



Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases

No. 35 September 2007

Local, National and International News

Dear friends

Bad news was buried 48 hours before Parliament went into the summer recess and also while the media was full of the devastating floods affecting many parts of the country.

What was it? **Menwith Hill is to be formally used for Missile Defense.** It could not have been more devious. Please read the article by Menzies Campbell over the page.

CAAB found out about Missile Defense at Menwith Hill (and later Fylingdales) in 1997. We brought out a legal action (injunction) to try to stop the building of the two Space Based Infra Red System radomes. Against all odds the case continued for a year before we had to drop it. We were not successful in the action of course, but we learned a great deal about international law, what Missile Defense actually was and the worldwide effects it would have, the implications to local, national and international security, and much more. We also learnt that it is a very difficult issue to campaign about! "Star Wars" – yes – good film!"

Perhaps a few more people know about Missile Defense - however not nearly enough. Menwith Hill has continued in development and now the 'inner operations' are being completely revamped in preparation for this deadly weapons system. It is known as "Operations Phoenix".

Missile Defense must be stopped – and we can do it!

**This newsletter concentrates
mostly on issue of Missile
Defense because of important
news that Menwith Hill is now to
be formally used by the US
Government**

**COME TO THE
'Drum Them Out'
demonstration**

13 October 2007

details inside

Around the US Bases

NSA MENWITH HILL

(near Harrogate North Yorkshire)

North Yorkshire Police (NYP) impose conditions on demonstration:

We have always been very careful to liaise with the police when organising demonstrations, especially around health and safety concerns and we thought we had good working and cooperative relations with them.

A letter from NYP, headed 'Organisers Responsibilities' suddenly arrived before the 4 July demonstration. We met with NYP and liaised with PC Tetley (the Liaison Officer) expressing our concerns. However, for the first time ever a section 12 notice (Public Order Act 1989) was served on all demonstrators at the annual 'Independence FROM America' demonstration on 4 July. This demonstration (and since 2000 'Keep Space for Peace' demonstration in October) has been held every year since the early 80s.

The conditions meant that we were not allowed to walk round the base because the s.12 notice prevented us walking along the verge of the A59. Despite representations to the police they were adamant that this would not happen.

It is a worrying trend, and after the demonstration we contacted Liberty who have taken up the issue. We have received an identical letter ("Organisers Responsibilities") from NYP concerning the next demonstration. We hope very much that this can be resolved without involving the courts.

[News from 'round the US bases had had to be cut so as to publish this following article – we make no apologies for publishing this article in full – Ed]

Why Britain must ask tough questions on Menwith Hill: by Menzies Campbell.

Britain's right-wing press, politicians and commentators have an unshakeable habit of working themselves into a fury about power-sharing in Europe. They see themselves as the great defenders of British sovereignty against the political ambitions of our continental partners.

Yet those same people remain largely silent over the transfer of British sovereignty in crucial areas of national security to the United States.

In a three-paragraph written statement slipped out in July, just one day before Parliament rose – and almost completely unnoticed by the press – the Defence Secretary announced that the Government is permitting the US administration to install additional equipment at Menwith Hill, in Yorkshire, to support its unproven missile defence system.

There has been no public debate in Britain about the desirability, or workability of missile defence, let alone about the strategic assumptions that underpin it. The American programme has suffered from successive test failures and critical Congressional reports over the past 20 years.

The political will to persevere with it has been driven as much by industrial as military priorities. Its original justification was to defend America against China; now it is said that it will protect against Iran, depicted in Washington as an implacable, long-term enemy.

Des Browne's statement swallows the neo-conservative terminology of the Republican right, declaring that "the Government

welcomes US plans... to address the growing threat from rogue states”.

Even Tony Blair hesitated to apply the label of “rogue state” to all those the Bush Administration labelled as beyond the limits of international diplomacy.

Commendably, the Blair Government worked with the US and others to bring Libya back within acceptable rules of international order.

After several years of hardline rhetoric against North Korea – the world’s clearest example of a state run by people who reject the norms of civilised behaviour both towards their neighbours and towards their own citizens – the Bush Administration is not only negotiating with them but even offering economic assistance in return for co-operation.

While attacking Iran, a signatory of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, for falling short of its treaty obligations, Washington is offering non-signatory India a nuclear partnership which some say threatens to undermine the entire non-proliferation regime.

The exceptional depth of American hostility towards Iran is rooted in the ideology of a “long war” between the West and Islam, in which Iran has now replaced Iraq as the prime sponsor of anti-Western terrorism and Islamic fundamentalism. The US approach to the complex international politics of the Middle East is mistaken. The British government should resist aligning this country with that approach.

