



# Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases

No. 55 Autumn 2014

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

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

## Dear friends

*Are you confused by what is going on in the Middle East? and 'clear as mud' as to what has been and is going on?*

*Audrey Bailey wrote to the Daily Mail on 5 September 2014.*

*The publication of this newsletter was held back to await the result of the Parliamentary vote on whether we joined the US led airstrikes or not. It was a very disappointing and massive majority FOR airstrikes against Iraq (524 to 43).*

*Immediately the 'jihadists' of the group, known as the 'Islamic State' and others issued a threat to attack any country supporting the US and its 'coalition' of fighters; so no surprise there. Probably like many people this is third time CAAB has been involved in opposing the American led violent conflict in Iraq; with the UK always following. What has changed?*

*We predict that Parliament will again be recalled to vote again on the involvement of troops deployed on the ground. David Cameron said the war in Iraq "could take years not months". We cannot apparently feed the poor, pay for a functioning NHS, education, housing etc, etc... yet a gleaming pot of gold awaits to pay for war. It does not make sense. The conflicting sides must talk, they must settle their own battles with the help of powerful Arab States, there must be*

### Clear as mud

**ARE** you confused by what is going on in the Middle East? Let me explain.

We support the Iraqi government in the fight against Islamic State. We don't like IS, but IS is supported by Saudi Arabia, whom we do like.

We don't like President Assad in Syria. We support the fight against him, but not IS, which is also fighting against him.

We don't like Iran, but Iran supports the Iraqi government against IS. So, some of our friends support our enemies and some of our enemies are our friends, and some of our enemies are fighting against our other enemies, whom we want to lose, but we don't want our enemies who are fighting our enemies to win.

If the people we want to defeat are defeated, they might be replaced by people we like even less. And all this was started by us invading a country to drive out terrorists who weren't actually there until we went in to drive them out. Do you understand now?

**AUBREY BAILEY, Fleet, Hants.**

*Photo: Lorna Matheson*

*an embargo on the supply of arms by the US, the UK and Saudi Arabia and a huge, much-needed humanitarian programme started. Not to pursue this route spells disaster and more and more angry 'jihadists' recruited. WAR IS NOT THE SOLUTION AND IS NOT DONE IN OUR NAME.*

*Click on to this to find out details of the obscene resources used for war: <http://www.wsj.com/video/f-22-raptor-makes-its-combat-debut/186C9E50-1194-4BE2-8AE5-5B928902112D.html>*

*We publish this excellent article in full by Ben Griffiths (Veterans for Peace UK) who served in Iraq in 2005:*

## HOLD THE LINE

28/09/2014



The last two weeks have been distressing. **Jacob David George** took his own life as a result of moral injuries sustained in Afghanistan. It pains me to think of the darkness that must have engulfed Jacob to push him across that final

line. This week our parliament has voted to involve the UK in a new round of Iraqi blood-letting. For our Chicken-Hawk politicians to vote to pour more petrol on the fire we started is a punch in the face to all of us who served in Iraq and who witnessed that bullshit first hand,

We are directly responsible for the situation in Iraq. After the Gulf War of 1990/1 our war on Iraq continued. We carried out a decade of bombing and siege warfare that led to the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Iraqis. In 2003 we prosecuted an illegal invasion of Iraq during which a huge amount of infrastructure was destroyed, we then dismantled the civil service and military. During the occupation which followed we took a society in which Sunni and Shia lived together and manipulated division to murderous effect, hundreds of thousands of civilians were killed and tortured, whole swathes of residential areas were destroyed. During and since that occupation we have propped up a **sectarian government** whose policies have marginalised and alienated the **Sunnis to the point of armed rebellion**.

I served in Iraq (Baghdad) in 2005. I was involved in blasting my way into people's homes with explosives. Once inside we would drag the people out of their beds and split them up. Women and children would be held at gunpoint whilst the males were interrogated. My task at this point would be to ransack the home taking money, computers, phones, paperwork and weapons (it was usual at that time for Iraqi families to have weapons for personal security). Once the interrogations were finished we would drag all the males out of the home, cuffed and hooded, and take them back to our base where they would face further interrogation before being handed over to be **tortured**. I will never forget the looks from the people in those homes, especially the children, as we carried out

those "operations". I often wonder what happened to the young boys who witnessed the humiliation of their fathers. How could we blame them if they now fight with ISIS?

