked for £1200. It was clear that the sentence reflected the comments made by Judge Prowse in his ruling when he indicated that these charges should never have been brought. Anni and Lindis were convicted on a technicality and a strict interpretation of the law concerning 'aggravated trespass'.

This issue is ongoing and we are in discussion with the lawyers concerning the legal points raised in the case.

Menwith Hill byelaws: Lindis appeared at Harrogate Magistrates' Court (pre-trial review) on 28 April when the CPS applied for two cases under the Menwith Hill byelaws to be 'discontinued' after 'no evidence' was offered. She was awarded costs. Yet again the CPS has refused to allow a case concerning military land byelaws to come to trial.

Lindis has been arrested over a 150 times under the second set of byelaws at NSA Menwith Hill during which hundreds of hours of her liberty have been military land byelaws the MDPA and the CPS continue to manipulate and abuse the legal process.

She is in the process of discussing with lawyers as to the next step to finally bring the issue of invalid byelaws to court.

'Foil the Base' Demonstration: Over a thousand people were at the National Security Agency of America base at Menwith Hill on Saturday 22 March 2003.

The 'FOIL THE BASE' demonstration was organised by a group called Neighbourhoods Opposing War (NOW) and supported by the Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases (CAAB) and Yorkshire CND.

It was a beautiful day with not a cloud in the sky and the Yorkshire Dales looking wonderful. Among the carnival atmosphere it was necessary to remember that many miles away Iraqi towns and villages were being attacked mercilessly.

The police presence was extraordinary with officers sent from North, West and South Yorkshire among others. There was a large 'reserve' of police based for the day at HM Forest Moor down the road from Menwith Hill. The Operational Support Unit (OSU) of the Ministry of Defence Police Agency also came.

Christine Dean (CAAB Treasurer) was arrested almost as soon as we arrived after she had written wonderful words on a barrier and added the word 'WAR' to a traffic STOP sign at the Main entrance to

Menwith Hill. She was later charged with 'criminal damage'.

Many people entered the base despite the massive police presence. In all 12 people were arrested however most were released without charge. One woman was arrested for breach of bail conditions and held over the weekend until the next court (Harrogate Magistrates' Court) on Monday.

Suspended Chief Inspector cleared of fraud charges: Graeme Drummond (MDPA) was acquitted at York Crown Court on 12 March this year after a trial lasting five days. He was found 'not guilty' of fraudulently claiming thousands of pounds of MOD housing allowance. Mr Drummond had been suspended since March 2002 and this would continue until disciplinary matters had been resolved, according to a MOD spokesperson. [Refer to CAAB newsletter No. 20].

‘RAF’ FYLINGDALES (near Pickering, North Yorkshire)

The UK government stated all along that they would not make a decision as to the US use of Fylingdales in the Missile Defense System. Suddenly in early February this year (but clearly a decision had been made a long time before) Geoff Hoon issued a press statement. It is important information so we have included the full text (Press release/Written Statement, Defence Select Committee Press release and the MOD Memorandum response)

MOD Responds to US request to upgrade RAF Fylingdales:

Press Notice no: 025/03
05 February 2003

The Secretary of State for Defence, Geoff Hoon, today responded to the United States' request to upgrade RAF Fylingdales.

In a written statement to the House of Commons, Mr Hoon said:

"On 17 December I informed the House of the receipt of a request from the United States Government to upgrade the early warning radar at Fylingdales for missile defence purposes.

"The Government has encouraged Parliamentary and public discussion of the issues involved. On 17 October, I informed the House of current work in the US on missile defence and, on 9 December, published a discussion paper, inviting interested parties to contribute their views. We have received a

large number of responses both from individuals and organisations, and we have considered all contributions carefully. I have visited North Yorkshire to explain what the upgrade would involve and to hear at first hand the views of local people. We have engaged in initial discussions with the planning authorities. In an oral Statement on 15 January, I informed the House of the Government's preliminary conclusion that it was in the UK's interest to agree to the US request. I gave evidence to the Defence Select Committee on the same day and addressed points raised by hon Members in the Defence Debate on 22 January. I welcome the Select Committee's conclusion, in their report published on 29 January, that the UK should agree to the upgrade.

"In the course of these discussions we have been able to clarify that: the upgrade essentially comprises computer hardware and software modification, and involves no new development or change to the external appearance or power output of the radar; the radar will continue to fulfil its long-established Ballistic Missile Early Warning System (BMEWS) role; it will continue to be operated and staffed by the Royal Air Force, and we will continue to enjoy full access to its data; and the upgrade does not of itself commit the UK Government to any greater participation in the US missile defence programme. It does, however, keep open the prospect of acquiring missile defence capabilities for the UK, should we desire such protection at some point in the future. We will continue discussions with the local planning authorities on the detail of the upgrade work.