Those in power in Iran are hardline nationalists with deeply unattractive views and close links to Hezbollah and Hamas, but they are effective at exploiting Anglo-Saxon hostility to bolster their position against domestic critics. Without some co-operation with Iran, the restoration of stable government in southern Afghanistan will prove impossible; the Iranian

government has, after all, assisted efforts to contain the Taliban at crucial points over the past five years.

The current drift of US Iraq policy towards supporting Sunnis against Shias, and bolstering Saudi and Israeli national interests, does not provide a short-cut towards a stable Middle East region. Britain’s invitation to the Saudi King to make a state visit this autumn signals support for the US-Saudi alliance in the Middle East, as well as commitment to BAE’s biggest arms export customer. Liberal Democrats will press the Government to challenge their guests on Saudi support for Sunni fundamentalism; the evidence on suicide bombers and al-Qaida terrorists in Iraq, for example, suggests that many more have crossed the Saudi frontier than have entered from Iran.

Meanwhile, our government allows the continuation of American enclaves on British soil, protected from Parliamentary scrutiny or public debate. Menwith Hill is effectively outside the control of British authorities, with Ministry of Defence police patrolling only the outside perimeter. In the months after the 9/11 attacks of 2001, numbers of US personnel there rose sharply, unreported to the UK Parliament. There are other US intelligence and early-warning bases around the country, which also primarily serve American interests rather than British interests.

Later this month, RAF Fylingdales will switch on its upgraded radar. Des Browne has announced that it “will contribute to the US ballistic missile system, alongside a global network of other US-owned sensors”.

“The UK,” he added, “will have full insight into the operation of the US missile defence system when missile engagements take place that are wholly or partly influenced by data from the radar at Fylingdales”

This amounts to a pledge of information post-event, but no part in any decision on how to respond or under what assumptions and instructions.

Parliamentary scrutiny is denied or obstructed in the name of national interest. It is inconceivable that if circumstances were reversed, the US Congress would tolerate such limitations on its powers. The British Parliament seems supine in comparison.

Those who defend against the infringement of British sovereignty should take note of this issue, rather than battering at the compromises British Ministers make in European negotiations. Labour and the Conservatives, in cosy consensus, justify the use of UK bases as extra-territorial enclaves that serve American ends.

The drive towards missile defence in Washington is driven by a mixture of industrial and military interests, and the identification of Iran as an existential enemy of the West. The British Parliament has the duty to question whether such motivations are compatible with British national interests. *[Yorkshire Post 20 September 2007]*

COMMENT: *It is refreshing to see that one of the political parties has raised this important issue. The article was written during the Liberal Democratic conference. It sums up many of the issues that CAAB has and continues to campaign about [Ed].*

IMPORTANT DEMONSTRATION

NSA/USAF Menwith Hill

Part of a week of international protest called for by the Global Network Against Nuclear Weapons and Power in Space – against the militarization of space

“KEEP SPACE FOR PEACE”

Saturday 13 October 2007 md – 4 pm
Outside the main entrance

“DRUM THEM OUT”

Speakers: Hilary Wainwright -
editor Red Pepper

Jon Trickett - Labour MP for Hemsworth

Jean Lambert - MEP Green Party

Steve Hill – Daftasadrum, Honey

Drummers, Bradford Samba Band

Food by Rhubarb Tartlets, informative walk
round the base...please bring your drums!

Contact CAAB

Spaced Based Infra Red System at Menwith Hill:

We asked Norman Baker (Lib Dems MP) to ask a Parliamentary question as to when this system would come ‘on-line’ – refer to PQ section

‘Major Incident Report’ 2007: We made a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for details of any emergency contingency plans in place at Harrogate District General Hospital (being the nearest hospital to Menwith Hill) should there be a chemical, biological and or nuclear attack on the base. Eventually we received a copy of the ‘Major Incident Plan 2007’. The plans seem woefully inadequate and reveal that if nuclear materials were involved the population affected would have to go to Leeds. We are having the report analysed as we publish.

COMMENT: *It is utterly depressing that we even have to raise these questions once again. This is what some of us did in the ‘80s. The*

information revealed 'ostrich' thinking mentally by those who try to 'plan' for such hideous emergency situations. Wouldn't it be more sensible to put all our energies, skills, imagination and creativity into the prevention of such terrifying scenarios?

Arrest, Court And On The Move: on 13 August 2007 Lindis was suddenly arrested while at the main entrance demonstrating with an upside-down US flag with 'Independence FROM America' written on it.

Kelly Lloyd and Matthew Gordon (Ministry of Defence Police Agency) were instructed to 'police' the demonstration. Later George Steen (Sergeant MDPA) arrived. It seemed clear to Lindis that she would be arrested for something after new instructions were given to both officers, the prison van arrived and a nod from George Steen prompted Matthew Gordon to eventually arrest her for allegedly 'obstructing the highway'.