The beheadings carried out by ISIS were disgusting, but the primary aim was provocation. They were designed to elicit a response from the west. What ISIS craves most is confrontation with the west to raise their credibility and boost recruitment. The rational response to these acts of terror would be for the UK and US Governments to issue travel warnings to their citizens, don't go to Iraq and Syria. Despite what our politicians say ISIS does not pose an existential threat to the UK. What can be predicted is what the **CIA calls blow-back**, attacks provoked by our own action in the middle east (9/11 and 7/7 are examples of blow-back). The depressing thing about blow-back is that just as in Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya, the majority of casualties are civilians.

If you listen to our Chicken-Hawk Foreign Secretary Hammond you will hear him state that the RAF is required to participate in this new Iraq war because they are capable of "precision air-strikes". Does he seriously expect us to believe that US and French aircrews do not have the same capabilities?



Precision weapons are limited by the intelligence available. During my time in Iraq we had access to a huge intelligence-gathering operation, yet still on most raids we would not find who we were looking for.

That didn't matter because whoever we did find would be detained as an insurgent anyway. Post interrogation it was assessed that only 10% of the people we captured were involved in the insurgency. Over the intervening years it has become standard procedure to claim that any males of military age killed by coalition forces are insurgents or terrorists. The point is that it doesn't matter how accurate our bombs are or how skilled our Special Forces are, if the intelligence is duff civilians will be harmed. Since the US began this new round of air-strikes, dozens of civilians have been killed, dozens of homes destroyed and the Iraqi Army has reported that **73 of their soldiers have been killed**.

David Cameron can't stop bragging about the prowess of British Forces yet the track record post 9/11 is damning. **Defeated in Basrah**, replaced by the **USMC in Helmand** and then we come to Libya. In 2011 the UK alongside other NATO members launched an air-war on Libya. This

**It's impossible to produce a newsletter of 8 pages (due to cost) giving anything but a taste of the huge and complex issues involving 'all things' to do with US hegemony, US military policy and the US military industrial complex. For more information, the CAAB website is a good resource and gives some up to date news, information, videos, articles and links: [www.caab.org.uk](http://www.caab.org.uk). We are always pleased to receive constructive comments or suggestions.**



war has been held up as an example of British military success by the Chicken-Hawk Hammond. What he failed to mention is that as a result of our action Libya is now a failed state with [Islamists in charge of Tripoli](#). Is this his future vision for Iraq?

It is beyond belief that whilst our newspapers are full of horror stories about ISIS, our politicians are bragging about how our new coalition includes Saudi Arabia. This is the country which pushes [Wahhabi](#) doctrine throughout the world, whilst Saudi nationals are major financial contributors to countless Jihadi groups, including ISIS. In August of this year, whilst the western media focused on the execution of three journalists, the [Saudis executed on average a person a day](#).

At times like these it can be difficult to know what to do, it seems that the establishment have all of the cards in their hands. Now is the time for us to double our efforts, we may not be able to stop this new war in Iraq but we must hold the line and begin to push back. We must confront the warmongers at every opportunity.

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

**Please note:** All US bases are officially referred to as 'RAF'. However this is misleading. The CAAB names them correctly as they are occupied and under the operation control of the US Visiting Forces and their Agencies.

**NSA/NRO/USAF** (National Security Agency/  
National Reconnaissance Office/United States Air  
Force) **MENWITH HILL**  
(near Harrogate, North Yorkshire)

**Going...going..... 70th Wing Inactivates 691st ISR Group at NSA/NRO Menwith Hill:** The 691st ISR Group officially inactivated September 15 after contributing more than six years of collaborative efforts to the Signals-Intelligence Enterprise and with allied nations here.

The 691st has been operating in Menwith Station since activating from the 70th ISR Wing's Detachment 1 in February of 2008. In that time the Group has been a key component of the Wing's Global-ISR mission, provided cryptologic liaison support to the U.K. Ministry of Defense's largest operations field site, as well as maintaining liaison activities for allied information operations in strategic and tactical operations.

