



# Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases

No. 37 June/July 2008

## Local, National and International News

### *Dear friends*

Since the last newsletter there have been several important developments concerning Missile Defense – specifically in the Czech Republic and Poland. Many of you may know that Jan Tamas and Jan Bednar were on a hunger strike. Their action highlighted the fact that despite 70% of the Czech people opposing the siting of radar facilities at Bdný, an agreement between the US and the government has been made. Jan Bednar was taken to hospital with liver failure. After three weeks abstaining from food, they both decided to 'suspend' the hunger strike. Their inspiration and courageous action elicited a wave of support round the world and others have continued the hunger strike.. Our thoughts and prayers go with them all in their courageous stance [see item inside for 24 hour hunger strike at Menwith Hill].

The situation in Poland it seems, is that the government is waiting for a new US President. The deal apparently is that the US will help Poland to update their military machine in exchange for Poland's agreement to the siting of US silos. Things are moving fast.

*Many of us are waiting for a change of Presidency in the US. The Bush regime has been a disaster. The world so desperately needs imaginative, alternative and creative policy decisions - what a mess we are in.*

*So what do we do in the face of such terrible news round the world being thrown at us every minute of the day? Climate change, earthquakes, more and more people with no food or not enough food to eat, frightening violence like stabbings by the young on the young are just a few of the issues overwhelming us.*

*We choose to order the world in this way. Instead of settling conflicts by violent military means with more and more horrific weaponry, we could choose to go down the diplomatic and cooperation route and divert resources into providing basic human needs for all. This is what CAAB works for. Independence FROM America on 4 July 5-10 pm is another opportunity to demand this – see details inside.*

**Please turn to page 8 to see a  
special message from Christine Dean  
– Hon Treasurer**

# Around the US Bases

## NSA MENWITH HILL

(near Harrogate, North Yorkshire)

### MPs support Tuesday evening

**demonstrations:** We were delighted that Fabian Hamilton (Leeds North East), Colin Challen (Morley and Rothwell) and William Wallace (Lord Wallace of Saltaire) came on different evenings, to support the regular demonstration. We will continue to invite more MPs and 'well known' people during the year. We invited John Sentamu (Archbishop of York) but because his diary is chock-a-block this year he is unable to accept. Both Menwith Hill and Fylingdales are in his Province. We have written again to invite him for next year.

**Mushrooming again:** Another radome is in the process of being constructed. There are now over 30. The planning application was approved by Harrogate Planning Department in 2005.

**Joining the chain:** As we go to press we are planning (in conjunction with Yorkshire CND) a 24 hour hunger strike on Sunday 22 June 2008, focused on Menwith Hill. This is being done in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in the Czech Republic and the general issue of Missile Defense system.

**Planning applications:** It has been relatively quiet recently and since the last newsletter.

**This demonstration must not be missed!**

## Independence FROM America

Friday 4 July 2008 - 5pm-10pm-ish

I Spy a Spy!

www.caab.org.uk

**WHERE:**  
outside main  
entrance to the  
American base at  
Menwith Hill near  
Harrogate (HG3 2RF)

Contact 01423  
884076 or  
07949897904

**Speakers:** Caroline Lucas (Green MEP)  
Anas Altikriti (British Muslim Initiative)  
Mike Love (Together for Peace)

**Music:** Seize the Day ([www.seizetheday.org](http://www.seizetheday.org))  
Daftasadrum, Lion Sounds, and local band

**Food:** 'Lunch out Lils' and much more!



\* please attend in spy evening wear

organised by the campaign for the accountability of american bases

photo chris furlong. design mdeane

**Court:** Lindis Percy (CAAB) was arrested on 20 March 2008 for alleged 'obstruction of the highway' outside the main entrance to Menwith Hill. She was in custody for over 8 hours and finally charged. This was the day and five years on since the invasion of Iraq. She carried an upside down US flag with 'SHOCKING AND AWFUL – FIVE YEARS ON' and was dressed in an orange jump suit and a hessian bag over her head. The trial is at Harrogate Magistrates' Court on 3 July 2008 at 10 am.

The trial of Lindis Percy (alleged breach of s.69 'aggravated trespass') was to be heard on 28, 29, 30 May 2008 at Harrogate Magistrates' Court. However it was adjourned because no District Judge could be found. It will now be heard on 18, 19, 20 August 2008 at 10.00am. The question of the infamous 'yellow line' at Menwith Hill will be an issue.

