

AROUND THE BASES

USAF MENWITH HILL

(near Harrogate, North Yorkshire)

Please note change of name of base – see below

Planning Applications since last newsletter:

PA No: 6.500.247.CROWND - Type 300 Housing refurbishment.

The following PA's have now been passed by Harrogate Planning officers with 'no observations or objections':

PA No: 6.90.179.E.CROWND - Demolition and re-building of 2 storey brick and rendered Building 16 (Base Hairdressing Salon) including new fire escape.

PA No: 6.90.179.F.CROWND - 2 x lighting columns to Skate Park

PA No: 6.500.224.G.CROWND - Cycle Shelter

PA No: 6.500.273.A.CROWND - Temporary Antenna Installation

PA No: 6.500.164.B.CROWND - 3 x Generating Units and Control Room

New Base Commander: On 27 May 2004 Colonel Charles Gill (US Air Force) replaced Colonel Randy Roberts (US Army) as the over-all base commander.

Colonel Roberts will be leaving the US Air Force soon and returning to the US in July to start a civilian appointment.

Colonel Gill who comes from Washington DC was previously the Director of Operations, Headquarters [US] Air Force Technical Applications Center, Patrick [US] Air Force Base, Florida.

Base changes status: NSA Menwith Hill has now become a full US Air Force Base. The US Air Intelligence Agency (AIA) was 'tasked' to bring the base up to USAF standards. Its new status, which has technically been so for two years, will not of course be reflected in its official name, which will misleadingly continue to be known as 'RAF' Menwith Hill.

Mimi Ducane Superintendent of Plans said, "A lot of emphasis has been put on bringing this place up to the [US] Air Force standards".

"It was a big opportunity for AIA to get the job of transitioning MHS to a [US] Air Force installation. Since the Air Force has the primary responsibility of operating several other installations in the UK it was deemed appropriate to have us take over this one", said Colonel Randy Roberts in an interview before leaving Menwith Hill.

For the past eight years, the US Army and US National Security Agency had the responsibility of operating the station jointly.

More than \$41 million are being spent [at Menwith Hill] in improvements and constructions, including fire station upgrades, a new 40,000 square foot mini-mall, as well as new housing units just to name a few.

The tentative plan for MHS is for as many as 146 new [US] Air Force positions to be either created or converted in the next 18 months. "We've had to look at every single person, building and job title and determine how to meet the requirement," Sergeant Ducane added.

Medical services on base have also been improved for active duty personnel so that they no longer rely on NHS services.

[extracts from an article by First Lieutenant Robert Krause – Lackland Air Force Base, Texas – February 2004 base Newsletter]

Construction: The satellite dish for the new GT7 radome has been up for a while and been tested in various directions. At the time of going to press it has not yet had the radome covering constructed around it. The Notice of Proposed Development (NOPD) was received by Harrogate Planning Office in November 2001 although construction did not begin until March 2003.

Release of Vordachai Vanunu: We celebrated the pending release of this courageous man on 20 April 2004 at the Tuesday evening demonstration.

Arrests and Court: Jan Harper from Liverpool had an alleged s.22(a) Road Traffic Act offence dropped by the CPS at the Pre-trial Review stage. (She had been arrested and charged on 3 February 2004 at the Tuesday evening CAAB demonstration)

- **Tuesday 13 April 2004:** Harrogate police took no further action against Lindis following an arrest for alleged 'obstruction of highway' at the 'Block the Base' demonstration at Menwith Hill on 19 March 2004.

The 'yellow line': This line was painted on the ground across the entrance to Menwith Hill in July 2002. It is a practice that the American military use to mark the boundaries of bases in the US.

We firmly believe that the 'yellow line' is unsafe in law. Even if it was safe, a District Judge ruled that there is an 18 inch margin on the base side of the 'yellow line'. This was after a Defence Estates Surveyor gave evidence that there was a 3 foot margin of error (we had challenged the legality of this line).

At the Tuesday evening demonstrations, the Ministry of Defence Police Agency have 'cracked down' on the way they have enforced the law.