"Menwith Hill has a great heritage," said Col Alexander Merz, 70th ISR Wing Vice Commander. "The Airmen who have served there over the last sixty-plus years have had a great impact on the security of the United States as well as our relationships with the U.K. and that's important to remember. It's easy to be upset about the loss of that station and our role we had there, but certainly we have record of that heritage and we will always remember what was done".

"There was a look at moving people around globally to be more efficient in how we do operations," said Merz. "As part of that analysis we decided that the 691st, among

other places, could be greatly reduced in terms of the size and organizational structure. The Airmen who are part of that unit will be moved elsewhere across the SIGINT system to continue doing their jobs, but in a different location."

Although the 691st ISR Group is no longer operating out of Menwith Hill Station, the partnership fostered with the Royal Air Force will continue within dual missions. Likewise, the legacy of the 691st will be preserved as the future of its Airmen reflect an ability to adapt and a willingness to take on new challenges, explained Col. Christopher Gilmore, 691st ISR Group commander, in a farewell letter sent in preparation for the inactivation.

"The reason we're here in Yorkshire of course is our shared mission," said Gilmore. "We must continue to evolve our mission. History is full of bygone organizations, tremendous in their times, but made obsolete by their inability or unwillingness to adapt to changes in their operating environments. [Here], we have to continue to advance how we execute our traditional missions, but also adapt to meet the changing demands of our time. We have a strong culture of thinking creatively, and we must continue to empower innovation from fence line to fence line. You've routinely demonstrated that the ideas and energy to spur innovation resides in each of you."

"Remember, no matter where you sit, you are vital to our shared success," Gilmore said in closing. "Thank you for what you're doing to help move the big rocks that will make a positive difference in our station, our people, and our mission."

The 451st Intelligence Squadron, previously assigned to the 691st, realigned as a direct reporting unit under the 70th Wing. Currently, the squadron is projected to remain at Menwith Hill until next year.

"The organization at Menwith Hill Station is going away, the mission is not," said Merz. "Our mission has not changed and what is changing is the way we are going about our business. Although the [691st ISR Group] is going away, those activities will be done somewhere by an Airman."

"We have a lot to look forward to in the future, Merz continued. "There's a lot of exciting things happening within our mission and across the Wing that will continue to change as we grow in technology and capability and as our Wing and World changes." (*Edited version by Senior Airman Samuel Daub 70th ISR Wing Public Affairs 15 September 2014*).

*[Could the 'location' reference in the article, "... The Airmen who are part of that unit will be moved elsewhere across the SIGINT system to continue doing their jobs, but in a different location." refer to USAF Croughton? Ed].*

**Military No Longer:** Christopher Gilmore (former US Commander at NSA/NRO Menwith Hill) has been replaced by Natalie Lang (a civilian not military) and is known as Chief of Station. There has been one Chief of Station before but the post is usually someone with a military background. They usually change over every two years.



### DRONE WARS UK

Drone Wars UK (Coordinator Chris Cole) has published a new briefing on the dangers of re-deployment arguing that it increases the risk of the UK becoming embroiled in on-going armed conflict; increases the threat of terrorist attacks in the UK or on British citizens abroad; and diminishes international security by normalising the basing of armed drones overseas. This campaign has a great website with detailed information on UK involvement with Drones and the US. More details here: [www.dronewars.net](http://www.dronewars.net)

**Remembering 13 Years Later:** Martin Schweiger (doctor, Quaker, CAAB and activist) at the weekly Tuesday afternoon demonstration (6.00–8.00pm) on September 9 2014.

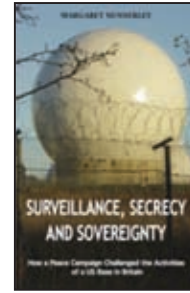


**Vigil at the Cenotaph Against a Third Iraq War?:** CAAB hastily organised a vigil at the Cenotaph in the centre of Harrogate to coincide with the demonstration at 10 Downing Street in London on Thursday 25 September 2014, 5.30–6.30pm, before the crucial vote in a recalled Parliament for airstrikes against Iraq. We intend to continue to gather each week.