## **'RAF' FYLINGDALES (near Pickering, North Yorkshire)**

**Official visit:** John Sentamu (Archbishop of York) visited Fylingdales on 4 June 2008. According to the Whitby Gazette he 'was given a guided tour of the radar base to show him the work that went on and how they track satellites in space'. The press report gave no mention of the crucial role Fylingdales plays in the American Missile Defense system. This was John Sentamu's second visit to Fylingdales. CAAB has written to John Sentamu inviting him to come to Menwith Hill so that we can inform him about the true roles of Fylingdales and Menwith Hill. We very much hope that John Sentamu will accept our invitation.

**Court:** We were unsuccessful at Scarborough Magistrates' Court on 22 May 2008. Lindis Percy was on trial for alleged breach of s.69 ('aggravated trespass') on 1 October last year. After a two day hearing before a woman District

Judge, Lindis was found guilty. The District Judge had asked her if she would be willing to do community service and be tagged. Lindis declined, saying that she has done many forms of community service over many years (as well as 36 years in the NHS) and considered that by working for CAAB and trying to bring the issue of invalid byelaws at this base, this was community service.

Lindis was sentenced to one month's imprisonment and ordered to pay costs of £800. She expected to serve 14 days. However she was released after one week under the government's 'end of custody licence' early release scheme (because the prisons are full). Lindis was one of 302 inmates when she arrived at Low Newton prison near Durham. The prison takes 310 (as from 2006). Thank you so much to everyone who supported Lindis with financial contributions for the legal costs and the many letters and cards that she received. The issue of the invalid byelaws is not finished however! We are successful on some and not on others but it is all part of the long struggle to reveal unsafe law.

**Appointed:** The new Senior Police officer (Ministry of Defence Police Agency) at Fylingdales is Chief Inspector Howard Harding (June 2008).

## **USAF FAIRFORD and WELFORD (near Letchlade, Gloucestershire)**

**Major developments:** Projects costing about \$26million are planned at RAF Fairford, UK including aircraft parking ramps, squadron operations facility, roads and ammunition storage facilities. These projects are in addition to the \$143 million airfield reconstruction effort already in progress at RAF Fairford, making it

the premier bomber bed down location in the European theater. Another \$75 million is also planned for RAF Mildenhall, UK to add air-to-air refueling support capabilities to the strategic transport hub.” (US Department of Defense Military Construction Programme FY2007 Budget North Atlantic Treaty Organisation Security Investment Programme [http://www.defense.gov/comptroller/defbudget/fy2007/budget\\_justification/pdf](http://www.defense.gov/comptroller/defbudget/fy2007/budget_justification/pdf)).

**Review of base security:** Guards [Ministry of Defence Police Agency] patrolling the perimeter of RAF Fairford may be withdrawn, under a review of spending cuts by the Defence Police Federation (DPF). The US 3rd Air Force, based at Ramstein, Germany, is looking at the economies of all its European bases. And that could lead to a cut in the funding of the DPF, which is responsible for guarding inside the wire at RAF Fairford, or even its removal. Cotswold MP Geoffrey Clifton-Brown has raised his concern with police chiefs and in Parliament. “Were a repeat of the large-scale protests seen during the Second Gulf War to take place, these cuts could make it very difficult to actively police the base,” he said.

RAF Fairford Squadron Leader Jayne Robertson said the Ministry of Defence (MoD) would not comment on specific sites but that security at all bases, including those operated by the United States Visiting Forces, was under constant review. “There has been no decision made concerning the guarding of RAF Fairford and the MoD does not comment on specific security arrangements for its establishments,” she said. “To do so may compromise safety and security at these locations.” [10 March 2008 – *Swindon Advertiser*] *[There was a debate in Parliament about Welford on 6 March 2008 – refer to Hansard. Richard Benyon, local MP met the US Commanding officer of*

*Welford, his superior from Mildenhall and the liaising RAF personnel from Fairford and Mildenhall about the withdrawal of MDPA officers in February – we will be keeping tabs on this story].*

## **USAF MILDENHALL AND LAKENHEATH** (near Brandon, Suffolk)

**Various changes afoot:** The 422nd Air Base Group commander at RAF Croughton will be moving to RAF Alconbury’s 423rd Air Base Group next month, the groups’ wing commander said this week.