"I am now satisfied that we have been able to take fully into account the views of all interested parties in coming to a decision. I am therefore today replying to the United States Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld, conveying the Government's agreement to the US request. We are separately negotiating a technical Memorandum of Understanding to give British industry the best possible opportunities to win work on the US programme."

Defence Committee's Press Release re: First Report of Session 200203 on Missile Defence

The Defence Committee today publishes its First Report on Missile Defence, which focuses on the rationale for and implications of an upgrade of the Ballistic Missile Early Warning station at RAF Fylingdales, requested by the US Government. The report is also available on the Committee's website. (A separate volume of written and oral evidence on which the report is based will be published tomorrow-HC 290-II).

The Committee conclude that there is a real and increasing threat from the proliferation of ballistic missiles. The United States is justified in believing that it is a principal potential target of that threat. It is therefore justified in taking steps to counteract it.

The US Missile Defence programme is one such step, although it cannot be the whole solution. It would be capable of defending against at most a handful of missiles: It is not the son of 'Star Wars' as envisaged in the 1980s to provide an impenetrable shield for the USA. There are still significant technical obstacles to be overcome, and at great cost, before an effective system could be deployed. But the US has made substantial progress. In doing so it has so far not caused the international instability which many had predicted.

One element of the proposed Missile Defence system involves the upgrade of computer software and hardware for the radar at RAF Fylingdales. Fylingdales, although a British base operated by the RAF, is one of four US Ballistic Missile Early Warning System stations. The upgrade would allow information which the radar already captures to be used to track missiles more accurately so that interceptors in the USA or on board US warships could be targeted at them. Although it is a discrete proposition which would not imply consent to any further development or UK involvement, it would in effect draw the UK a little way down the path to active participation.

The Committee conclude that the UK should agree to the upgrade at Fylingdales. The factors in favour of that agreement—the importance of the UK-US relationship, the improvement to the early warning capability, the opportunity to keep open the prospect of future missile defence for the UK and the potential for UK industrial participation in the programme's further development—outweigh the arguments against.

The Committee strongly regret, however, the way in which the issue has been handled by the Government. It was a mistake on the part of the MoD to fail to respond to calls for a public debate of this issue for much of last year. But, by announcing on 15 January that it was his preliminary conclusion that the UK must agree to the request, the Secretary of State effectively prevented that debate from taking place. The MoD then told the Committee that the Government's decision might be formally passed to the US Government as soon as 31 January 2003. The Committee can find no reason for this sudden urgency. In order to produce this report within this apparently arbitrary timescale the Committee have had to agree it without allowing local people and

organisations to appear before us (although it took into account the many written submissions received).

The Committee deplore the manner in which the public debate on the issue of the upgrade of facilities at RAF Fylingdales has been handled by the Ministry of Defence. It has shown no respect for either the views of those affected locally by the decision or for the arguments of those opposed to the upgrade in principle. Despite the Secretary of State's unequivocal statement that he wanted the decision to be informed by public and parliamentary discussion, he has acted in a way that has effectively curtailed such discussions.

The Committee felt obliged to publish a report setting out our views on the US request within the timescale imposed upon us by the Ministry of Defence. But this does not conclude its interest in the subject. The Committee intend to continue its inquiries by looking more broadly at missile defence issues including the potential security benefits of missile defence both for the UK itself and for forces deployed overseas, and to what extent the UK might benefit from the US programme in terms of industrial participation. The Committee will also wish to follow up those matters relating to the upgrade of RAF Fylingdales which could not be addressed fully in this report. [29.01.2003]

Note to Editors: The membership of the Defence Committee is as follows—

Rt Hon Bruce George MP (Walsall South)
(Chairman)
James Cran MP (Beverley and Holderness)
David Crausby MP (Bolton North East)
Mike Hancock CBE MP (Portsmouth South)
Gerald Howarth MP (Aldershot)
Kevan Jones MP (North Durham)
Jim Knight MP (South Dorset)
Patrick Mercer OBE MP (Newark)
Syd Rapson BEM MP (Portsmouth North)
Frank Roy MP (Motherwell and Wishaw)
Rachel Squire MP (Dunfermline West)

MOD Memorandum in response to Defence Committee's First Report of Session 200203 on Missile Defence:

1. The Government welcomes the Committee's Report and its main conclusion that the United Kingdom Government should agree to the US Government's request for the proposed upgrade to the facilities at RAF Fylingdales for missile defence purposes. It is convinced that it is in the best interests of the UK that we retain options for the future development and possible acquisition of missile defences, subject to further examination of the

complex issues involved. RAF Fylingdales will be an important element in the US programme for both developmental and operational use, and would be a key building block in any extended missile defence that might give protection to the UK and Europe. By agreeing to this upgrade, the Government believes it will ultimately enhance the security of the UK and the NATO Alliance.

