



Campaign *for the* Accountability of American Bases

News & Appeal Issue

No. 28: June 2005

Dear friends

Since the last newsletter, the Labour Government has been returned for an historic third term. After the result, Tony Blair stood in Downing Street and pledged to listen to the concerns of the public; arrogance and 'railroading' of policies in the previous term in office was apparently out.

However, within a month of being re-elected, the Labour government has quickly pursued some of the unpopular policies in the Manifesto ie ID cards, mutterings about replacement of Trident and more serious undermining of precious civil liberties

Make Poverty History gathers pace and as we publish the G8 summit at Gleneagles is about to happen. Many people are wearing white 'bracelets' (ironically made by exploited labour) in solidarity with those in far-flung places who struggle daily to exist and some that don't make it.



Rightly, there is much talk about the link between global warming, the cancellation of debt and new deals for fairer trade.

However where is the mention or link about the obscenity of world military spending and development of more and more weapons? The news that for the first time military spending worldwide has topped \$1 trillion dollars. The US boasts that aid has been tripled ("and of course we must do more") and George W Bush makes sure that the US dream of more and more is safeguarded. Spending on hideous new weapons is not generally linked to poverty in

Africa and yet the government continues to sign very lucrative contracts with countries in Africa. Where is the sense and indeed..... the fairness?

We are making sure that the link between how much is spent on

new military hardware is made. We are making sure that people know about the American Missile Offensive system. The huge press interest in the ASBO case (see Court reports inside) has given us this platform.

SCOTT RITTER IS COMING TO MENWITH HILL and IN THE EVENING AT LEEDS CIVIC HALL – 7.30-9.0 PM – 4 JULY 2005 – leaflet on back – see back page for details of demonstration – front photo by John Ward

AROUND THE BASES

NSA/USAF MENWITH HILL (near Harrogate, North Yorkshire)

Construction: Significant new developments around the area of Nessfield gate on the busy B6451 Pateley Bridge road are coming on a pace. It is to be developed as a contractors area, with a visitor's control centre, a 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.

The old entrance is now completely blocked off by a new building and a little further down the road from the entrance, a large metal double electronic sliding gate is being built. This is in line with worldwide developments and security upgradings on US bases.

Planning Applications since last newsletter:

PA No: 6.90.179.G.CROWND – Improvements to vehicle access to Building 31 plus loading dock area and car-wash.

PA No: 6.90.179.H.CROWND – Improvements to Station sidewalks and landscaping of disused parking area.

PA No: 6.90.328.A.CROWND – Formation of area of hardstanding to replace gravel area; extension of Second Street with provision of street lighting.

PA No: 6.90.154.B.CROWND – 3 x access ramps, walling up of door and replacement with window on Building 34.

Arrests and Court: Things have quietened down somewhat concerning arrests and court hearings. At Harrogate Magistrates' Court on 14 April, 2005 Roy Anderson (District Judge) had 32 cases before him. These all arose out of the weekly CAAB Tuesday night demonstration at Menwith Hill over the past year (see CAAB website - CAAB Reports for history and details). He decided to hear a sample of nine cases (two - Anni and seven - Lindis).

At the start of the trial, Lindis was informed that should she be found guilty of any of the alleged offences, the Ministry of Defence Police Agency (MDPA) and North Yorkshire Police would apply for an Anti-Social Behaviour Order (ASBO).

After a six-day trial, Roy Anderson dismissed two cases. There was no choice after surprising evidence

given by Sergeant Main and two other MDPA officers. Roy Anderson found Anni guilty of 'aggravated trespass s.69'. He fined her £60 and ordered £60 costs against her. She has appealed the conviction and sentence. The appeal will be heard in Leeds Crown Court sometime.

Lindis was found guilty of one offence of 'obstruction of the highway' and four offences of 'obstruction of a police officer in the execution of his/her duty'.

The District Judge adjourned the hearing for the application of the ASBO until 17 May for a pre-sentence report to be prepared by the Probation Service. He warned that he 'was keeping all sentencing options open'.