In addition to commanding the 423rd, Col. John Jordan will become vice commander of the 501st Combat Support Wing as overlapping 423rd and wing positions are merged this year, 501st Commander Col. Kimberly Toney said. Both the 423rd and the wing are based at Alconbury since the 501st moved from RAF Mildenhall in May. The moves will give the 501st more capabilities and groups in one location while eliminating redundancies, Toney said.

For example, the 423rd’s legal office will now merge with the wing’s legal resources, she said. “We can do the Air Force a lot better by putting like teams together,” she said.

Col. Sharon Holmes will take command of Croughton’s 422nd ABG in May, Toney said. Holmes currently works at the Pentagon. Jordan replaces Col. Robert G. Steele, who was dismissed in January from his post as the 423rd commander. [27 March 2008 *Stars and Stripes*].

### **British firm will end housing contract:**

Persimmon Homes plan to end a leasing contract with the US Air Force for homes in Newmarket and Soham to concentrate on an upcoming building project near USAF Mildenhall. For the past 10 years, Persimmon Homes have leased hundreds of houses to the US Air Force in Newmarket and Soham areas.

Planning permission to build 150 units as part of a three-year project has been granted [extract from Stars and Stripes 19 April 2008].

### **“Some deliveries will be off base”:**

.....not goods but babies! The maternity unit at the US hospital at Mildenhall is being refurbished as part of a \$11 million development [26 January 2006 – *Stars and Stripes*].

## **JAC MOLESWORTH**

*(Joint Analysis and Intelligence Fusion Center - became IIC – 26 February 2006)*

**(Molesworth, Cambridgeshire)**

### **U.K. site could become support base**

**for AFRICOM:** A U.S. base in England that houses two global intelligence hubs is among the sites being considered for a planned intelligence support center for U.S. Africa Command. “At this time, a number of location options are being considered,” AFRICOM spokesman Vince Crawley said in an e-mail to Stars and Stripes on Tuesday. “However, no decisions on locations for such a center have been made.”

If England is chosen, the “cyber command” element likely would be housed at RAF Molesworth, site of the NATO-centered and U.S.-led Intelligence Fusion Center and the U.S. European Command’s Joint Analysis Center, two autonomous operations.

Some intelligence operations for AFRICOM already are under way at the JAC and will continue there until the location of the main hub is determined, Crawley said. “The United Kingdom-based 501st Combat Support Wing determined it could handle an influx of up to 500 AFRICOM intelligence personnel and their dependents after officials from the Defense Department and AFRICOM recently posed the question”, said Col. Kimberly Toney, commander of the 501st. Headquartered at

RAF Alconbury, the 501st encompasses Molesworth, a cluster of six other bases and remote units in England and Norway.

Toney said she did not know the other locations under consideration for the fledgling command’s intelligence component, besides AFRICOM headquarters in Stuttgart, Germany. High-level officials were expected to make the decision late last month but had to reschedule the meeting, Toney said. “It’s way over our heads at this point,” she said. “We just said, ‘Yes, we can accommodate that.’”

But the growth of AFRICOM – formally established in 2007 mainly as a stability-enhancing force and humanitarian-aid provider on the massive continent – has recently shown signs of slowing down. AFRICOM just shelved plans to build a new operations center in Africa, deciding instead to place staff there as needed. Officials have said they are now focused on organizing and building the 1,300-person command from Germany [8 May 2008 – *Stars and Stripes*].

## **USAF CROUGHTON**

**(near Brackley, Northants)**

### **The saga of the case of assault and neglect of duty:**

At a Judicial Review in the High Court in February this year, Lord Justice Moses and Mr Justice Sullivan agreed with Lindis Percy, who brought the case, that Corby Magistrates’ Court must issue three summonses against a US serviceman and two MDPA officers for assault and neglect of duty in an incident two years ago [refer to previous CAAB newsletters and website]. The summonses were eventually issued. At the first hearing in March, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) gave notice that they would be taking over the case. The case was transferred from Towcester to Northampton Magistrates’ Court. Lindis raised the fact that Frank Macdonald (Airman First Class USAF) had

not appeared in court and was not represented. Barry Athawes and Kenneth Woodhouse were in the building but did not have to come into court. She was firmly told by the Clerk they did not have to “because they were being represented”.