Lindis was held in custody for over six hours and eventually charged with two alleged offences: Obstruction of the highway and breach of a section 69 notice (aggravated trespass - Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994). Bail conditions were imposed: 'Not to be stationary on foot or in a vehicle on the four perimeter roads of RAF Menwith Hill (named) except to collect personal vehicle within three hours of release from detention.'

On 21 August 2007 Harrogate Magistrates made an 'interim' variation of the bail conditions. Lindis could attend the Tuesday evening demonstration as long as she did not go within three metres of the perimeter fence or yellow line. The distance was varied to one metre. The original bail conditions would remain until 23 August 2007 when Lindis was to enter a plea. She attended the Tuesday evening demonstration that evening and kept moving for the whole of the demonstration.

On Thursday 23 August 2007 Harrogate Magistrates were told by an agent Barrister that the bail conditions were necessary as the base was on high alert because of a possible terrorist attack and that when Lindis appeared Ministry of Defence Police Agency (MDPA) officers had to be taken from their duties. Sitting at the back of the court however were two MDPA Sergeants who had been in court for over two hours. The Magistrates clearly thought that the 'interim' bail conditions were nonsense and varied them (at our suggestion) to: *'Not to go within one metre of the perimeter fence or yellow line on the ground in front of the main gate or any gate at Menwith Hill.'*

Alleged Breach Of Bail: On 6 September Lindis arrived at the new Nessfield gate with the upside-down US flag with "EMPIRES COME....AND GO" written on it. She was careful not to be in breach of bail conditions but within a very short time she was suddenly and surprisingly arrested by PC Porter (Ministry of Defence Police Agency). She was told that she was in breach of the bail conditions. At the time of arrest she was having a conversation with another MDPA officer who did not seem to have a problem about any breach.

Lindis was detained overnight at Harrogate Police Station and appeared in court the next day. She was held for over 18 hours. Lindis denied that she had breached the conditions. A CCTV video recording was played in court. Unusually the video was shown abnormally speeded up and it was very difficult to decide if any breach had occurred because of this. As she had been quickly arrested the video was very short - hastened by the speed. Lindis gave evidence. The Magistrates returned to say that Lindis had stepped onto the gate line (although not deliberately) and was therefore in breach of the bail conditions - this was despite very dubious evidence and conflicting evidence by the arresting officer in his statement.

Caroline May (Crown Prosecutor) tried to get bail conditions on the 'object' Lindis was carrying (the US flag!) but this was not agreed. The same bail conditions were imposed: *'Not to go within one metre of the perimeter fence or yellow line on the ground in front of the main gate or any gate at Menwith Hill.'*

A case management hearing will be heard on 9 October 2007 at 11 am at Harrogate Magistrates' Court.

SOCPA Trial: The trial of Sylvia Boyes and Helen John will finally be heard on 10 October at 10 am at Harrogate Magistrates' Court and 11 October at Skipton Magistrates' Court at 10am.

RAF' FYLINGDALES (near Pickering, North Yorkshire)

Upgraded Early Warning Radar System (UEWS) - official visit to Fylingdales:

The base opened up some of its secrets on 1 August as the upgrade for Missile Defense was completed. CAAB was invited (with others) to visit Fylingdales to hear a presentation by Nicky Loveday (Wing Commander) and to be shown some of the upgrade. This was actually our second visit to Fylingdales.

Nicky Loveday said that the base was waiting for the 'certificate of operations'. The upgrade is under the control of the US authorities. It was very interesting to learn that there will be no communication between Fylingdales and Menwith Hill re Missile Defense.

We asked for specific information during this visit and eventually received a response. The Certificate of Operations is still 'on going and the Station have no further information on the certification process beyond that provided' during our visit. We asked about the cost of

the UEWR and were told that the MOD does not hold this information. We will pursue this.

Issuing Of s.69 'Warning': Lindis was walking on the North Yorkshire Moors recently (Fylingdales). She was 'warned' by a Ministry of Defence Police (MDPA) officer not to return within three months. The MDPA have used this law many times against Lindis. It has the effect as a form of bail conditions 'by the back door'.

USAF FAIRFORD and (near Letchlade Gloucestershire)

Eurofighter Typhoon Jets: Britain's newest Eurofighter Typhoon jets could soon be flying into action, after being put through their paces over Swindon. Eight of the multi-million pound aircraft have been stationed at RAF Fairford since the start of the month on a military exercise.

The exercise saw 500 personnel shipped in to RAF Fairford, which is actually an US Air Force base, over several days. *[Matthew Pardo - excerpt from Swindon Advertiser 20th September 2007]*

USAF LAKENHEATH (near Brandon, Suffolk)

Changes: Brig. Gen. John W. Hesterman III took command of the 48th Fighter Wing from Brig. Gen. Robert P. Steel on June 5. *[48th Fighter Wing Public Affairs 6 June 2007]*

SOCPA Case: The trial of the seven defendants charged under this Act is yet to be fixed. It should have been heard in July but was again adjourned.