On 17 May a bigger court had to be found to accommodate all the people who came in support and the large numbers of the media. In his ruling in response for the application for an ASBO against Lindis, Roy Anderson said:

'...None of the incidents was accompanied by aggressive behaviour, abusive language or threats of violence. Mrs Percy has previous convictions but they all seem to relate to and stem from her activities as a peace campaigner. She may, in her relentless expression of her views, be thought by many to be a fanatic and by some to be a crank. Nevertheless she is entitled to express these views unless she breaks the criminal law of this country.

I am firmly of the view courts ought not to allow ASBOs to be used as a club to beat down the expression of legitimate comment and the dissemination of views on matters of public concern...' Roy Anderson refused to grant the ASBO application.

At this, there was spontaneous applause from people in the court. The District Judge wryly thanked those applauding for their approval.

Roy Anderson then went on to decide the sentence (at a previous hearing on 14 April 2005 he had found Lindis guilty of one offence of 'obstruction of the highway' and four of 'obstruction of a police officer in the execution of his duty'). He made the surprising decision to order her to be electronically tagged and to be curfewed in her home from the hours of 8 pm to 6 am for a period of 8 weeks. Robert Moore (CP) asked for prosecution costs of £500 for each offence (total £2500). Richard Reed said that Lindis owed £3,600 to the court which she continued to pay at £5 per week. The DJ remarked "that will take a long

time to pay off' and promptly ordered costs against her of £1,000.

Lindis felt moved to quietly and politely respond to Roy Anderson's decision. He refused to listen and left the court to a dignified chorus of 'shame, shame, shame'.

Later Richard Reed (solicitor) faxed an Appeal to York Crown Court against the convictions and sentence imposed on Lindis. Both the convictions and sentence are now 'on hold' pending the Appeal. She has therefore not been 'tagged' or 'curfewed'.

Thank you so much to everyone who came to Harrogate Magistrates' Court throughout the trial and stages of the application for the ASBO and sentencing.

Space Based Infra Red System (SBIRS) at Menwith Hill: The Space-Based Infrared System-High (SBIRS-High) program will consist of high-orbiting infrared satellites designed to detect and track ballistic missiles of all sizes. Once operational, SBIRS-High will function 24 hours per day, 365 days per year, and in all types of weather. It will replace the current Defense Support Program (DSP) satellites, which have provided early missile warning information for more than 30 years.

In the 1980s when laying the groundwork for its missile defense shield, the Pentagon realized that if it wanted to provide an effective defense against ballistic missile attack, it needed to create a quick and efficient method of detecting and tracking enemy launches. In other words, it needed to build a constellation of infrared satellites that would serve as the watchtower for the entire Ballistic Missile Defense System.

After experimenting with several models, the U.S. Air Force in 1996 decided to create a "system of systems" to accomplish this Herculean task. It began work on a constellation of "high" and "low" infrared satellites. SBIRS-High was to consist of six large satellites deployed 22,000 miles above the Earth. Its counterpart, SBIRS-Low, was to include 20-30 smaller satellites in low-earth orbit roughly 621 to 930 miles above the Earth.

In 2001, SBIRS-Low was transferred to the Missile Defense Agency (MDA) and in 2002 was renamed the Space Tracking and Surveillance System (STSS). Scheduled for launch in 2007, STSS will be capable of tracking enemy missiles against the cold background of space and observing targets with great detail. Meanwhile, the Air Force is continuing to develop SBIRS-High. At present, Lockheed Martin

is its prime contractor and manages the SBIRS-High team that includes Northrop Grumman.

Once deployed, SBIRS-High will be able to detect an enemy missile just after it has been launched; track the missile as it progresses along its flight path; figure out the exact moment at which the missile deploys its nuclear, chemical, or biological warhead; and provide reliable data to defense systems (air, land, sea, or space) for their attack on the incoming warhead. The system will consist of four primary satellites in Geosynchronous Earth Orbit (GEO), two spacecraft carrying infrared sensors in Highly Elliptical Orbit (HEO), and a Mission Control Station (MCS) located on the ground. The Air Force plans to acquire a fifth GEO satellite to be launched if necessary.