- **Tuesday 18 May 2004:** Lindis was arrested for an alleged section 69 'aggravated trespass' (Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994) offence. She was released without charge but bailed to return to Harrogate police station on 3 June 2004 while more inquiries were made. Bail was later extended to 16 June while the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) investigated the District Judge's ruling concerning the 'yellow line'.
- **Tuesday 25 May 2004:** Lindis and Anni were both arrested and charged for an alleged 'obstruction of the highway'.
- **Tuesday 1 June 2004:** Lindis was arrested for allegedly being in breach of s. 69 'warning' despite not having been charged. She was again released on police bail while further inquiries were made.
- **25 May 2004:** Anni was arrested under the 'RAF' Menwith Hill byelaws at the weekly CAAB demonstration. She was later charged and bail conditions imposed – 'not to enter MOD land at RAF Menwith Hill
- **Tuesday 8 June 2004:** Lindis was arrested for a fourth time for an alleged breach of a section 69 'warning'. She was held at Harrogate police station for only about half an hour before being bailed to return on 16 June to Harrogate Police Station.

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

Latest Planning Applications:

NYM/2004/0317/GD: Construction of a permanent MOD Police Post (on the base side of the cattle grid on the base Approach Road)

The building is to be constructed from stone, with a slate roof and includes toilet facilities. If passed, it will replace the temporary police post. This was built by the MOD at the highway end of the Approach Road without planning permission last year.

Not much time but we urge people to object to this NOPD in the North Yorkshire National Park on environmental grounds by the end of June. Letters of objection should be sent to: Mrs V. A. Dilcock, Chief Planning Officer, North York Moors National Planning Authority, The Old Vicarage, Bondgate, Helmsley, York YO62 5BP.

Work starts on Fylingdales re-vamp: Work has started on upgrading RAF Fylingdales to make it part of the US anti-missile defence programme.

American contractors are in charge of the work at the base on the North York Moors, but they have employed local builders and electricians .

It will be another year before the new defense system is tested and fully operational.

The Ministry of Defence says there will be no change to the outside of the base and no increase in radiation emissions.

Faster computers

Work to upgrade the early warning station at RAF Fylingdales will be carried out by Boeing.

Boeing's work includes installing faster computers, new communications links and modern graphic displays.

Boeing has also been awarded a contract for 15 ground-based interceptor missiles as part of the defence system which is due to become operational later this year.

Altogether the work is worth \$823m (£449m) to Boeing.

The work to upgrade RAF Fylingdales was allowed to go ahead quickly as officials at the North York Moors National Park Authority decided it did not need planning permission.

[BBC News North Yorkshire - 13.04.2004]

UK may host 'son of Star Wars' missiles:

Britain is one of two European countries being considered by the US for an anti-ballistic missile interceptor site, as part of its controversial 'son of Star Wars' defence system.

If the development goes ahead, it will be a dramatic escalation of Britain's involvement in the system intended to detect and destroy missiles aimed at America or its allies.

The UK agreed last year to allow the upgrade of one of its radar stations, Fylingdales in North Yorkshire, for use in the programme.

The new development would place the anti-missile missiles together with 10 launch pads, a runway and a service base, on UK soil. The controversial development could bring similar protests to those at Greenham Common where US cruise missiles were based in the Eighties.

Opponents say missile defence is unnecessary and expensive and would make us a target. In testimony to the US Congress, the head of the Missile Defense Agency, Lieutenant-General Ronald Kadish, revealed that the US was considering erecting an interceptor site in Europe beginning in 2006 to protect the continent and back up the capabilities shielding the US.

"The location of this site is still subject to negotiation," he said. US sources told the Standard the two candidate countries for the site were Britain and Poland. Warsaw has publicly offered to host the interceptors but one source told Janes Defence Weekly: "Don't count the Brits out."

America's two initial interceptor sites will be based in Alaska and California to deal with any threat from North Korea. But the US also needs a base east of its shores to protect against the potential threat from Iran, Syria and other "states of concern" in the Middle East.

The Ministry of Defence insisted last night that the US had made no specific request.

[Andrew Gilligan, Evening Standard 07.05.2004]

Court: In a two day trial on 4-5 May 2004 at Pickering Magistrates' Court, Lindis defended herself against an alleged offence of section 68 'aggravated trespass' at Fylingdales on 9 February 2004. This arose out of an attempt to get the question of the invalid byelaws into court.