USAF CROUGHTON (Brackley Northants)

Lindis has been granted permission for a Judicial Review on the decision by Corby Magistrates' Court to refuse to issue summons against two Ministry of Defence Police Agency officers and an American military personnel. As we go to press she has been informed that the case is now on the 'warned' list in the High Court London. [Refer to last newsletter and CAAB report 188 and 199]

'Keep Space for Peace': There will be a demonstration as part of the week of international protest against the militarization of space on Saturday 6 October 2007 – speakers: Kate Hudson CND, Dave Webb Global Network and Lindis Percy CAAB – contact oxonpeace@yahoo.co.uk.

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS Ballistic Missile Defence

Q: Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made in developing a Space Based Infra-Red System (a) for the United Kingdom and (b) in collaboration with the United States. [145391]

A: Des Browne: The Space Based Infra Red System is a US programme with no involvement by the UK. [25 Jun 2007: Column 111W]

Q: Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the Space Based Infra Red System at RAF Menwith Hill will be in operation.

A: Des Browne: On current plans, facilities at RAF Menwith Hill for routing satellite data will be ready for operation early in 2008. The operational date for the Space Based Infra Red System is a matter for the US. [3 Sep 2007: Column 1614W]

BAE Systems

Q: Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what (a) logistical and (b) other support his Department provides to BAE Systems for its involvement with US industrial partners in the development of missile defence technology; [145026] (2) what (a) logistical and (b) other support his Department provides to BAE systems for its involvement with US industrial partners in contributing to the development of missile defense technology.

A: Des Browne: Through its participation in the UK Missile Defence Centre the Department provides assistance and advice to UK industry (including BAE Systems) in expanding their involvement in the US missile defence programme. No logistical support is provided to BAE Systems in this area of work. [25 Jun 2007: Column 111W]

MESSAGE FROM OKINAWA: Dear CAAB supporters and friends - Greetings from members of Okinawa International University's No Fly Zone and Futenma-Henoko Action Network who have been hanging the US flag upside-down from a university building facing Futenma air base since July 4 in solidarity with CAAB.

As a member and representative of both groups, it was fantastic to have the opportunity to meet Lindis in Leeds last month, and to discuss ways of ensuring the US military practices what its politicians preach when it comes to freedom and democracy.

Here in Okinawa that would mean, to start with, unconditionally closing the Futenma base, which perilously occupies 1,194 acres of land (about 600 football pitches) in the heart of Ginowan City (pop. 91,363).

Even so, at present the positions of the US and Japanese governments remain the same as

they have been for the last ten years – put up with the base until we destroy the pristine coral reef in Henoko (off Okinawa's north-east coast) to make way for its upgraded counterpart.

In such circumstances, as we learn more about your efforts to decommission the Menwith Hill 'gunsight,' we would greatly welcome your encouragement as we join others striving to dismantle the 37 bases and other military facilities here which constitute part of the killing machine next to the trigger.

While we were at first accused of breaking the law by hanging the flag, we have since taken much courage from your activities, and have also received official support from the university's faculties of Law and Global and Regional Culture.

As a result, more teachers and students joined the protest from August 13, the third anniversary of the crash of a US military transport helicopter into the main building of the university.

We have also been encouraged by the fact that our activities have been reported in the Japanese national press and on a national television news channel.

On my visit to Leeds I passed on a DVD of the *Earth Report* programme outlining the situation here, co-produced for BBC World in 2005 by Futenma-Henoko Action Network and the London based NGO *Television Trust for the Environment*.

As copyright holders, we would like to encourage CAAB members and friends to copy, distribute and show the film as widely as possible.

While Japanese and US governments remain intransigent, people here still live with the abysmal choice of enduring the danger of Futenma or the destruction of Henoko.

At the same time, many organisations in Okinawa and elsewhere remain determined to change this dismal prospect, and in doing so are part and parcel of the International Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases

Peter Simpson, on behalf of *OIU No Fly Zone* and *Futenma-Henoko Action Network*

Talks/Workshops Since Last Newsletter: Yorkshire and Humberside Youth Parliament, CND conference.

Press Contacts and interviews: New Statesman, Parliamentary Monitor, Radio York, Look North, Calendar News.

Meetings for Worship continue at various US bases – contact CAAB for details.

There is an awful lot of information concerning 'all things US bases'. We can only select a small taste. We are always pleased to have comments about the Newsletter (so that we can do it better!) and would also welcome short articles.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Heartfelt thanks once again for the generous donations received in the time since our last Newsletter. As Hon. Treasurer, once again I assure you that our funds are carefully spent to promote this long and arduous campaign.

Thank you one and all. **Christine Dean**, Hon Treasurer, 5 Garnett Street, Otley, LS21 1AA.

CAAB Co-ordinators: Lindis Percy and Laila Packer
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