As envisioned, the four GEO satellites will rotate at the same speed as the Earth and will take 24 hours to make one full orbit. In doing so, they will keep a fixed position around the equator and maintain their "geosynchronous" nature. The two HEO spacecraft will orbit the poles in elliptical patterns at different speeds than the Earth, thus enhancing the GEO satellites' field of vision. Infrared sensors on the spacecraft will identify heat sources and denote them as points on a map (unlike DSP, which produces images of potential threats). The sensors will be able to detect objects that are much cooler and dimmer than those currently tracked by DSP satellites, thus increasing the overall effectiveness of SBIRS-High and the entire missile defense shield.

SBIRS-High sensors will also include "scanning" and "staring" elements. In a typical combat scenario, the "scanning" sensors will detect a missile launch, and the "staring" sensors will lock on to the missile itself and transmit detailed data to the Mission Control Station. DSP satellites, which only have scanning sensors, currently take 40-50 seconds to detect a missile launch and determine its course. SBIRS-High, on the other hand, will take only 10-20 seconds to accomplish this task plus relay this information to the ground.

The Mission Control Station, located at Buckley Air Force Base in Colorado, will integrate SBIRS-High with the rest of the MDA's Ballistic Missile Defense System, most notably the Space Tracking and Surveillance System. MCS will replace the three existing DSP control centers. Once operational, it will be able to warn the Pentagon of enemy missile launches almost twice as fast as DSP.

Despite the myriad advantages of SBIRS-High, the program is currently experiencing cost overruns and scheduling delays. In 2001, the Pentagon reported to

Congress that SBIRS-High was in violation of the Nunn-McCurdy law, which outlines specific guidelines for defense programs that exceed initial cost estimates by more than 25 percent. In 2002, SBIRS-High was restructured to address the specific problems that led to the Nunn-McCurdy breach, but cost overruns and scheduling delays still hamper the program. According to the Air Force, SBIRS-High will run approximately \$1 billion over budget through 2013. This raises the total cost of the program to nearly \$10 billion.

All the same, Congress remains supportive of SBIRS-High and its essential role in U.S. ballistic missile defense. In May 2004, the Senate and House Armed Services Committees each added \$35 million to the program. The first SBIRS-High satellite launch is currently scheduled for 2007.

Sources

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January 17, 2005: Defense News: The Space Based Infrared System High program, critical to detecting and tracking ballistic missile launches for any interception attempt, is profiled by *Defense News*.

The SBIRS High program will consist of four satellites, placed at geostationary orbits, monitoring the surface for heat indicative of explosions or a missile launch. The program has faced considerable

delays, funding problems, and opposition, but the first satellite is scheduled for launch in 2007. The SBIRS program is said to be 60% faster and twice as accurate as the existing Defense Support Program satellites, of which there are 22, currently in operation, and will serve a broader number of purposes.

Military spending on rise: Global outlays top \$1 trillion, highest since Cold War peak; U.S. accounts for nearly half. Associated Press June 8, 2005

STOCKHOLM, Sweden -- Global military spending in 2004 broke the \$1 trillion barrier for the first time since the Cold War, boosted by the U.S. war against terror and the growing defense budgets of India and China, a European think tank said Tuesday.

Led by the United States, which accounted for almost half of all military expenditures, the world spent \$1.035 trillion on defense, equal to 2.6 percent of global gross domestic product, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute said.

Besides its regular defense budget, the United States has allocated \$238 billion since 2003 to fight terrorism, according to the report. "These appropriations are now assuming extraordinary proportions," said SIPRI researcher Elisabeth Skons, who co-authored the organization's annual report.

Adjusted for inflation, the figure for global military spending in 2004 is only 6 percent lower than its Cold War peak in 1987-1988, Skons said.

