



Campaign *for the* Accountability of American Bases

**Local, National and
International news**

No. 33: January 2007

the example of Costa Rica – a country which decided not to have a force under arms but to

Dear friends

A new year - so greetings from CAAB in the hope that 2007 will bring meaningful peace, justice and equality with fair shares and hope for all people in the world. There will be major changes in the political picture in the US and UK. There are incredibly important decisions to be made – ie Trident, Iran, Iraq and Afghanistan and the continuing crazed American Missile Defense system – what a terrible criminal waste of precious resources. The disturbing news that George W Bush is sending a ‘surge’ of over 21,000 troops to Iraq (and ignoring the Baker proposals) does not bode well. Analysis of this, suggests that the move has everything to do with an attack against Iran.

Looking back over last year it was a year full of painful events – for Anni Rainbow (Joint co-ordinator of CAAB) a truly shocking year with the death of her eldest son Matthew in Iraq. Anni then had a stroke and since 12 September has been in hospital. It is unlikely that Anni will be able to be active in CAAB for the time being.

In a recent speech about the UK’s role in ‘war fighting’ and ‘peace making’, Tony Blair said there was not a choice – the UK had to do both. Anni reflected on how proud many of us would be if we were known as a nation of peace making, with a Minister of Peace and followed

put resources and energy into providing basic human needs. Anni and Lindis founded CAAB in 1992. We continued to build on the work and take on the struggles of many people over the years since the arrival, occupation and control of the US Visiting Forces in the UK. CAAB will not be the same without Anni’s active input but this unique and important campaign will continue – and we will find new ways of effective

CAAB is a campaign.....

- grounded in a deep concern and opposition to weapons of mass destruction in general and nuclear weapons in particular - specifically the proposed American Missile Defense/Theater Missile Defense (AMD/TMD) systems
- focussed on American bases in the UK and abroad
- raising public awareness, scrutiny and accountability of American bases in the UK - over here, out of control and secretive

CAAB works to reveal this by.....

- asking questions of those in authority
- using the democratic process by working with local councillors, MPs and MEPs - asking Parliamentary questions
- taking action through the legal system to change unsafe law - bringing the executive to account through the courts
- regularly monitoring US bases and Planning Departments re proposed developments on US bases-American AMD/TMD systems
- working with researchers, academics, media, peace activists
- making use of the US Freedom of Information Act and the UK Open Access to Government Information procedures
- organising demonstrations and spontaneous protest
- giving talks
- non violent direct action and civil disobedience

AROUND THE BASES

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

INTERVIEW WITH ANNI RAINBOW

[This interview was given by Anni to Brian Dooks of the Yorkshire Post, just before she went into hospital on 12 September 2006. The article was delayed because of this. It was finally published just before the Memorial Service for Matthew at Leeds Parish Church on 19 November 2006].

Iraq protester tells of grief after her son died in war - exclusive - Brian Dooks – Yorkshire Post: One of Yorkshire's leading campaigners against the Iraq war has spoken of her heartache after her son was killed in the conflict.

Anni Rainbow, mother of Matthew Cornish, who died when the 1st Battalion of The Light Infantry came under mortar fire, is co-founder of the Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases with Britain's best-known peace campaigner Lindis Percy.

Corporal Cornish, 29, who left a widow, Abby and two children, son Ethan, three and daughter, Libby, 16 months, joined the Army when he was 18 and was on his third tour of duty in Iraq when his base in Basra was attacked.

His mother, who refused to sign a form allowing him to join the Air Cadets, did not want him to have an Army career but after he lost his job in Leeds he walked into a recruiting office.

Ms Rainbow, 57, who has another son, Simon, 26, regards the war in Iraq as illegal and blames Britain's involvement there and in Afghanistan on what she sees as Prime Minister Tony Blair's unquestioning relationship with United States President George Bush.

Every Tuesday night for five years she and Ms Percy have held a peace protest outside Menwith Hill, the United States military base near Harrogate. For Ms Rainbow, who has to use a wheelchair, her Vigil has a special poignancy.