## ORDER! ORDER!

FINALLY IN PRINT and READY TO BE ORDERED!



### Surveillance, Secrecy and Sovereignty How a Peace Campaign Challenged the Activities of a US Base in Britain

By Margaret Nunnerley

Professor Paul Rogers said of this book: *"Since CAAB was established twenty years ago we have seen ... a remarkably increased capacity for those in authority to monitor the activities of civil society, not least of campaigners. At any time this thoughtful and carefully researched book would have been a very valuable contribution but that last aspect makes it especially salient."*

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### RAF FYLINGDALES

(near Pickering, North Yorkshire)

**Developments:** Planning Applications and outcomes for NSA Menwith Hill and RAF Fylingdales are listed on the CAAB website. There have been no significant applications for some time. Steve Hill (who regularly monitors planning applications and developments) is keeping a keen eye on any developments at USAF Croughton and Barford St John. (see section on these bases)

### USAF BARFORD ST JOHN

(near Banbury, Oxfordshire) and

### USAF CROUGHTON

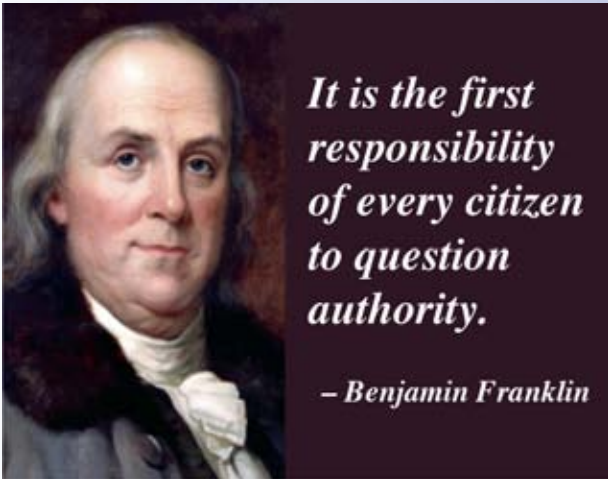
(near Northampton/Oxfordshire)

#### Military Land Byelaws (MLAs) at USAF Croughton and Barford St John:

MLAs came into legal force at both bases on 19 July 2014. This makes trespass a criminal offence. It is odd that MLAs have been introduced as they haven't been used at other US bases for years and Croughton is covered by the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 (from beyond the perimeter fence). There have never been MLAs at either base. The Defence Byelaws Review Team have been very slowly reviewing various MLAs – see: <https://www.gov.uk/ministry-of-defence-byelaws> for copies.

**To Be Prosecuted:** Lindis Percy is required to attend Northampton Magistrates' Court on 23 October 2014 after being arrested and 'reported with a view to prosecution', on 9 April this year. The alleged offence? 'aggravated trespass' (Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994).





**In PEACE NEWS – ‘RAF’ Croughton: Secretive, Unaccountable and Out of Control of UK Government:** Seemingly not many people know about ‘RAF’ Croughton near Brackley and bordering Northamptonshire and Oxfordshire. Misleadingly referred to as RAF, this important US base is occupied and controlled by the US and their agencies under the umbrella of the United States Air Force. It supports Presidential, NATO, US European Command, US Central Command, Air Force Special Operations Command, US Department of State operations. The NSA, CIA and a contingent of GCHQ personnel are also present. It operates one of Europe’s largest military switchboards; processing approximately a third of all U.S. military communications between the USA and Europe and supports over twenty different communication and defence systems. The base is involved in intelligence-led warfare (Drones) and illegal surveillance and intelligence gathering on all citizens. Just up the road is USAF Barford St John and a satellite base to Croughton. Earlier this year CAAB learnt that Military Land byelaws (now law) were proposed at Croughton and Barford St John; indicating that something significant was being planned. Information from Washington was stumbled on by CAAB (with additional information given to CAAB by Cahal Milmo of the Independent) which said that the base was to become the largest intelligence hub outside the US. \$317m is to be spent for an ultra-secure intelligence centre staffed by up to 1,250 personnel and covering operations in Africa (AFRICOM). The upgrade will make it as big and as important as NSA/NRO Menwith Hill in North Yorkshire. There has been no debate in Parliament.