Total military expenditures grew 6 percent in 2004 over the previous year, in line with an average annual increase since 2002, the institute said. South Asia, northern Africa and North America made the largest increases. In Western Europe and Central America, military spending fell.

But the report said the figures might be on the low side as countries are increasingly outsourcing services related to armed conflicts, such as military training and providing logistics in combat zones, without classifying them as military expenditures.

Such outsourcing has more than doubled in the last 15 years, and was estimated to have reached \$100 million during 2004, SIPRI researcher Caroline Holmqvist said. The researchers predicted it would double again from current levels by 2010.

"This is a global phenomenon," Holmqvist said, adding it was difficult to provide exact figures. "This is an industry that is not largely regulated."

As a region, South Asia saw the biggest rise in military expenditure, largely because India boosted its defense budget by 19 percent in a move that could provide a "real setback" to the country's attempts at ending a decades-long conflict with neighbor Pakistan, Skons said.

Psychological Warfare Effort to be Outsourced: Army command hires three firms to sway Afghans and Iraqis by James W Crawley
WASHINGTON. The U.S. Special Operations Command has hired three firms to produce newspaper stories, television broadcasts and Web sites to spread American propaganda overseas.

The Tampa-based military headquarters, which oversees commandos and psychological warfare, may spend up to \$100 million for the media campaign in the next five years. In 2002 the Pentagon backed away from a similar campaign.

The use of contractors in psyops is a new wrinkle. But psychological warfare expert Herb Friedman said he is not surprised. With only one active-duty and two reserve psyops units remaining, Friedman said, "The bottom line is, they don't have the manpower."

Federal law prohibits sending propaganda to Americans, and some experts worry that psychological warfare messages, especially disinformation efforts, might blow back to American audiences via the Internet and satellite news channels.

"In this age of the Internet and instant access, it's of great concern," said Nancy Snow, a propaganda expert at California State University-Fullerton. "If you plant false stories, how can you control where that story goes? You can't." Others question whether the money could be better spent.

So far, said defense analyst William Arkin, American propaganda efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan have "produced nothing positive and nothing negative." He suggested the \$100 million might be better spent on guns and bullets.

Winning the contracts were Science Applications International Corp., SYColeman Inc. and Lincoln Group Corp.

SAIC, a California-based defense contractor with a major presence in McLean, Va., ran the U.S.-sponsored Iraqi Media Network, a print, radio and television operation, after the fall of Baghdad in April 2003. The firm was criticized for problems and

exorbitant costs and declined to bid on the contract renewal.

SYColeman, a subsidiary of L-3 Communications based in Arlington, Va., advertises it created the Army's Web site honoring the only Medal of Honor winner so far from the Iraq war.

Lincoln, based in Washington and formerly known as Iraqex, provides various services, including public relations, in Iraq.

Spokesmen for the companies referred inquiries to the Pentagon. A Pentagon spokesman referred them to the Tampa command, which said special operations officials were unavailable this week because of a symposium and trade show.

The companies will get their marching orders from a joint psychological operations support element created last year.

Each contractor will receive a minimum of \$250,000 during the first year and \$500,000 each subsequent year. The entire contract could total \$100 million by 2010, records show. The contract calls for the firms to produce print articles, video and audio broadcasts, Internet sites and novelty items, like T-shirts and bumper stickers, for foreign audiences. Video products will include newscasts, hour-long TV shows and commercials.

'RAF' FYLINGDALES (near Pickering, North Yorkshire)

Misuse of 'aggravated' trespass: Lindis was 'warned' (s.69) by a MDPA officer as she was continuing research on base on 2 April 2005. Information from a Freedom of Information Act request has interesting things to say about directions given to officers to use 'aggravated' trespass instead of Military Land Byelaws. 'Aggravated' trespass is clearly being used as a form of bail conditions.

Latest Planning Applications: To date there are no new planning applications at Fylingdales.

...The new MDPA police post is now in operation at the entrance to the Approach Road to the base.