On 17 December 2002, the US Government requested an upgrade of the Ballistic Missile Early Warning System station at RAF Fylingdales, to allow it to be used for missile defence purposes. We deplore the manner in which the public debate on that issue of the upgrade has been handled by the Ministry of Defence. It has shown no respect for either the views of those affected locally by the decision or for the arguments of those opposed to the upgrade in principle.

2. The Government does not accept the suggestion that the Ministry of Defence has shown no respect for the views of opponents of the upgrade or those affected locally. The MOD published a discussion paper on 9 December, to which it has received a large number of responses. The Defence Secretary has attended public meetings in North Yorkshire to hear local views, and officials have maintained close contact with local planning authorities to keep them informed of plans and to listen to their views. The MOD also responds to large numbers of letters on the subject. The Government has encouraged full and effective Parliamentary and public discussion of the issues raised. There have been many opportunities for MPs and members of the public to make their views known, including through a MOD website and email address. The Defence Secretary described work in the United States on missile defence in the House on 17 October 2002 and made an oral Statement on 15 January. There was further opportunity for Parliamentary debate on 22 January. The MOD has assisted the Committee's present inquiry, to which the Defence Secretary gave evidence in March 2002 and again in January 2003.

We believe that it is incumbent on the MOD to publish as much of the detail of the request as it is able to. For example, more information could be published on the timescale for the upgrade and for its incorporation into the US missile defence system and how the system would be able to track missiles. Such additional information should also address radiation emissions and other local concerns.

3. In evidence to the Committee and in other fora, the MOD has indicated that it will provide a report to the local planning authority giving details of the upgrade and its timescale and providing information about radar emissions and other environmental

aspects. Although the essential details are already clear to MOD, further site surveys and exchanges of information with the US are necessary before the full details can be presented. On the basis of current information, we expect that this evidence will demonstrate that no formal process of planning consultation is necessary. The MOD report will be in a form that the Authority may make public if it so chooses.

We see no reason to believe that agreeing to this upgrade will lead inevitably to further development or deployment at Fylingdales itself, or indeed elsewhere in the UK. But that agreement to the US request does represent at least a step or two down the path towards active participation in Missile Defence.

4. The Government has been at pains to point out that the upgrade of the radar at RAF Fylingdales does not imply that any further development of this or any other site will be undertaken. In evidence, it has explained, for instance, how US plans for XBand radars are not settled, and are tending towards a sea-based deployment option indeed the US is already building such a platform as part of its missile defence test bed. The Government has also made clear that decisions on deployment of missile defences to protect US friends and allies, including ground based interceptors, are some way off. The upgrade is a discrete proposition which does not commit the UK to any deeper involvement in the deployment of missile defences, although it gives the Government options to do so, should it decide on that at a later date. Separately, the MOD intends to agree a new technical Memorandum of Understanding with the United States, which would give it full insight into the development of the US missile defence programme and provide the opportunity for UK industry to benefit from participation. But any UK acquisition of missile defence would be subject to a separate decision, at the relevant time. The Government will approach this issue in stages, considering each step in the light of how both the threat and how the relevant technologies evolve.

We do not believe that the opponents of missile defence strengthen their case by resorting to allegations about hidden US motives. The United States of America is one of the UK's closest allies. We share many of the same values, both political and ethical. We prefer to judge American intentions on the basis of their official statements about the purpose of its missile defence programme. We do not assume that there must be some more or less sinister ulterior motive behind their request to upgrade Fylingdales.

5. The Government agrees. Missile defences are just that: defences. They threaten noone. This capability

would need to be used only if a ballistic missile has actually been fired. Once such a missile is in the air, and threatening a devastating impact, it is unthinkable that anyone could not want to be in a position to shoot it down.

We very much welcome the MOD's approach of putting its case to the planning authorities in a form that could be made public. Those who will need persuading that the local impact of the upgrade will not be significant extend beyond the planning authorities. It would seem that many of the concerns raised by various groups spring from a misplaced apprehension that the UK will inevitably field the full panoply of the Missile Defence system, and an exaggerated view of health hazards that might be caused by the proposed upgrade. But the MOD has not done as much as it could to present the full facts and explain carefully how such misgivings are misplaced. The MOD must now grasp this opportunity to clarify Fylingdales' role and its environmental impact.

6. As indicated in response to Recommendation (ii), the MOD will provide a detailed report on the upgrade in a form that could be made public. This will address the issue of perceived health hazards, on which earlier material has already been provided to the local planning authority and to the Committee. The MOD will also continue to explain publicly the continuing role of RAF Fylingdales and the Government's approach to future decisions on missile defence relating to the UK. The Government's efforts to promote local consultation and explanation were described above [Recommendation (i)]; it considers that the whole process has been conducted with particular openness. **If the UK wishes to keep its options open on a possible missile defence for the UK, it is clearly in our interests to respond positively to the present request. Furthermore, we do not believe that the UK, or the Fylingdales area, would face any material additional risks from the upgrade, in terms either of health risks from radiation or an increased likelihood of potential attackers identifying Fylingdales as a target. Nor do we believe that arguments that missile defence may cause international instability provide compelling grounds for rejecting the US request.**