Speaking at her home in Otley, she recalled conversations with Matthew about serving in a war she condemns as illegal. "He didn't say much. He was divinely non-political, bless him." Asked what she would say if she had an opportunity

to speak to Mr Blair, she said: "Perhaps I would just ask 'Why?' I suppose I might be tempted to ask him if he sleeps at night, but I don't suppose he would have much trouble answering that Ms Rainbow added: "I feel very sorry for him that he will probably be remembered for things that he would not wish to be remembered for. I was so excited when Labour was elected and this is what we have got. It breaks my heart."

And President Bush? "I can't think of a good word to say about him. There must be good words, but I can't think of them." "But if it was not Bush there would be someone equally as bad."

Using the measured words of a committed Quaker, she said: "It is ironic that Matt was killed for their war which I object to so strongly. The United States is the richest country in the world and the strongest in the world. It could virtually do anything it wanted. It could be such a force for good, but it is not. "As long as Britain's foreign policy is coupled with the United States, I cannot see much hope at all for anyone. America will get whatever it wants by playing the terrorist card. I think we are worth more than a pack of lies from politicians." She added: "Heartbreaking though it may be that Matt has been killed, I can't help but think of the unnamed thousands of Iraq and Afghanistan people who have lost their lives because of the lies of Bush and Blair. Somebody loved them too."

15 November 2006

The struggle to maintain the right to protest at the Tuesday evening regular demonstration: Each week (now into sixth year), the inconsistencies of the 'policing' of this demonstration have been causing a lot of trouble and unnecessary conflict. Ministry of Defence Police Agency (MDPA) officers from the Divisional Support Group (DSG) in York have been coming to 'police' the demonstration for a long time. There have been many difficulties and struggles to maintain the right to protest. A meeting was arranged in November last year (it took two years to arrange) with Sharon Taylor and Keith Kennedy (Superintendent and Chief Inspector – MDPA Professional Standards and Training Department) and Dave Long (Superintendent – MDPA at Menwith Hill). Unfortunately Chris Dean (Treasurer for CAAB) was unable to come on the day. We met for about three hours and various difficulties were discussed and suggestions made. However not very much changed since the meeting and we had to send many letters to Dave Long setting out the continuing problems. Having sent another letter, things were different 16 January. There were no DSG present, no intrusive videoing and a greatly reduced MDPA presence. We have suggested this over many years. *[Lindis was arrested 40 times during the weekly*

demonstrations in 2004-5 – ending in an application for an Anti-Social Behaviour Order. This was not granted by a District Judge who then imposed electronic tagging and a curfew for 8 weeks. This was also deemed to be ‘disproportionate’ by a Crown Court Judge on appeal].

Planning applications since last newsletter:

Unusually, there have been no new applications since June last year. We continue to contact Harrogate Planning Department regularly to check if there are any new developments.

DOD to close housing units at Upwood and near Menwith Hill:

Housing units serving RAFs Menwith Hill and Upwood will be closing up shop, according to a Department of Defense announcement Wednesday. The sites, which include 24 housing units at Bilton and Knaresborough near Menwith Hill and 28 housing units at Upwood, were deemed no longer required as part of the U.S. European Command’s force structure realignment and transformation initiative, the announcement said. All of the sites are currently vacant and will eventually be turned over to the host nation.

The announcement did not give specific dates on when the turnover will occur. However, it did say that the U.S. coordinated the closures with host nation officials before making this announcement. *[Sean Kimmonds, Stars and Stripes European editions, 25 November 2006].*

‘Keep Space for Peace’ demonstration: There is a report of this demonstration which took place on 7 October 2006: www.caab.org.uk

Court: Lindis was found ‘guilty’ of two offences of ‘obstruction of a police officer’ during the weekly Tuesday demonstration in January last year. The actual alleged actions were very minor but the case lasted for three days at Harrogate Magistrates’ Court before Mr Manning (District Judge). Paul Skinner (MDPA arresting officer) did not turn up for the trial despite MDPAs going to his house. He had resigned from the MDPA sometime before the trial. Peter Burrows (MDPA arresting officer for second alleged incident) gave evidence which seriously contradicted the evidence he gave in his statement and which was seen on the video recording of the incident. Mr Manning did not mention, in his ruling, the fact that the arresting officer had refused to attend court or that the evidence given by Peter Burrows (MDPA) was clearly discredited. Allan Armbrister (CP) asked for over £1,000 costs. At this point Lindis left the court. She was told later that she had been fined £25 for each offence and ordered to pay £150 in costs. No action was taken for a breach of two conditional discharges.