At Northampton Magistrates’ Court, the CPS confirmed that they had taken over the case. They would be making a decision as to whether to continue or discontinue the case. After the hearing Lindis rang Lawrence English (CPS) to ask him what evidence he would be referring to when making his decision. He said that he would be referring to the taped interview Lindis gave in custody, having been arrested for breach of s.69 ‘aggravated trespass’ in this very incident. The case collapsed early in the hearing.

A letter from Lawrence English (CPS) was soon sent agreeing with Lindis that she was right in raising this and she was invited to submit her version of what happened and the medical evidence.

Neither defendant appeared in court at the next hearing (although, once again the MDPA officers were in the building) . The Magistrates issued a warrant with bail against Frank Macdonald (USAF) as he had not appeared in court, despite the Magistrates at the previous hearing ordering him to.

The next day Lawrence English rang Lindis to say that the court had no jurisdiction to hear the case as the Americans had in fact issued a Certificate on 25 March to the court, under the Visiting Forces Act 1952. This, he said, meant that the court had no jurisdiction to issue the warrant. Lindis had not been informed about this by Lawrence English. At the next hearing the warrant was formally withdrawn.

Later Lindis received a letter from Lawrence English to say that he had decided to discontinue the case because there was ‘not sufficient evidence’. The case was formally discontinued by Northampton Magistrates on 6 May 2008. *[This is a brief account].*

We were not surprised by this outcome.

However this is certainly not the end of the matter. Lindis has since spoken to a lawyer in London and will be taking up his advice. As the case stands at the moment the British citizen has no legal remedy if a member of the US Visiting Forces commits a serious offence. We challenged the Certificate in the High Court in 1996. Thank you to everyone who came to court to support Lindis.

## BRIEF SELECTION OF PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS Ballistic Missile Defence

**Q: Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 11 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 400W, on RAF Menwith Hill, for what reason the exchange of letters between the US Defense Secretary, dated 29 June 2007 and the UK Secretary of State for Defence, dated 17 July 2007, is classified.

**A: Des Browne:** As I stated in my reply of 7 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 30W, it is not the practice of the Government to make public the details of correspondence with foreign governments as this would, or would be likely to, prejudice international relations. [22 Jan 2008 : Column 1840W]

**Q: Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the implications of missile defence systems for the UK’s defence industry.

**A: Des Browne:** UK defence industry has the opportunity to participate in the work to develop missile defence systems. The MOD supports this effort through the work of the UK Missile Defence Centre, which provides assistance and advice to UK industry. [5 March 2008 : Column 2553W]

**Q: Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the Memorandum of Agreement concerning the Ballistic Missile Early Warning Station at Fylingdales Moor of 1960.

**A: Des Browne:** I presume that the hon. Member is referring to the document entitled Exchange of Notes between the United States of America and the UK relating to a Ballistic Missile Early Warning Station at Fylingdales Moor dated 15 February 1960. This document is available on the United Nations website at [http://untreaty.un.org/unts/l\\_60000/10/40/00019975.pdf](http://untreaty.un.org/unts/l_60000/10/40/00019975.pdf). I shall also place a copy of the document in the Library of the House [8 May 2008 : Column 1131W] [*We have a copy*].

**Q: Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the US Administration on development of their ballistic missile defence programme in the UK.

**A: Dr. Howells:** I refer the hon. Member to chapter 4, section 4.68 of the recently published National Security Strategy which deals with the United Kingdom's response to the current and emerging security challenges. We already contribute to ballistic missile early warning through the facilities at RAF Fylingdales and RAF Menwith Hill, and we regularly discuss with the US ongoing support [26 Mar 2008 : Column 166W].

**Q: Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) on what date the space based infra-red system at RAF Menwith Hill became operational; (2) on what date work began on the installation of equipment at RAF Menwith Hill as part of the US ballistic missile defense system.

**A: Des Browne:** Installation of ground terminal

equipment at RAF Menwith Hill to allow missile early warning data to be received from the Space Based Infra Red Satellites (SBIRS) was initiated following the then Government's agreement to the plan in March 1997. The eventual operational date for the SBIRS system is a matter for the US Government.

The necessary components to allow the downlink at RAF Menwith Hill to route satellite early warning data to the US Ballistic Missile Defence system arrived in September 2007, and were installed in November 2007 [31 Mar 2008].