1. The Government welcomes the Committee's conclusion that the UK, including North Yorkshire, would not face any material additional health or security risks arising from the upgrade. The security interests of the United Kingdom are already closely identified with those of the US and other NATO allies, and this will not change

regardless of decisions on missile defence. The Government also believes that any increased threat to RAF Fylingdales itself is negligible. For the foreseeable future, states of concern are very unlikely to have the sophisticated capability or size of arsenal to consider targeting specific points or military installations. Long range missiles in their hands will essentially be weapons of terror. On the issue of international stability, missile defence is not intended to defend against responsible states with established strategic forces. Its aim is to tackle limited threats from states of concern with emergent missile capabilities, which seek to acquire and threaten to use ballistic missiles and weapons of mass destruction in contravention of widely accepted international norms. The proliferation threat is not new; missile defence is a response to, not the cause of, the problem.

Court news and arrests: On 11 November 2002 in the High Court London before Mr Justice Kaye Lindis renewed an application for leave for a Judicial Review against the decision by the Police Complaints Authority to grant a dispensation to the Deputy Chief Constable of the Ministry of Defence Police Agency (MDPA - as the interested party) not to investigate a complaint against Inspector Barry Frost (MDPA).

The application was dismissed on a 'out of time' technicality. The PCA and the MDPA applied for costs against Lindis. The Judge refused their application. This case arose out of a fabricated charge by Barry Frost of alleged assault and criminal damage to his spectacles by Lindis in an incident at Fylingdales on 1 August 2000. Barry Frost also manipulated and abused the law of Military Land byelaws which have been in contention at many US bases for years.

Lindis was convicted of 'assault' but found not guilty of criminal damage to the spectacles. The conviction was quashed on appeal at York Crown Court. Both the Magistrates at Pickering and the Judge and the two Magistrates sitting at York Crown Court commented that they found the alleged criminal damage to the spectacles to be 'curious'. It is our belief that Barry Frost must have damaged the spectacles himself.

Barry Frost now has two complaints which have been substantiated by the PCA - one in 1990 brought by Lindis and the other brought by Anni who was also involved in the incident in August 2002. On both occasions he was 'admonished' by the PCA.

Furthermore soon after the first substantiated complaint he was promoted from Sergeant to Inspector. He was promoted to Acting Chief Inspector at Menwith Hill but has since been moved to a 'desk' job after an incident at Menwith Hill.

What was highlighted throughout this case is the inaccessibility of the law to the citizen. The exercise of bringing such an action was very valuable however and it is the first time that Lindis has pursued this particular legal route. The experience will be very useful for any future Judicial Review applications.

MDPA refuse to arrest under Byelaws:

Friday 25 April 2003: CAAB was at Fylingdales today to test the enforcement of the military land byelaws. When met by two Ministry of Defence Police officers Lindis immediately said that she had committed and was committing an offence under the byelaws.

PC Daryl Jones immediately said that there were 'new guidelines' not to use the byelaws but to use s.68 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 ('aggravated trespass') instead. Neither he nor his colleague were interested in any discussion about the byelaws.

Lindis was arrested for 'aggressive trespass' and taken to Scarborough Police Station (later it was gently brought to the attention of the officer that the alleged offence was in fact 'aggravated' not 'aggressive' 'trespass'). She was held for over 6 hours while an officer came from Catterick Garrison to interview her. She was later charged with:

"...having trespassed on land in the open air, namely Fylingdales Moor and in relation to a lawful activity, namely the security of MOD property in which persons were on that land did an act, namely caused security staff to be diverted from normal patrols which you intended to have the effect of disrupting that activity". Bail conditions were yet again imposed.

The arresting officer informed Lindis that the 'new guidelines' not to use the byelaws had been brought in the week before on the instructions of Lloyd Clark (Chief Constable of the Ministry of Defence Police Agency) and in consultation with the Association of Chief Police Officers. The Custody Sergeant at Scarborough Police Station had also been informed of the new guidelines with the implication that there were to be no charges under the byelaws.

Military Land byelaws are the first legal protection round many of bases (USAF Lakenheath, USAF

Mildenhall, NSA Menwith Hill, JAC Molesworth for example) There are signs all round the base at Fylingdales (and at other bases) which inform the public that the byelaws are in force.

She is in consultation with lawyers as to the legal route to pursue after yet again the CPS refusing to allow another byelaws case to come to court for trial. [Refer to Menwith Hill byelaws item].

Liberty again taken away: Lindis was immediately arrested for alleged breach of bail conditions while researching land at the back of Fylingdales on Saturday 3 May 2003. This land had previously been owned and maintained by the Forestry Commission. However she was informed by the MDPA that the land had been bought by the MOD two months ago. There was no indication of the new boundary by way of notices or boundary markers. She was detained in police custody at Scarborough police station over the weekend and appeared in court on Monday.