On 1 December last year Lindis was summoned to court for non-payment of the fine and costs. The magistrates gave Lindis a second chance to pay. She has been summoned to appear at Harrogate Magistrates’ Court on 26 January 2007 for non-payment of the fine. Lindis has given much thought concerning this matter but felt she could not comply because of the conduct of the case.

Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005:

The trial of Sylvia Boyes and Helen John will take place at Harrogate Magistrates’ Court on 12 – 14 March 2007 at 10 am when for the first time this draconian Act will be challenged.

Subject: Change of heart and don’t stop

Over the years we have received positive and negative emails (often offensive) - usually anonymous. We received this recently.

"5 years ago I would have said you were a load of nutters, 3 years ago I would have said you might have something, now I say DON'T STOP!

‘RAF’ FYLINGDALES

(near Pickering, North Yorkshire)

Just walking on the land: Lindis was ‘warned’ (not to return for 3 months) for an alleged offence under s.69 ‘aggravated trespass’ (Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994) on 4 November 2006. *[Refer to case at USAF Croughton].*

Planning applications since last newsletter:

There have been no new planning applications at Fylingdales for about two years.

USAF CROUGHTON

(near Brackley, Northants)

Case dismissed: Lindis was on trial at Northampton Magistrates’ Court on 9 and 10 November 2006 for an alleged offence of s.69 ‘aggravated trespass’ on 19 February 2005. The trial had been fixed for four days. A full report of the incident which brought Lindis to court can be found on the CAAB website. *[We make no apologies for publishing this lengthy report. There are important public issues which affect us all].*

We had had great difficulty getting the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) to disclose documents (CPS acting for the Ministry of Defence Police Agency and the US authorities). The District Judge (DJ) had given directions twice in previous hearings. The CPS had not kept to the time limits imposed by the DJ and even on the day of the trial not all the documents were forthcoming. The fact that there

was such difficulty with the disclosure of documents was of 'great concern' to the DJ and the Defence. The CPS was criticised several times by the DJ although he acknowledged that it was probably those 'who were behind' the CPS who were at fault.

There was no CCTV recording of the incident as we were told by the American authorities that the camera was not working during the time of the incident. It would of course shown what happened to Lindis as she was violently handcuffed, put face down on the ground and seriously assaulted by US military personnel while the MDPA stood by and did not intervene.

9 November 2006 - DAY 1: The first day was slow. Julian Kesner (CPS) outlined the Crown's case. There were two Ministry of Defence Police Agency (MDPA) officers as witnesses for the Crown and five US military personnel. The CPS had previously served a 'bad character' application against Lindis.

The first witness to be called was Kenneth Woodhouse (Police Constable MDPA). He had submitted three statements dated 19 February, 20 March and 25 July. The latter statement had not been served on the Defence. The statement contained serious 'hearsay' allegations against Lindis. Tony Metzger (representing Lindis) told the DJ that the Defence skeleton argument would have been drafted in different terms, had this statement been served on the Defence. A statement written by the senior MDPA officer at USAF Croughton (Eileen McAdam) was served only two days before the trial. Later Tony Metzger said that it was of 'great concern' that the witnesses had been asked by the CPS to write more statements and that it was increasingly clear that this was because their statements were woefully insufficient.