## PARTY POINTS

### Missile defence decision condemned by Liberal Democrats

8 March 2008

The Liberal Democrats today called for the Government to deny America the use of British bases for a unilateral ballistic missile defence system.

The party's Spring Conference also condemned the way the Government's decision to allow the US to use RAF Menwith Hill for the system was announced on the last day of a parliamentary session in an attempt to avoid public scrutiny.

Commenting, Liberal Democrat Shadow Defence Secretary, Nick Harvey said: "Despite Tony Blair's pledge that there would be a parliamentary debate on the son of star wars system, this crucial decision was smuggled out in a written statement at a time designed to get the minimum possible coverage.

A unilateral system like this risks further destabilising relations with Russia and will undermine international agreements. This decision is further evidence of the Government's slavish desire to do whatever the US demands, regardless of the long-term risks."

A full copy of the policy motion passed is below:

#### Ballistic Missile Defence Conference notes:

- a) The Bush Administration's determination, following its 2002 unilateral withdrawal from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, to develop a unilateral Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) capability against 'rogue states'.
- b) The British Government's written announcement of 25 July 2007 permitting the US government to install and operate equipment related to this US Ballistic Missile Defence system at RAF Menwith Hill.
- c) The continued doubts over the future operational effectiveness of the system despite the \$107bn spent by the US since the mid-1980s and the \$49bn to be spent over the next five years.
- d) Russia's decision, in part a response to the US programme as well as to the US rejection of a Russian offer to co-operate over it, to suspend its participation in the 1990 Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty on 12 December 2007.
- e) That the US BMD system remains outside the NATO alliance, which has made no decisions regarding acquiring BMD.
- f) That in February 2007, then Prime Minister Tony Blair promised Parliament and the public a full debate on the merits of UK involvement with BMD.

*[CAAB has been encouraging and will continue to encourage various MPs to urge the government to hold a debate in the House of Commons]*

## Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency: RAF Fairford

**Mr. Clifton-Brown:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with the US authorities on the level of policing at RAF Fairford by the Ministry of Defence Police.

**Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** Discussions are currently taking place between officials and the US authorities on the policing arrangements for RAF Fairford. This is part of a continuing review of security at bases used by the United States visiting force. Any changes in security would not take place without mutual agreement [26 Mar 2008 : Column 166W].

## Ministry of Defence Police Agency

**Q: Nick Harvey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much the anti-terrorist unit patrolling RAF Menwith Hill has cost the Ministry of Defence Police Agency in each year since such patrols began. [197049]

**A: Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** I am withholding the cost of the Ministry of Defence police deployed at RAF Menwith Hill for the purpose of safeguarding national security.

## FINALLY ...

The recent explanation by Derek Twigg (Parliamentary Under Secretary MOD) in the adjournment debate on USAF Welford as to why bases occupied and controlled by the US Visiting Forces are called 'RAF':  
"The sites continue to be known as RAF stations for the simple reason that they are RAF stations playing host to units from the US armed forces stationed in this country" [*so now you know – Ed!*]

### Talks by CAAB since last Newsletter:

Durham Peace Action Group, YCND meeting in Leeds on Missile Defense, Harrogate Meeting House, USAF Croughton, Acomb Meeting House.

### Press and interviews:

Stars and Stripes, Northampton Gazette, Yorkshire Post.

### Meeting for Worship:

Continue at outside various US bases – contact CAAB for details

### Treasurer's thank you:

The response to my appeal for financial help with Lindis's Court costs has been truly overwhelming. Equally important as the generous donations have been the many heartfelt messages of support accompanying them.

My sincere thanks to the kind people who have both filled our coffers and strengthened our determination in the long, hard struggle. Because the amount raised has reached beyond £5,000 presently needed, I am keeping a continuing Legal Fund future Court cases. These will be described on our website and in newsletters.

This will mean that for a while at least concerns about legal costs will be lifted from our shoulders – a situation that I now know so many of you wish for CAAB.

Any further donations to the CAAB Legal Fund can be sent to me at: [4 Garnett Street, Otley, West Yorkshire, LS21 1AL](#).

With love and renewed thanks

Christine Dean

Hon. Treasurer

**CAAB Co-ordinators:** Lindis Percy and Laila Packer

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**(really is about to be launched!)**



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Tel: 01423 567764.

Fax: 01423 567765.

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