**Croughton, Lemmonier and Drones:** Human rights group Reprieve, has uncovered that BT installed a high speed fibre-optic data cable directly between US drone base Camp Lemonnier in Djibouti and ‘RAF’ Croughton. The 2012 contract shows that the US Defense Information Systems Agency paid BT £13 million for the cable which can carry live video images, transporting digital information at the rate of 2.5 gigabits per second, about 30 times faster than BT’s superfast home broadband.

Camp Lemonnier is the main centre for US drone operations outside Afghanistan. It sends Predator and Reaper unmanned aerial vehicles armed with Hellfire missiles on “targeted killing” missions against suspected terrorist cells in Yemen and Somalia. The live video feed

from the drones will be seen by the drone pilots, but also by intelligence analysts - nicknamed ‘screeners’ - who are directly in touch with the drone operators, through voice and data links, analysing the video from the drone.

The existence of a secure military communications link between Camp and Croughton means that US personnel at Croughton are no doubt involved in analyzing information and video from US drone flights in that area. It is certainly possible that information obtained through the cable in this way and analyzed by US personnel in the UK is being used to direct further US drone strikes.

**Wider UK-US Drone Connections:** Croughton is one connection between US drone operations and the UK but there are many others. US and UK pilots jointly undertake drone operations in Afghanistan and RAF sometimes simply borrows US drones for its operations there. RAF pilots embedded with US forces have operated US drones over 2,000 times in Iraq, Afghanistan and during the air war on Libya in 2011.

RAF Marham near Kings Lynn is home to Project Crossbow, a joint UK-US intelligence analysis project. Operated by the RAF’s Tactical Imagery Intelligence Wing (TIW) but “under the tactical control” of a USAF Squadron, Crossbow receives and feeds information into the US Distributed Common Ground System (DCGS), the US military’s key tool for collecting, analysing and distributing information and intelligence collected from U-2, Global Hawk, Predator, Reaper, MC-12 and what the USAF discreetly calls “other ISR platforms.”

GCHQ also supplies intelligence to the US that may have been used in targeted drone strikes in Pakistan. Noor Khan, whose father was killed in a drone strike in 2011, sued the then the Foreign Secretary, William Hague, in attempt to examine whether UK officials at GCHQ share information about targets in Pakistan with the CIA, and whether this could therefore make British spies complicit in murder or war crimes. The case was thrown out by the courts however, as it could ‘imperil relations’ between the US and UK.

**Responding:** There were many protests world-wide in response to the call by the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space (GN) for a week of protest (Keep Space for Peace week 4-11 October 2014) including demonstrations at NSA/NRO Menwith Hill, RAF Fylingdales and USAF Croughton. Reports of these demonstrations will be on the CAAB website.

## USAF FAIRFORD (near Lechlade Gloucestershire)

**Out Of Mothballs:** Barack Obama flew into USAF Fairford on 3 September 2014. He was then flown by helicopter to Newport Wales for the NATO Summit. For most of the year this American base is quiet with it coming to life each July to host the annual Royal International Air Tattoo. The operational function of the base is as a Forward Operating Location (FOL) for US Air Force aircraft, a role it played in both Gulf Wars and in NATO operations in the conflict in the former Yugoslavia. In June 2014 three giant eight-

engined B-52H Stratofortress bombers were joined by two B-2A Spirit stealth bombers from Whiteman Air Base, Missouri apparently on a training exercise. (*Excerpts from Gloucestershire Echo and RAF website*).



USAF Croughton near Northampton/Oxford  
Photographer unknown

See RT TV item on developments at USAF Croughton:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vz0DOPoJ4BQ>

**THE PENTAGON JUST ANNOUNCED THAT IT WILL BLOW \$1.5 TRILLION ON THE F-35 FIGHTER JET.**

**THAT'S ENOUGH TO PAY FOR:**  
273 MILLION PELL GRANTS FOR STUDENTS,  
721 BILLION HEALTHY SCHOOL LUNCHES,  
101 THOUSAND NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS,  
5.7 BILLION MONTHLY OBAMACARE PREMIUM SUBSIDIES,  
OR 150 MILLION HOSPITAL STAYS.