Kenneth Woodhouse said that he had been in the force since 1982. This was his first time he had given evidence in court. He had been on duty with his colleague Barry Athwase on the night in question. When the officers arrived at the scene Lindis was face down on the grass, handcuffed and surrounded by 4 or 5 (later amended to 7) US military personnel. She had asked them to 'take control' and pleaded with them to take the handcuffs off. His colleague Barry Athwases said to the US military personnel present, that he was now in control and that the handcuffs must be removed. Frank Macdonald (supervising US Airman) refused to allow this to happen saying that he 'would go to jail' if the handcuffs were removed. Lindis would be taken to the main gate and the handcuffs would be removed. Kenneth Woodhouse said that Lindis was searched by a female security forces personnel. Kenneth Woodhouse said that Lindis was protesting

about her treatment and recalled that she had 'requested that the search be stopped'. This was ignored. She was carried to the MDPA vehicle, forced in and driven to the main gate where the hand cuffs were eventually removed. Kenneth Woodhouse had started to write out the s'69 notice in the car. When they arrived at the main gate he directed Lindis to leave (section 69). She said that she would immediately return and that she had made it clear that what had happened would come to court. He said that he did not discuss the issuing of the s.69 notice with his colleague, but acknowledged that Barry Athwase was the senior officer.

Kenneth Woodhouse said that he had no previous dealings with Lindis, but had been informed about various alleged actions by Lindis at USAF Croughton over the years. This information was in his statement dated 25 July. It was at this point that the DJ asked the officer to leave the court so that the issue of whether the 25 July statement could be introduced would be discussed. The DJ decided that he was prepared to allow the statement in but warned Julian Kesner that he must be careful how he phrase his questions to the officer. The officer was tentatively questioned (with several objections raised by Tony Metzger). The court adjourned for lunch.

In the afternoon, Kenneth Woodhouse was cross examined by Tony Metzger. The officer was asked if he was aware of the Memorandum of Understanding 1989 which sets out the arrangements and procedures between the US government and the Ministry of Defence Police (as it was then). He was not aware of this and was invited to read the relevant paragraph. The US authorities on US bases can detain an 'intruder', the MDPA must be notified and the 'intruder' (if a British national) must be handed over to the MDPA when it is 'safe and practicable'. This had clearly not happened.

It was interesting that the officer could not recall certain crucial things said or that were done to Lindis by the US military personnel present. For example, he did not remember when asked, if he recalled that she had said that she could not breath. He said that he 'could not tell'. He did not recall Lindis saying many times that the handcuffs were digging in and therefore very painful. The officer was asked if he thought it was wrong that Lindis was put in handcuffs. He replied that he 'could not speak for the US'. He did not remember Barry Athwase saying "For God's sake she could be your mother". He did agree however that she had pleaded with him to take the handcuffs off and assert control. He acknowledged that Lindis had said that she had complained about a facial palsy and numbness to part of her face. He remembered pressure being applied but could not remember how it had been applied. Surprisingly there was no reference to any of this

in any of his statements or his police pocket book. He agreed that Lindis had repeatedly said that she was not under arrest.

Speaking to the officer, the DJ said that in the officer's evidence, he had said that the general procedures by the US authorities were that they could detain an 'intruder'. However, they had to notify the MDPA if the intruder was a 'British national' and then they were to hand the intruder to the MDPA. The officer was asked why he could not have taken control and if necessary asked for assistance from the US military personnel? He agreed that this was their 'remit'.

Barry Athwase (MDPA) then gave evidence. He said that he had been in the force for 28 years and been at USAF Croughton since last November. He had written his first statement on 19 February and had since been asked by the CPS to give three more. He had arrived at the scene with Kenneth Woodhouse and had heard Lindis say 'take control' and 'take the handcuffs off'. He said that he had told the US military personnel that he was now in control and that they were to remove the handcuffs. This was refused but as Barry Athwase 'realised' that the US had procedures to follow' he 'did not push the point'. Lindis had been carried to the MDPA car and taken to the main gate. The handcuffs were removed by one of the US military personnel. Lindis had then been issued with a s.69 notice by his colleague which he said was 'procedure'. He had had no conversation with him about the issuing of the notice. At this point the court adjourned for the day.