We believe that the MDPA followed the continuing practice of using s. 68 in order to avoid using the 'RAF' Fylingdales byelaws.

Lindis was fined £150 and ordered to pay £300 costs. The CPS had applied for £600. She is discussing a possible appeal with a solicitor.

USAF LAKENHEATH (near Brandon, Bury St Edmunds, Cambs)

Returning back: Since last year the MC0135 Stratotankers of the 100th Air Refuelling Wing (600 airmen) have been temporarily based at USAF Fairford in Gloucestershire while the extensive renovation of the runway at USAF Lakenheath has been taking place. They are expected to return to East Anglia in late July. At an estimated cost of \$15 million the renovation has been nearly entirely funded by NATO. There are 23 other projects going on at the same time, everything from airfield markings to electrical cables – a total of \$24 million.

USAF MILDENHALL (near Lakenheath, Cambs)

Revised traffic plans: Seven households who live in Waterworks Road are to be compensated after their houses have been bought by the MOD.

Waterworks Road runs through the base and there has been a MDPA 'check point' at one end since 11 September 2001. The road will be permanently closed and a new gate, which was intended to be the revised Main entrance, will now become an extra exit gate.

An MOD spokeswoman told the 'Stars and Stripes' (European Edition 25 May 2004) "the decision to close was made by the MOD, at the request of the Americans".

Protest and arrest: CAAB was present at the main entrance on 28 March 2004 to protest at the torture and humiliating treatment of prisoners in Iraq by US authorities. Lindis held an upside down US flag with the words 'SHOCKING, AWFUL, SHAMEFUL' written on it. She was arrested for an alleged 'obstruction of highway' and taken to Bury St Edmunds police station. She was held in detention for a very short time before being released without charge.

USAF CROUGHTON (near Brackley, Northants)

High Court, London: The appeal by way of 'case stated' on the decision by the District Judge at Northampton Magistrates' Court last year will be heard on **16-17 June 2004 in the High Court, London.**

This is an important case as the question of the 'justiciability' of the legality of the role of USAF Croughton in the invasion of Iraq will be heard. Lindis protested at the role of this base during the war against Iraq and was eventually arrested under Sect. 68 'Aggravated Trespass'. She was found 'guilty'. [N.B: Case taken out of list – more later]

JAC MOLESWORTH (near Cambridge)

Protest against torture in Iraq: On 22 May 2004 CAAB was on the base to protest with an upside down US flag with the words 'SHOCKING, AWFUL, SHAMEFUL' written on it. The base was shut down for a short time.

USAF FAIRFORD (near Letchlade, Gloucestershire)

Court case: This case arose out of Lindis protesting at the arrival of 8 B-52 bombers from the US. She was on the base for four hours: two hours were spent sitting, praying and meditating under a parked brightly lit B-52 bomber. She placed an upside down US flag with the words 'THE WORLD ROGUES – GWB AND FRIENDS' on the webbing underneath the US bomber.

This case was a version of the case at USAF Croughton (see last CAAB newsletter) where the legality of the operations of the base had been decided. All applications for disclosure of documents were denied by Paul Clark (District Judge) including the 'standing operational procedures 'for the 'US security personnel' and a file on Lindis which apparently exists. Two US personnel were flown over from the US.

In a grudging ruling with reprehensible comments against Lindis, Paul Clark found Lindis 'not guilty' of the offence as charged. He ruled that there was no evidence to suggest that the placing of the US flag had caused any disruption. There had been no 'second act' (DPP v Barnard LJ Laws and Potts QBD 1999). He nonetheless refused to grant any Defendant's costs.

SELECTION OF PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: Mr Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what building work is under way at RAF Fairford, with particular reference to hangar capacity. [155116]

A: Mr Caplin: *The building work currently under way at RAF Fairford involves a number of general infrastructure upgrade programmes. These include a fuel complex, a 4.5km perimeter road around the south-east portion of the airfield, some airfield pavement works, the construction of a single-bay portable aircraft shelter and a two-bay aircraft maintenance hangar capable of housing a wide variety of aircraft, including the USAF B-2 aircraft. The current operational status of RAF Fairford as a NATO designated standby base will not change and no aircraft will be permanently stationed at the base. [23.02.2004]*