Share if you agree we need to get our priorities straight.

## USAF LAKENHEATH

(near Lakenheath, Suffolk)

**Air Force Cuts In Europe Might Be Delayed:** Planned cuts to the U.S. military presence in Europe may be postponed because of concerns about Russian aggression, according to top defense officials. The commander of U.S. Forces in Europe, Gen. Philip Breedlove, told reporters Tuesday at the Pentagon that plans to scale down the Air Force presence in Europe were made before Russian moves against Ukraine. He said he had talked to Pentagon leaders about the issue and “I see this building now moving towards a review of those decisions.”

Defense Department leaders have been pulling troops out of Europe in recent years in the face of fiscal pressures and force requirements in other parts of the world.

In March, the Air Force announced it intended to retire 21 F-15C fighter jets based overseas in fiscal 2015 due to budget constraints. There are 21 F-15Cs assigned RAF Lakenheath, England, and the cuts were expected to come from there. But on Tuesday, Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James said she hopes to keep the aircraft in the region, at least for a while, in light of the new security environment.

President Barack Obama requested \$1 billion from Congress for a European Reassurance Initiative to calm America’s Eastern European allies who fear a resurgent Russia, and the Air Force knows how it wants to spend some of it. “We would propose monies in order to keep those F-15s ... in Europe for an additional year,” James told reporters on the sidelines of an Air Force Association conference in National Harbor, Md. But she suggested that the aircraft could remain there longer. “This is another year coming and another [budget] proposal which could be made. So ... we could see where we are a year from now,” she told reporters.

Moscow annexed the Crimea region of Ukraine earlier this year, and has been supporting pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine with troops, weapons and other forms of assistance. Breedlove said there are four Russian battalion task groups inside Ukraine, despite a declared cease-fire between the Ukrainian military and the rebels. The EUCOM chief described the cease-fire as “tenuous.”

The Russians have been removing forces to the east of the Ukrainian border back into Russia, he said, “but make no mistake – those forces are close enough to be quickly brought back to bear if required.” When asked if he would like to see more forces sent to Europe on a permanent basis, Breedlove dismissed the idea. “I’m a realist. We are in an age where our budgets are going down, not up. I do not expect and would not spend a lot of energy asking for force structure to move back to Europe.” Breedlove hopes that temporary troop rotations on the Continent can enable EUCOM to meet the growing demand for U.S. forces.

In recent months, the U.S. has deployed air and ground assets to Poland and the Baltic states for bilateral and multilateral training exercises. More troop rotations are scheduled this fall (*Jon Harper Stars and Stripes 17 September 2014*).

## USAF MILDENHALL

(near Brandon, Suffolk)

**Battle of Britain Parade:** Members from USAF Lakenheath and USAF Mildenhall took part in the annual Battle of Britain Parade in Bury St Edmunds on 21 September 2014. They were marching with fixed bayonets on the United Nations World Day of Peace. [*We must have a quiet word! Ed*]

**UK-USA AGREEMENT:** A couple of months after the US press released the renewal of the agreement, the Commons Library has just produced a report about the UK-USA agreement... (Commons Library Standard Note 17 September 2014) – <http://www.parliament.uk/briefing-papers/SN03147/ukusa-mutual-defence-agreement>

“The Agreement between the UK and the USA for Cooperation in the Uses of Atomic Energy for Mutual Defence Purposes 1958, also known as the Mutual Defence Agreement (MDA), allows the United States and the UK to exchange nuclear materials, technology and information. It was the result of an amendment to post-war US non-proliferation law, which exempted allies that had made substantial progress in developing nuclear weapons



from the general ban on exchanges that might lead to nuclear proliferation. The most important part of the MDA is time limited and is due to expire at the end of 2014. An amendment to the treaty, which will extend this deadline to 2024, must be ratified by both States and brought into force by the end of this year. Critics argue that the MDA, as amended, contravenes the parties' obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons 1968 (NPT)."