Friday 10 November 2006 - DAY 2: Julian Kesner (CPS) said that yesterday, he had said that there was only one issue - that of 'reasonable grounds' by the officer in issuing a s.69 notice. However, overnight he had reflected on this and realized that this was not the only issue now. The DJ agreed and said that it was important when there was a restriction of liberty that the notice was not given 'viciously or arbitrarily'. The question had arisen as to who was 'the senior officer present at the scene'? Tony Metzger said that Kenneth Woodhouse gave evidence that he had taken this decision himself and that Barry Athwase was the senior officer by virtue of years of service. He had also taken a 'proactive approach'. It was clear that neither officer were familiar with s.69 of the Act. This was not purely a technical point as there was a 'huge gap' in the Crown's case in order to meet the pre-requisites of the Act. Therefore the charge against Lindis should be dismissed.

The DJ responded by saying that Parliament could never have envisaged a situation like this. Julian Kesner tried to argue that there was not a 'paper crack' in terms of service between the officers therefore it was arbitrary as to who 'the senior officer'

was. The DJ said that as the legislation was used by the MDPA 'the tool must be used properly'. The court adjourned for the DJ to decide if the s.69 notice had been given by 'the senior officer present at the scene'.

In his ruling the DJ said that the evidence given was that Barry Athwase was the senior officer. He said that 'the thought had never entered their heads' as required by the Act that it was the senior officer present who had to direct the person to leave. He said that Barry Athwase was the senior officer (the fact was that Kenneth Woodhouse had issued the s.69 notice himself) and therefore it was right to conclude that the Crown's case would fall on this point. Julian Kesner asked the DJ if he could make a telephone call. He returned later to say that he would be offering no further evidence. The DJ dismissed the case against Lindis. He awarded costs incurred by Lindis to be paid out of Public funds.

The end of the case at this early stage meant that Barry Athwase was not cross examined by the Defence and that none of the US military personnel gave evidence. We intend to pursue an alternative legal route to bring the MDPA officers and the US Visiting Forces to account for what happened to Lindis. The Judge Advocate's Department at USAF Mildenhall have claimed jurisdiction to 'investigate' the complaint made by Lindis.

[PLEASE NOTE: This case is a classic example of who is actually in control of US bases. It is certainly not the Ministry of Defence Police Agency].

Joint Analysis Center MOLESWORTH

(near Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire)

NATO Intelligence Fusion Center opens: U.S. and European military and political leaders gathered here Monday to mark the opening of the NATO Intelligence Fusion Center.

The Supreme Allied Commander Europe, Marine Corps Gen. James L. Jones, traveled from his headquarters in Mons, Belgium, to rural Cambridgeshire to join more than 100 international dignitaries, military leaders and local English officials to celebrate the creation of the so-called IFC, where intelligence from 17 NATO countries will converge.

"The purpose of this center is to share, not to protect," said Jones, referring to questions about the lack of shared intelligence between NATO partners in the past. "Mutual trust and cooperation are critical for mission success. You can only get out what you put in." But what does that mean to the lance

corporal patrolling the perilous streets of Ramadi or the captain organizing future missions in Bagram?

“We are going to give the corporal’s leaders better information to make better decisions,” Jones said.

This will happen by consolidating information gathered from separate NATO partners stationed throughout the world, especially in Afghanistan, and producing more focused intelligence.

John Colston, who serves as the NATO assistant secretary for defense policy and planning, joined Jones and the British Minister of State for Armed Forces, Adam Ingram, in a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

“The center will allow us to realize the threats to our collective security,” Colston said. “It will give us the ability to act with greater speed and dispatch.”

The ceremony was held in a refurbished aircraft hangar on this 423rd Air Base Squadron installation that is home to the Joint Analysis Center, which serves as the U.S. European Command’s intelligence headquarters.

The JAC analyzes and produces intelligence from 77 countries across Europe and Africa for the U.S. military and NATO. Reporters were not allowed to visit or view the new Fusion Intelligence Center and were instead provided a DVD with information about it.

Along with the combined intelligence assets at RAF Molesworth, the United Kingdom is also home to RAF Menwith Hill. That 560-acre Yorkshire complex is managed by the Air Force’s Air Intelligence Agency and is home to a National Security Agency station.