USAF LAKENHEATH (near Brandon, Suffolk)

US Nuclear store: Representatives from the more than 180 countries that have signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty are now meeting at the United

Nations in New York City to review the treaty's status. During the month-long conference, many member countries will call for reducing or eliminating tactical (short-range) nuclear weapons, including U.S. nuclear weapons in Europe. On May 3, an unidentified U.S. diplomat told the International Herald Tribune that the United States will not withdraw its nuclear weapons from Europe. "The nuclear weapons will be maintained at a minimum level to preserve peace and stability. It is something all the NATO allies have agreed on. They are the essential military and political link between the United States and Europe."

[Natural Resources Defense Council – 6 May 2005]

USAF CROUGHTON (near Brackley, Northants)

High Court appeal dismissed: An appeal involving Lindis was dismissed by the High Court. On 21 April 2005. She was arrested and charged with 'aggravated trespass' s.68 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 at USAF Croughton at the start of the invasion of Iraq - 26 March 2003. It was a quiet, personal and peaceful protest. Northampton Magistrates remanded Lindis to Holloway prison for one week in March 2003. She was released after one week with strict bail conditions.

This case eventually joined an appeal to the High Court by way of 'case stated' with 14 Greenpeace campaigners (protest at Marchwood – Southampton Waters and Valerie Swain – protest at USAF Faiford (all convicted of 'aggravated trespass' and 'criminal damage')). In a 32 page ruling Lord Justice Waller (backed by Mr Justice Jack) found against all three cases. The Judges ruled that Lindis had committed a second act (by putting the upside down US flag on a perimeter fence. The Judges took two months to deliver their verdict.

The lawyers representing Lindis did not argue that Lindis's action were to prevent the illegal invasion of Iraq. This would have been absurd. We argued that Lindis's 'crime' was no more than trespass. The two Judges disagreed.

The questions before the Judges were similar in all three cases except Lindis Percy's appeal did not involve questions relating to criminal damage. We were seeking a ruling from the court on the question of whether crimes against peace or crimes of aggression were within s.68 (2) 'aggravated trespass'.

We were denied permission for leave to appeal to the House of Lords but the Judges did say that the cases raised questions of public importance. We have

decided not to appeal as the same questions we would raise are already in the House of Lords (Jones and others v DPP). It may be helpful to be reminded of the background to this case. It is important to get a flavour of how the American authorities were in firm control of the court process at Northampton Magistrates' Court – where this case started.

JAC MOLESWORTH (near Cambridge)

Colonel takes over analysis center: U.S. Army Col. D.J. Reyes, a 23-year intelligence officer, took command Friday of the U.S. European Command Joint Analysis Center at RAF Molesworth, England.

Reyes replaced U.S. Air Force Col. Dick Ayres, who departs the JAC after spending one year as director of operations and two as commander. Ayres will assume command of the 480th Intelligence Group at Langley Air Force Base, Va., according to a JAC news release.

The JAC processes, analyzes and consolidates data to produce intelligence information focusing on 91 countries across Europe, Africa and the Middle East. It supports operations conducted by the United States and its allies, as well as North Atlantic Treaty Organization member nations.

Reyes has commanded and been the primary staff intelligence officer at the detachment, company, battalion, brigade, division and major command levels.

His most recent tactical tour was as senior intelligence officer for the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) at Fort Campbell, Ky. His role during the division's initial combat operations in Operation Iraqi Freedom was chronicled in the book "In the Company of Soldiers" by Rick Atkinson, according to the release.

Reyes is a graduate of the U.S. Naval War College and received a master's degree in national security strategy and policy. *[Stars and Stripes, 12.06.2005]*

OFFICIAL UK GOVERNMENT POLICY ON AMERICAN MISSILE DEFENCE

Labour Party: The threat from increasing proliferation of ballistic missiles and the potential for their combination with chemical, biological and nuclear warheads is a subject of growing global importance. Developing the capacity to defend against the threat of ballistic missile attack could be

in the long-term interest of the UK. That is why the government agreed to the request from the United States to upgrade the computer hardware and the software at the early warning radar at Fylingdales so that the US could test its missile defence capabilities against limited ballistic attack.