In court John Hargreaves (CPS) withdrew the allegation of the breach of bail conditions, saying that there were wooden posts with fluorescent paint on top but no notices marking the boundary.

Lindis is discussing this latest spurious detention with lawyers.

Since buying the land the MOD have cut down all the trees which were planted by the Forestry Commission, apparently as a security measure.

USAF LAKENHEATH (near Brandon, Bury St. Edmund)

Action: There have been many actions and demonstrations during the US led attack against Iraq and attention has been focussed on this base by many more people. Refer to Lakenheath Action Network website: www.lakenheathaction.org

The American National Guard was deployed at this base, USAF Mildenhall, JAC Molesworth and USAF Fairford for the first time in the UK.

Fighter squadron nominated for achievement award: The 493rd Fighter Squadron, Royal Air Force Lakenheath, England, has been nominated from Headquarters U.S. Air Forces in Europe for the 2002 Raytheon Hughes Achievement Award.

Started in 1953 by Hughes Aircraft Company, the award is given annually to the top air-superiority or

air-defense squadron in the Air Force. [*Ramstein Air Base, Germany (USAFENS) PR – 22.04.2003*]

USAF MILDENHALL (near Lakenheath, Cambs)

This base has also been subject to attention from various groups. It played an essential role during the conflict with the American National Guard being brought in – also for the first time in the UK.

USAF CROUGHTON (near Brackley Northants)

Lindis was arrested at USAF Croughton after climbing over the security fence and peacefully witnessing with an upside-down US flag bearing the words 'WAR ON IRAQ ... IMMORAL ... UNLAWFUL ... MADNESS'. She tied the flag on the gate of the operations area known as the US Embassy.

She was stopped by American military personnel and roughly treated. She was handcuffed, searched and her legs were tied together with plastic ties. She was half carried/forced into the back of an American military vehicle and driven to their Law Enforcement Center on the base.

Local police officers eventually arrived and Lindis was arrested for 'aggravated trespass'. She was taken to Western Favell police station, bail denied and appeared at Daventry Magistrates' court the next morning.

Lindis was remanded in custody to Holloway prison for a week, even though the CPS made no application for her remand. Instead they asked for draconian bail conditions which meant she would be unable to do her job.

A week later the CPS made an application to re-remand Lindis in custody. However the Magistrates imposed bail conditions 'not to go within 5 metres of a list of 9 US bases' (all the bases that CAAB has given attention to over the years).

At each of the hearings (including the pre-trial review which was adjourned) there were US military personnel sitting in court including a US Staff Judge Advocate. Interesting matters of law will be raised at the trial.

USAF FAIRFORD and USAF WELFORD (near Letchlade Gloucestershire)

Last year USAF Fairford took over the administration of RAF Welford, a munition store. Both bases played a crucial part in the attack on Iraq. Fourteen US B-52 bombers were based there to carry out many bombing raids on Iraq. [see www.fairfordpeacewatch.com].

B-52s arrive: Lindis climbed the fence and spent 4 hours inside the base peacefully protesting and witnessing against the arrival of 8 US B-52 bombers.

For two hours Lindis walked around the base undetected despite it being on high alert. She then spent a further two hours underneath a B-52 bomber peacefully protesting and witnessing against the impending US-led war against Iraq. She eventually tied an upside down US flag with the words 'THE WORLDS ROGUES ... GWB AND FRIENDS'. Not one patrol checked the plane during this time.

Lindis was eventually seen by USAF security police who rushed up to her with raised guns and threatened to 'hurt her'. They threw her to the concrete ground and handcuffed her although they have no authority to touch peaceful British protesters.

Members of the MDPA stood by and watched this happen until Lindis pleaded with them to take control of the situation, which they eventually did. At her request they also removed the American handcuffs which were digging into her wrists.

Lindis was arrested at approximately 10pm and taken to Stroud police station where she was held overnight. The fence was checked in the morning for any possible criminal damage. There was no criminal damage.

Lindis was transferred from Stroud to Cheltenham police station (for 'operational reasons' – another flight of B-52 were arriving), charged with alleged 'aggravated trespass' and criminal damage (for tying the US flag to some loose webbing underneath the B-52 bomber). Bail conditions were imposed – not to go on roads round Fairford as marked on an accompanying map.

SHANNON AIRPORT (near County Clare, Republic of Ireland)

State to pay half costs in High Court case: The former Army commandant who took a High Court action to stop Iraq-bound US aircraft using Shannon Airport will have half his legal costs paid by the State.

Despite losing his case, the Court awarded Edward Horgan, from Castletroy in Limerick, half his costs, estimated at more than £100,000.

Mr Justice Nicholas Kearns decided that even though Mr Horgan did not succeed in his action, he had raised public law issues of general importance. He also commented on Mr Horgan's sincerity and impressive bone fides.