Q: Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what requests have been made to the US authorities to undertake (a) interception of communications and (b) surveillance of (i) hon. Members and (ii) other UK citizens where such activity would require express authorisation from a senior Minister in the UK were it to be carried out by UK authorities. [157864]

A: Mr Straw: *It is the well established and long standing practice of successive Governments not to comment on operations of the Intelligence Services. [02.03.2004]*

Q: Mr Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects his Department's research into theatre ballistic missile defence to be able to report interim results and conclusions to (a) him and (b) Parliament; and what theatre ballistic missile defence is available to UK forces now. [157052]

A: Mr Hoon: *I expect to receive a report on the Ministry of Defence's three-year research programme into Theatre Ballistic Missile Defence this summer, but due to its classification, there are no plans to publish the report. I shall keep Parliament informed in the usual way, once I have had a chance to consider the report. Defence against theatre ballistic missiles comprises a number of components, including steps to prevent and counter proliferation, diplomatic measures, deterrence and passive and active defence. Passive defence may involve the dispersal of forces and the provision of protective equipment against nuclear, biological or chemical weapons. Within a coalition force, allied partners provide the active defence. [09.03.2004]*

Q: Mr Simon Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether US nuclear weapons will be withdrawn from the UK as part of the current withdrawal of US nuclear weapons from Europe; and if he will make a statement. [169131]

A: Mr Hoon: *As stated in NATO's Strategic Concept (paragraph 63):*

"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 United States nuclear weapons in the United Kingdom 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. [28.04.2004]

Q: Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the US bases for each year from 1997 to date where the Ministry of Defence Police Agency operates. [167745]

A: Mr Ingram: *Ministry of Defence Police Officers have continuously staffed RAF Hythe, RAF Welford, RAF Fairford, RAF Menwith Hill, RAF Alconbury, RAF Lakenheath and US Navy (London) during the years 1997 to date. [26.04.2004]*

Q: Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what expenses are expected to be met from the Government's investment in the Missile Defence Centre; what expenses will be met by industry; how much investment is expected from industry; what outputs are expected from the centre; and if he will make a statement. [154902]

A: Mr. Hoon: *The expenses incurred by the Missile Defence Centre (MDC) fall into the broad categories of running costs for the Centre itself and funding for specific technical work carried out in support of its objectives. In the period from the MDC's opening last July to the end of financial year 2003–04 the Ministry of Defence expects to contribute some £5.5 million, while the estimated contribution by industry will be some £2 million.*

The outputs expected from the MDC in 2003–04 include: advice on missile defence issues; the development of models and databases to facilitate the formulation and evaluation of concepts for defending the United Kingdom against the ballistic missile threat; and the construction and testing of hardware elements of potential use to the United States Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) programme. These outputs are intended to inform national BMD policy, establish a leading role for the UK in missile

defence, and secure significant participation by UK industry in the US BMD programme. [0.03.2004]

Glenda Jackson: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to his answer of 12 May, *Official Report*, column 385W, on Iraq, whether the employment of civilian contractors and interpreters in Abu Ghraib prison was (a) known to and (b) sanctioned by the Coalition Provisional Authority. [174329]

A: The Prime Minister: *The employment of civilian contractors and interpreters in Abu Ghraib prison is a matter for the US authorities. [26.05.2004]*

Q: Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with the US authorities about basing missile defence interceptor sites in the UK. [174567]

A: Geoff Hoon: *The Ministry of Defence continues to discuss with the United States a wide range of ballistic missile defence issues. The Government have not yet decided whether the United Kingdom requires its own missile defence, and these discussions do not therefore involve specific architectures or basing assumptions. [25.05.2004]*

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FLYING VISIT TO THE USA

Lindis attended the annual conference of the Global Network Against Nuclear Weapons and Power in Space on behalf of CAAB. This was held in Portland, Maine, USA, from 23-25 April 2004.

The conference theme was "Resisting Empire: Understanding the Role of Space in U.S. Global Domination". About 225 people attended.

There was a demonstration which Lindis went to, at the Bath Iron Works in Maine to protest against the manufacture of Aegis destroyers. Since 1992, Bath Iron Works have built 42 such warships, at a cost of one billion dollars each. Each warship carries 54 Tomahawk Cruise Missiles. Armed with a nuclear tip, each missile carries the equivalent of 15 Hiroshima disasters.