(Information from Paul Mobbs – *Croughton Watch*)

### UK BOMBING OF ISIS IS FUTILE – AND EXPENSIVE AT UP TO £1M FOR EACH MISSILE FIRED

UK government says it can't afford to fund benefits for the poorest and most deprived people but has no trouble finding money for missiles to bomb Iraq costing close to £1m each.

Bombing has not been decisive in any recent conflict. Far from it. It has been counterproductive and an expensive waste. In the past, pilots have quickly run out of targets. It will be even more difficult now, as RAF Tornado crews have already discovered, to find them as they continue to search for Islamic State (Isis) fighters in Iraq now.



*British Tornado fighter jet lands at the RAF's Akrotiri base in Cyprus. Each flight to Iraq costs £35,000.*

Even in the first Gulf war, in 1991, when the enemy consisted of units of Saddam Hussein's army, the US-led coalition soon ran out of targets. "We were bouncing rubble with billion-dollar missiles," Colin Powell, American's most

senior military official at the time, observed after the war.

During the 1999 Kosovo war, Nato air forces ran out of military targets so fast they started bombing civilian factories, power plants, bridges and a television centre, claiming they were legitimate targets on the grounds that they were part of Slobodan Milosevic's war machine.

Over 79 days, Nato warplanes dropped thousands of the most sophisticated – and expensive – bombs on dummy targets erected by Serb forces. They hit just 13 of the Serb army's 300 battle tanks despite Nato claims of large-scale destruction of the country's heavy armour. "When you're travelling at 500mph at 15,000ft, it is easy to be fooled," an anonymous Nato source was quoted as saying after the conflict was over.

"The limitations of air power in pursuit of ... humanitarian goals were clearly demonstrated and this lesson must be learned," the Commons defence committee noted. "Nato encountered significant difficulty in locating and positively identifying mobile ground targets." (A key factor in ending the war, the committee stressed, was Milosevic realising that Russia was not coming to his aid.)

The "shock and awe" bombing raids that started the 2003 invasion of Iraq may have dispersed Saddam's entire army, but they opened the way to rival militias and to a civil war that, for political and military reasons, tens of thousands of troops from the modern armies of the west could not end.

Air power played little or no part in Iraq after the initial onslaught. It has played only a minor role in more than 10 years of operations by Nato – the world's most powerful military alliance – in Afghanistan where the Taliban remains undefeated.

Barack Obama's admission on Sunday that the US overestimated the capabilities of the US-trained and equipped Iraqi army and underestimated Isis does not inspire confidence in the effectiveness of the 350,000 Afghan security force recruits trained by Nato.

*Continues overleaf ...*

## BRIEF REPORT ON PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(Hansard source)

Fabian Hamilton MP for Leeds North East regularly asks PQs for CAAB (not many PQs and answers this newsletter because of the summer recess – normal service to be resumed as soon as possible!)

**RAF Menwith Hill** (NSA/NRO Menwith Hill)

**Q: Fabian Hamilton** (Leeds North East, Labour): To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what arrangements his Department has made with the US administration on control of the base at NSA Menwith Hill.

**A: Mark Francois** (The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence; Rayleigh and Wickford, Conservative): RAF Menwith Hill is made available to the United States under the terms of the NATO Status of Forces Agreement. The Ministry of Defence retains ownership of the base and operations are carried out with the full knowledge and consent of the UK Government (3 July 2014, c726W)

**Q: Fabian Hamilton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what information his Department holds on the use of drones originating at (a) USAF Croughton, (b) RAF Marham, (c) NSA Menwith Hill and (d) RAF Waddington; and if he will make a statement.

**A: Mark Francois:** The UK's Reaper Remotely Piloted Air Systems (RPAS) are remotely operated from RAF Waddington. The US does not operate RPAS from the UK ( 2 July 2014, c679W).

**Q: Fabian Hamilton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department was (a) aware of the nature of and (b) consulted before the start of surveillance being carried out at NSA Menwith Hill.