Mr Horgan did establish that a principle exists in international law that a neutral country cannot allow the movement of substantial troops and ammunition through its territory.

After the costs decision Mr Horgan said he believed it was fair. On the question of an appeal to the Supreme Court, he said he and his legal team would make a decision after careful study of the 71-page judgement delivered last Monday. *[RTE News 02.05.2003]*

SELECTION OF PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: David Addison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what research NATO is carrying out on (a) theatre missile defence and (b) ballistic missile defence of Europe. *[96947]*

A: Mr Hoon: NATO has decided to conduct two feasibility studies related to missile defence. The first was launched in July 2001 and addressed Active Layered Tactical Ballistic Missile Defence. The study is nearing completion. The second feasibility study is related to protection of Alliance territory, forces and population centres, but is still in the preparatory stage and is unlikely to commence before the end of 2003 *[13.02.2003]*

Q: Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people he estimates have been killed by UK and US forces enforcing the no-fly zone in Iraq. *[96541]*

A: Mr Ingram: We are not aware of any civilian fatalities resulting from responses made in self-defence by coalition aircraft patrolling the No Fly Zones.

Coalition aircraft responding to attacks by Iraqi air defences attack only carefully selected military targets. Although we conduct extensive analysis after every attack we are not able to confirm numbers of military fatalities. *[11.02.2003]*

Q: Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what buildings his Department owns in Washington DC, USA; what their purpose is; what their value is; and if he will make a statement. *[95782]*

A: Dr. Lewes Moonie: All 14 properties in Greater Washington DC, USA owned by the Ministry of Defence are houses used to accommodate MOD employees posted to the British Defence Staff at the Embassy in Washington. The total value, as assessed in 1999 was \$5,960,000. *[10.02.2003]*

Q: Mr Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what discussions he and his officials have had with the United States Government concerning British industry's involvement in the missile defence programme; *[95241]*

(2) pursuant to his oral statement of 15 January, *Official Report*, column 710, what discussions he and his officials have had, and with which companies, concerning British involvement in the US missile defence programme. *[95249]*

A: Mr Hoon: We are currently exploring with the United States authorities and with British industry the possibility of working together in areas of direct relevance to missile defence, including participation in the US programme. Our aim is to conclude a technical Memorandum of Understanding with the US, covering Government and industrial co-operation. The creation of a Missile Defence Technical Centre (MDTC), jointly funded by United Kingdom Government and industry, is being considered to provide a focus for this future technical work. Companies consulted include BAE SYSTEMS, QinetiQ, MBDA (UK), AMS and InSys. *[06.02.2003]*

Q: Mr Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which British companies are involved in the United States missile defence system. *[95257]*

A: Mr Hoon: We are not aware of any current direct involvement in the United States missile defence programme by United Kingdom-based companies, although BAE SYSTEMS (North America) is a participant in the US industrial team supporting the programme. *[06.02.2003]*

Q: Mr Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which Government officials have visited the Guantanamo base in Cuba; and if he will place copies of the reports of their visits in the Library. *[94762]*

A: Mr Rammell: The officials were from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Security Service. I am withholding the information requested under Exemptions 1a and 15 of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information, I am unable to publish the names of the officials. *[06.02.2003]*

Q: Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer of 16 December 2002, Official Report, column 518W, on RAF bases, for what reason no budget is shown for RAF Menwith Hill. [90153]

A: Mr Ingram: RAF Menwith Hill is owned by the Ministry of Defence and made available to the US Department of Defense under the NATO Status of Forces Agreement of 1951. Administration of the base is the responsibility of the US authorities. Information on detailed operational matters at RAF Menwith Hill, including funding issues, is withheld under Exemption 1 of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information on the grounds of national security. [16.01.2003]

Q: Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what powers can be exercised by, and what rules of engagement apply to, the US National Guard in the event of unauthorised persons being found within RAF bases where the US National Guard is present. [107231]

A: Mr Ingram: Where American National Guards have been deployed on RAF bases made available to the United States Visiting Forces, they can exercise the same range of powers as all (United Kingdom and United States) Service personnel in dealing with unauthorised persons found within that base. For instance, although they do not have the powers of arrest, they may detain and hold such persons using the minimum force necessary, until a police officer, who has powers of arrest, arrives.