Lindis was presented with the annual 'Peace in Space' award which she accepted on behalf of CAAB.

TALKS, WORKSHOPS AND INTERVIEWS

- **8 March 2004:** Guest speaker at Leicester CND AGM
- **18 March 2004:** CAAB at BASIC conference re Missile Defense at Bradford University
- **25 March 2004:** Interview with Suffolk Radio re anniversary of bombing of Libya
- **30 March 2004:** Hereford Quaker M.M
- **20 April 2004:** Recorded interview for Stray FM re celebrating Mordachi Vanunu's release from Israeli prison
- **27 April 2004:** Filmed interview by Media Studies student at Tuesday evening CAAB demonstration
- **29 April 2004:** Meeting of Missile Defense Working Group in Leeds
- **19 May 2004:** Interviewed by Media Studies student who filmed at Tuesday evening CAAB demonstrations at Menwith Hill on 11 and 18 May.
- **22 May 2004:** Fellowship of Reconciliation, Middlesex ('Star Wars' workshop)

AND FINALLY

US Attempts to Exempt Troops from ICC:

On 20 May 2004, the Bush administration demanded an immediate vote to renew a UN Security Council resolution that would exempt its troops serving in UN-approved peacekeeping operations from prosecution for war crimes before the International Criminal Court (ICC).

The renewal of the contentious Resolution 1487 would grant immunity to personnel in UN-authorized or approved operations from states that have not yet ratified the ICC Treaty. Both the US and Iraq have not ratified the treaty. If Resolution 1487 is renewed, US troops serving in Iraq would be exempt from International war crimes prosecution.

Resolution 1487 was first approved after the US threatened to veto all UN peacekeeping missions if ICC exemptions were not passed in 2002 and then again in 2003. This year, US pressure to quickly renew Resolution 1487 comes amid global attention to abuses and torture by US soldiers of Iraqi detainees. Human rights groups oppose the resolution and believe that the US military should be responsible for war crimes committed in Iraq and Afghanistan under the Geneva Conventions. They also believe that theoretically these crimes could be prosecuted under the ICC, even though neither Iraq nor the US has signed the treaty.

In 2003, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan warned against renewing the resolution, stating, "Allow me to express the hope that this does not become an annual routine. If it did, I fear the world would interpret it as meaning that the Council wished to claim absolute and permanent immunity for people serving in the operations it establishes or authorizes. If that were to happen, it would undermine not only the authority of the ICC but also the authority of the Council and the legitimacy of United Nations peacekeeping."

Renewal of the resolution is likely to draw fierce opposition by member states, and a vote has been indefinitely postponed.

[*Oneworld.net*, 21 May 2004 ; *Human Rights Watch News Release*, 20 May 2004.]

For the text of Resolution 1487, go to <http://daccess-ods.un.org/TMP/6081472.html>

For the text of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, go to <http://www.un.org/law/icc/statute/rome.htm>

CAAB will greatly miss one of its earliest and longest supporters, Barbara Elliott, formerly of Peterborough, who died at the end of April 2004 ... Barbara had no formal religious faith but wherever she is now we hope things are easier for her and that she has others to talk passionate politics with ... that would surely be her idea of heaven!

For information please contact:
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 New site under construction temporarily at
<http://www.caabuk.plus.com>

SHAKING the BUCKET

Warmest thanks to many of you who responded to my request for donations. These were gratefully received together with new friends' Bankers Orders which are the mainstay of our funds. As the campaigning accelerates so, regrettably do the expenses.

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Christine Dean (Hon. Treasurer)

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2004 QUAKER MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

USAF Menwith Hill: Saturdays – 7 Aug, 2 Oct and 4 Dec - from 2pm - 3pm outside the Main Entrance.

'RAF' Fylingdales: Saturdays – 3 July, 4 Sept and 6 Nov - from 12pm - 1pm outside the Approach Road Entrance at Fylingdales, Near Pickering, North Yorkshire Moors.

Contact Numbers for both Meetings: Anni: 01943 466405 or Lindis: 01482 702033

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

USAF Fairford: Contact Mary Jeans: email: MaryRJeans@aol.com

..... *With love and peace*.....
Anni and Lindis