We must continue to be deeply concerned about the proliferation of ballistic missiles, especially those with chemical, biological and nuclear warheads. The proliferation of ballistic missiles makes the world a more unstable and dangerous place and could seriously threaten the UK. That is why, in line with our previous manifesto commitment, the UK government must remain engaged in discussions with the US and our other NATO allies about how best to respond to the threat of proliferation of ballistic missiles.

[Matt Carter, General Secretary, The Labour Party Head Office]

SELECTION OF PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Because of the election and one or two perogues of Parliament, there have not been the usual plethora of Questions and Answers to include in the Newsletter. We have however the continued support and help of Norman Baker MP who was re-elected for Lewes, Sussex who has agreed to continue to ask PQs for CAAB. We have just sent him a list of suggested PQs – hopefully there will be some Answers ready to include in the next newsletter.

Q: Mr Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was reimbursed by the US authorities at RAF Menwith Hill in lieu of payment to the MoD Police Agency in each of the last five years. [847]

A: Mr Ingram: *The Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency received the following amounts from the United States authorities in the last five years in relation to services provided at Menwith Hill.*

	£
2004-05	5,898,000
2003-04	4,624,000
2002-03	4,514,000
2001-02	1,725,000
2000-01	1,660,000

[26.05.2005]

Q: Mr Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK nuclear weapons

are available for use by the Government; and how many US tactical nuclear weapons there are at RAF Lakenheath. [2335]

A: John Reid: *In line with the policy set out in the 1998 Strategic Defence Review, the United Kingdom maintains a stockpile of less than 200 operationally available Trident warheads, 48 of which are onboard the single submarine on deterrent patrol.*

On the issue of US nuclear weapons, NATO's Strategic Concept (paragraph 63) states that:

"nuclear forces based in Europe and committed to NATO provide an essential political and military link between the European and North American members of the Alliance. The Alliance will therefore maintain adequate nuclear forces in Europe."

Numbers of US nuclear weapons in the UK can and do vary, and the capability for deployments of such weapons to and from the UK remains extant regardless of the particular number of weapons in the UK at any given time.

It is NATO and national policy not to comment on the detail of such nuclear deployments. [08.06.2005]

TALKS, WORKSHOPS AND INTERVIEWS (since last newsletter)

Hope Valley Peace Group
Sheffield Students CND
Hull Monthly Meeting Peace and Justice Group
Women to Women for Peace

Interviews/report to press/media

Look North TV
Hull Daily Mail
Radio Northampton
Jeremy Vine Show (x2)
BBC World Service
BBC Radio Ulster
BBC Radio Belfast
BBC Radio Leeds
BBC Radio York
BBC Radio 2 – Johnny Diamond Show
Sky News
The Independent
The Guardian
The Times
Islam Channel
BBC Radio Scotland
Hull in Print
Minster Radio
Church Times
.....and many more in response to the ASBO and 'tagging' case

A BIG THANK YOU TO EVERYONE

We are so grateful for all the contributions that are being sent in response to the ‘Scott Ritter’ appeal and for the continuing financial help for the work of CAAB.

2005 QUAKER MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

USAF Menwith Hill: Saturdays - **2005** - 6 Aug, 1 Oct, and 3 Dec - from 2pm - 3pm outside the Main Entrance.

Contact for Menwith Hill: Anni: **01943 466405** or Lindis: **01482 702033**

‘RAF’ Fylingdales: Saturdays - **2005** - 2 July, 3 Sept, and 5 Nov - from 12pm - 1pm outside the Approach Road Entrance at Fylingdales, Near Pickering, North Yorkshire Moors.

Contact for Fylingdales: Phone 01964 550410 e-mail Chrisfellowes1@aol.com

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

USAF Fairford: Contact: Sue Fleming - 01285 641340

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PLEASE NOTE: The CAAB newsletter gives a taste of the work we do and the information we have gathered please refer to CAAB website

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..... *With love and peace*

Anni and Lindis