It is not our practice to comment on Rules of Engagement and that information is withheld under Exemption 1 (Defence, Security and International Relations) of Part II of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information. [08.04.2003]

Q: Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence who paid for the services of (a) his Department's police and (b) Home Office police at the demonstration at RAF Menwith Hill on 22 March; how many from each were deployed; and if he will make a statement. [107232]

Mr. Ingram: 136 additional Ministry of Defence Police (MDP) officers were deployed at RAF Menwith Hill over the 24 hour period, 22 March 2003. The cost of routine MDP services at RAF Menwith Hill is borne by the United States Government. Additional MDP costs occasioned by demonstrator activity is borne by the Ministry of Defence. The funding arrangement and numbers of Home Department Police deployed at RAF Menwith

Hill on 22 March 2003, is a matter for my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary. [04.04.2003]

Mr Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will publish the protocol between the USA and UK Governments whereby US planes can use RAF Fairford to undertake acts of war. [103533]

Mr. Hoon: [holding answer 18 March 2003]: The use of United Kingdom bases, including RAF Fairford, by the United States Visiting Force is set out in a number of confidential arrangements between the UK and US Governments. I am withholding the release of these documents in accordance with Exemption 1 (Defence, security and international relations) of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information. I can confirm, however, that the use of UK bases for combat operations by United States Air Force aircraft remains a matter for joint decision by the UK and US governments at the appropriate time. [24.03.2003]

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the US Government asked for permission for the US National Guard to be based at (a) RAF Mildenhall, (b) RAF Lakenheath and (c) JAC Molesworth; who gave permission; and how many US National Guard are based at each of the bases. [101689]

Mr. Ingram: The US formally advised us on 3 March of their plans to augment military guard forces at RAF Lakenheath, RAF Mildenhall, RAF Croughton and RAF Molesworth with US Army National Guardsmen. The Guardsmen arrived on 10 March, around 230 have been deployed. About 100 have been deployed to RAF Lakenheath, 60 to RAF Mildenhall, 40 to RAF Croughton and 30 to RAF Molesworth. The National Guardsmen will carry out routine access control and other guarding duties under supervision, to 'backfill' permanent security personnel who have been deployed to other duties. [18.03.2003]

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what authority the UK Government has given the US Government to load cruise missiles on to B-52 bombers at RAF Gloucestershire; and for what purpose. [102419]

Mr. Hoon: The use by United States Visiting Forces of United Kingdom bases is a matter for joint decision by HM Government and the US Government at the appropriate time. The deployment of the B-52s to RAF Fairford was part of our continuing contingency preparations and did not represent a decision to take military action.

I am withholding the information requested in accordance with Exemption 1 (Defence, security and international relations) of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information. [14.03.2003]

Llew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what benefits to United Kingdom national defence will accrue from the granting of permission to the United States of landing rights for United States Air Force B-52 bombers. [101993]

Mr. Hoon: As I told the House on the 3 March 2003, *Official Report*, column 566, I agreed to the United States Air Force deployment at RAF Fairford as part of our continuing contingency preparations for possible military action in Iraq. The Government have made clear on many occasions the threat posed to the United Kingdom by Iraq's continued possession, in contravention of successive UN Security Council Resolutions, of weapons of mass destruction. [12.03.2003]

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many (a) US, (b) RAF, (c) MOD and (d) Ministry of Defence Police Agency personnel are deployed at RAF Fylingdales. [101688]

Mr. Ingram: There are: 76 RAF personnel, 43 MOD civilian personnel, 189 UK contractors, one USAF personnel, and 10 US contractors employed at RAF Fylingdales. I am withholding the information relating to the Ministry of Defence Police deployed at RAF Fylingdales in accordance with Exemption 1 (Defence, security and international relations) of the Codes of Practice on Access to Government Information as it could compromise the security of the Station. [11.03.2003]

Dr. Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what research his Department will undertake into the radiation effects of an X-band radar on UK soil; [100665]

(2) what discussions he has had with the US on the siting of (a) an X-band radar and (b) interceptor missiles in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [100666]

Mr. Hoon: The Ministry of Defence keeps in touch with the United States Administration on possible future developments in missile defence. The United States has undertaken to extend missile defence coverage and make missile defence capabilities available to the United Kingdom, subject to technological developments and our willingness to participate in such a system. This would involve the siting of interceptors in Europe. Decisions on whether the UK should seek to acquire missile defences, and the location and provision of

interceptors, are for the future, in the light of the prevailing security circumstances at the time. We have no reason to expect a request to site a missile defence X-band radar in the United Kingdom. The Ministry of Defence does not therefore intend to undertake or commission any research into radiation effects. [07.03.2003]

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he plans to give additional support to North Yorkshire police as a result of the upgrading of the Fylingdales radar station. [97773]

Mr. Denham: Since 11 September, police forces have been able to bid for additional funding for various counter terrorist activities, including the protection of vulnerable sites. Given the nature of the funding, publicity is not being given to the activities it covers or what has been allocated to individual forces. [03.03.2003]

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will publish Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding drawn up with the US Government concerning the US Missile Defence System and the US use of RAF Fylingdales. [99208]

Mr. Hoon: Once such arrangements have been negotiated, we will consider whether it is possible to make the texts publicly available, subject to their classification and to discussions with the United States Government. [28.02.2003]

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer of 16 December 2002, *Official Report*, column 518W, on RAF bases, for what reason no budget is shown for RAF Menwith Hill. [90153]

ALSO:

Nuclear forces transform to meet requirements: The Air Force is modernizing its strategic systems even as the nation reduces its nuclear stockpile, the director of Air Force nuclear operations said April 8.