These three intelligence complexes will work to keep America and its trans-Atlantic allies fed the best intelligence possible.

“Knowledge is power,” Ingram said. [*Brian Mitchell, Stars and Stripes 17 October 2006*].

USAF FAIRFORD (near Letchlade, Gloucestershire)

Persistence pays: In an important and significant ruling on 14 December last year, the Law Lords ruled that protesters who were stopped by Gloucestershire Police and prevented from going to USAF Fairford during the invasion of Iraq, acted unlawfully. Representing the protesters John Halford said that the House of Lords judgment was a wake-up call for democracy. [*refer to www.fairfordcoachaction.org.uk/press*].

Royal International Air Tattoo (RIAT): Once again this will be held at USAF Fairford on 14-15 July 2007 [*a chance to have a look round?!*]

USAF LAKENHEATH and MILDENHALL (near Brandon, Bury St Edmunds, Cambridgeshire)

Significant digs: RAF Mildenhall is beginning a new housing construction project to add more units to the officer housing area. But before they break ground, the building site must go through a preliminary dig to ensure any possible objects of archeological significance that may be found are properly uncovered and preserved.

The United Kingdom requires all construction projects go through this dig to ensure no historical artifacts are destroyed. Most U.S. bases in the UK lie in areas considered archeologically sensitive.

Project officer John Craven has been working on these digs for the past 12 years. He considers it his full-time job to preserve the history in the area.

"Until we actually look, we don't know how good it may be, it could be something really quite exceptional buried just below the surface," Mr. Craven said.

Past projects, have uncovered the remains of an Anglo-Saxon male with shield and spear, buried with his bridled horse at RAF Lakenheath and Roman coins, pottery and human remains were discovered at a dig on RAF Mildenhall. These are significant finds that tell a lot about the area. Minor finds are normally taken to museums in the local area around the bases, while major ones will go to national museums. The horse with bridle and tack was loaned to a museum in Kentucky for awhile, due to the state's significance to horse racing, said Mr. Craven. [*Stars and Stripes, 12 December 2006*].

SELECTION OF PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles

Q: Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many American Predator B unmanned aerial vehicles are planned to be purchased and at what (a) unit and (b) total cost. [92149]

A: Mr. Ingram: We intend to procure two American Predator B unmanned air vehicles. The total acquisition cost is expected to be in the region of \$80 million. US Congress is still to approve the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) Case. Definitive costs, including unit cost, will not be known until the US

Air Force has replied to the UK MOD Letter of Request, which is expected by the end of the year. [23 Oct 2006 : Column 1526W].

Ministry of Defence Police

Q: Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list those whom the Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency regards as its stakeholder customers. [93784]

A: Derek Twigg: The primary stakeholder/customers for MDPGA services are Central Top Level Budget, Defence Logistics Organisation, Defence Procurement Agency; Royal Air Force Strike Command/Personnel and Training Command; Land Command; Adjutant-General; Commander-in-Chief Fleet/Second Sea Lord; Chief of Joint Operations and Defence Science Technology Laboratory and United States Visiting Forces. Other customers include QinetiQ; The Royal Mint; Atomic Weapons Establishment plc.; the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and Army Base Repair Organisation (ABRO). [8 Nov 2006 : Column 1554W]. A further question has been asked and we await the answer.

Visits to US bases by government Ministers:
November 2005 to 1 December 2006

Date of visit	Place visited
17 August 2006	RAF Fylingdales, North Yorkshire, Ryedale
17 August 2006	RAF Menwith Hill, Harrogate
12 October 2006	RAF Fairford, Gloucester, Cotswold
16 October 2006	RAF Molesworth, Cambridge, Huntingdon

[8 Jan 2007 : Column 95W]

Please note: The lack of questions on ‘all things US bases’ is partly due to the long Parliamentary Summer and Christmas breaks. Also, despite asking questions about the possible attack on Iran and the involvement of the UK government, the questions were not submitted, as they would probably not be allowed by the Tabling Office. We will keep trying!