**A: Mark Francois:** Operations at RAF Menwith Hill have always been, and continue to be, carried out with the knowledge and consent of the UK Government (10 April 2014, c342W).

*[Further PQ to be asked – Ed]*

British Tornado and Typhoon aircraft destroyed or damaged more than 900 targets during the bombing of Libya in 2011, and other Nato allies struck many more. The air strikes burst open arms depots, leaving as many as 20,000 shoulder-launched anti-aircraft missiles, known as Manpads (man-operated portable air defence systems), available to Islamist rebels and militia in Libya and elsewhere in west and north Africa.

The RAF Tornados, based in Britain's base at Akrotiri in Cyprus, can fire radar-guided anti-armour Brimstone missiles, which are conservatively estimated to cost £100,000 each; heavier Paveway IV bombs, estimated at £30,000 apiece; and long-range Storm Shadow missiles, estimated at nearly £790,000 each. A British Trafalgar class submarine is also believed to be in the area, probably in the Gulf, equipped with Tomahawk cruise missiles estimated to cost £500,000 each.

British special forces are on the ground in northern Iraq and possibly in Syria as well. One of their roles is to identify targets for the RAF's bombers. But air power is likely to be even less relevant, less appropriate and less effective in the campaign against Isis as it has been in previous armed conflicts over the past 23 years. (*Richard Norton Taylor, The Guardian 30 September 2014*).

*FINALLY...*

**SOME GOOD NEWS...**



**Green City Planned for Former U.S. Base:** On land that once belonged to the largest American military base outside the U.S, Arnel Casanova envisages not just a new city, but a new type of city for the Philippines.

Mr. Casanova, president of the Bases Conversion

and Development Authority, the agency charged with regenerating the vast estates left behind by the U.S. military when it left the nation in the early 1990s, is trying to create a blueprint for modern, sustainable development in a country whose urban centers are polluted, congested and sprawling out of control.

(*Excerpt from Wall Street Journal Trefor Moss 23 September 2014*)

### **CAAB TALKS (pending) MEDIA INTERVIEWS, ARTICLES, LETTERS TO NEWSPAPERS**

Roundhay Quaker Meeting, USAF Croughton, Frome Stop Wars public meeting, Interview Stray FM/Interview on RT TV, Letters to The Guardian/Harrogate Advertiser, Article Peace News

**MONEY MATTERS:** There are several ways of supporting CAAB financially (CAAB website) It is now possible to donate to CAAB by using the Paypal account which has been set up to make it much easier to donate money for the work of CAAB.

CAAB Account No: 50095311 Sort Code: 089229 The Cooperative Bank , 1 Balloon Street, Manchester M60 4EP

**Donate by Post:** Please send a cheque, payable to "CAAB", to

CAAB Honorary Treasurer, Judith Rushby, 31 Blossomgate, Ripon, HG4 2AJ

**Donate Using BACS:** BACS payments are also welcome to our account with the Co-operative Bank:  
Sort Code: 089229.

Account Number: 5009531100

### **Quaker Meeting for Worship – 2014/15**

#### **NSA/NRO Menwith Hill**

Saturday 2.00pm–3.00pm

4 October, 6 December, 7 February 2015

#### **RAF Fylingdales**

Saturday 12.00–1.00pm

6 November, 3 January, 7 March 2015

**USAF Croughton:** 2.00pm main gate, 4th Saturday each month. Contact: Maria Huff, Banbury & Evesham Area Meeting: 01869 347179

### **WHO'S WHO AT CAAB?**

**Hon Treasurer:** Judith Rushy, 31 Blossomgate Ripon, HG4 2AJ. (Bank signatories Judith Rusby and Martin Schweiger)

**Webmaster:** Ray Middleton

**Mailing list organiser:** Melanie Ndzinga

**Fundraiser:** Christine Dean

**Graphic Designer:** Paul Wood

**Designer of CAAB Merchandise:** Sarah McEvoy

**Monitoring Planning Applications:** Steve Hill

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

**Twitter Page Manager:** Ian Bell

**Coordinator:** Lindis Percy

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

CAAB is on Facebook and Twitter: @C\_A\_A\_B



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