Brig. Gen. Robert L. Smolen, director of nuclear and counter proliferation at the Pentagon, testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee strategic forces subcommittee, outlining the Air Force's efforts to comply with recommendations of the 2002 Nuclear Posture Review.

The service will reduce the intercontinental ballistic missile force to 500 Minuteman IIIs and fully deactivate the Peacekeeper system by 2005. The plan is in keeping with President George W. Bush's goal

to reduce the number of operationally deployed nuclear forces to between 1,700 and 2,200 by 2012, General Smolen said in written testimony.

As those relics from the Cold War's nuclear-deterrent policy are being reduced, the service is building toward America's new strategic policy for the 21st century, the general said.

The policy, called the "New Triad," combines nuclear and conventional strike systems, active and passive defenses, and a "revitalized" infrastructure designed to meet emerging threats. This triad is supported by command, control and intelligence systems. General Smolen said the Air Force is working to keep the remaining nuclear assets viable, including replacing ICBM propulsion and guidance systems. These upgrades will keep the ICBM fleet operational through 2020.

Other sustainment programs are designed to let air-launched and advanced cruise missiles keep pace with the planned lifespan of the B-52 Stratofortress, which is projected at another 35 to 45 years.

General Smolen also told the lawmakers that the Air Force has been active in ensuring the nation's nuclear assets remain secure.

"Sept. 11, 2001, drove home the importance of homeland security," he said. "In that context, a secure strategic force is not debatable, so we've taken aggressive steps to ensure our nuclear force remains secure from threats." [Air Force Policy Letter, May 2003]

AND FINALLY:

What the American flag Stands For: by Charlotte Aldebron (Charlotte Aldebron, 12, wrote this essay for a competition in Presque Isle, Maine. her 6th grade English class. She attends Cunningham Middle School Comments may be sent to her mother, Jillian Aldebron: aldebron@ainop.com)

The American flag stands for the fact that cloth can be very important. It is against the law to let the flag touch the ground or to leave the flag flying when the weather is bad. The flag has to be treated with respect. You can tell just how important this cloth is because when you compare it to people, it gets much better treatment. Nobody cares if a homeless person touches the ground. A homeless person can lie all over the ground all night long without anyone picking him up, folding him neatly and sheltering him from the rain.

School children have to pledge loyalty to this piece of cloth every morning. No one has to pledge loyalty to justice and equality and human decency. No one

has to promise that people will get a fair wage, or enough food to eat, or affordable medicine, or clean water, or air free of harmful chemicals. But we all have to promise to love a rectangle of red, white, and blue cloth.

Betsy Ross would be quite surprised to see how successful her creation has become. But Thomas Jefferson would be disappointed to see how little of the flag's real meaning remains.

FINANCES:

PLEASE NOTE: The Co-op bank will no longer accept Banker's Orders direct. If you do decide to set up a Banker's Order for CAAB please would you fill in the form below and arrange with your own bank who will then forward it on to our bank.....

For information please contact:

**CAAB, 8 Park Row, Otley, West Yorkshire
LS21 1HQ, England, UK**

Tel./Fax No: 01943 466405 or 01482 702033

Email: anniandlindis@caab.org.uk or caab@btclick.co

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

Bankers Order	Please print
To: The Manager of.....	Bank
Address of Bank.....
Sort Code:.....	Account number.....
Please pay the Co-operative Bank PLC, 6 Tyrell Street, Bradford, BD1 1RJ (Sort Code:08-92-29)	
For the account of Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases (CAAB)	
Account number: 50095311 the sum of £.....	
on receipt of this authorisation	
and monthly quarterly half yearly annually	
thereafter on the first of the month(s)	
Signed.....	
Name.....	
Address.....	
.....	
Post Code.....	
.....	

2003 QUAKER MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

NSA Menwith Hill

Saturdays – 7 June; 2 August; 4 October; 6 December from 2pm - 3pm outside the Main Entrance.

'RAF' Fylingdales

Saturdays – 5 July; 6 September; 1 November from 12pm - 1pm outside the Approach Road Entrance at Fylingdales, Near Pickering, North Yorkshire Moors.

Contact Numbers for both Meetings:

Anni: 01943 466405 or

Lindis: 01482 702033

USAF Croughton

**Saturdays – 24 May; 28 June; 26 July; 23 August;
27 September; 25 October; 22 November
and 27 December**

**Contact Rachel and Paul Milling
email: paul@milling.freeserve.co.uk**

USAF Fairford

**Contact Mary Jeans
email: MaryRJeans@aol.com**

.....With love and peace.....

...Anni and Lindis...

For your diary.....

**Annual
'Independence FROM America'
demonstration
Friday 4 July 2003 at
NSA Menwith Hill
Main entrance - 12 – 4 pm
Details soon on website!**