A GIFT FROM THE US GOVERNMENT

In 2000, Lindis lowered and removed a fluttering US flag from the American base at Croughton (USAF) to protest at the presence of the US Visiting Forces in this country. She did it openly and honestly and told the US personnel at Croughton that she had done it and that she had no intention to permanently deprive the owner of his property.

Lindis wrote to the US Ambassador at the time asking for an appointment with him (he is the official 'Keeper of the Flag' in this country) so that she could return his flag, but also so that she could discuss with him CAAB's concerns about what the United States Visiting Forces were doing in the UK and world wide - especially because of the planned crazy and dangerous American Missile Defense System (Menwith Hill and Fylingdales being crucial).

Every year, Lindis has written to the Ambassador of the time to say that she had his property in her possession, that she will keep the flag safely and return it to him in person. Over the years Lindis has been accused of stealing it etc etc but no.....what she did in removing it did not fulfill the criteria of theft.

One year, the Ministry of Defence Police Agency suggested that Lindis returned the flag to them - certainly not - they cannot be trusted as they are paid for and under the operational control of the US authorities (Memorandum of Understanding between the US government and the MDP 1989 - we have a copy) - it was not theft and anyway the flag does not belong to the MDPA.

Recently, Lindis was involved in a court case at USAF Croughton (refer to report on page 3) and was accused of 'stealing' the flag in a 'bad character' application - (but she gives blood regularly and has worked in the NHS for 36 years.....). Lindis wrote the annual letter asking for an appointment with Robert Holmes Tuttle (US Ambassador) to say that she was concerned that she had still not received an appointment. She received a letter from Jeffery A Hosken Col.USAF Air Attache (dated 4 December 2006) which said:

From the Embassy of the United States of America

Dear Ms Percy
Thank you for your letter of 24 November in which you expressed your concern about the U.S. flag you have been keeping. The Ambassador has asked me to respond on this behalf.

As Americans, we keenly value freedom of speech and the right to petition our government of the redress of grievances - indeed, they are among the rights enumerated in the very first Amendment to the U.S Constitution. You certainly share our veneration of those rights. By your safekeeping of our flag, you appear to understand that it is a symbol of those rights, shared by 300 million Americans and guaranteed by the sacrifices, past, present, and future, of U.S. serviceman and women around the globe.

In the light of the above, we would like you to accept the flag you have in your possession as a gift from

the United States Government. Please continue to care for it with the respect it so richly deserves.

Sincerely

JEFFERY A.HOSKEN, Col, USAF Air Attache

Robert Holmes Tuttle, of course totally missed the point and there was a further twist to this. As you know and clearly he is not aware, CAAB uses the US flag as a symbol of protest - upside down and with different political statements written on it - never rude words. We also took a case to the High Court in 2000 for the right to use the US flag in protest. The Judgment is on our website under JUDGMENTS.

So that was very kind of the Ambassador to give Lindis a Christmas present. However FREEDOM forthe people in Guantanamo Bay?.....if they have done terrible things they must be taken down the legal process - the illegal war in Iraq, violation of human rights, undermining of democratically elected governments and abuse and violation of international laws. The violations are endless and the hypocrisy is deafening. So what does she do with the genuine US flag now? She has some ideas. Lindis has since written to Robert Holmes Tuttle to say thank you so much for the flag and one or two other things.....

SNIPPETS

One down – so many to go: The last of the US navy's base at Hythe (Southampton water) was decommissioned in 2006. There was one US personnel on the base.

Talks and media cover since last newsletter:

Public meeting - Leeds Stop the War Coalition with George Galloway

To come: 2 February 2007 Menwith Hill Forum – Question Time – Otley Civic Centre Lecture Hall – 7.30 – 9 pm

Some of the interviews with press/media: Northampton Echo, The Guardian, Radio Leeds, Real Radio, Yorkshire Post.

UNFOLDING STORY

Please accept my sincere apologies for the confusion over the charge for the last newsletter. This was due to a misunderstanding with a Post Officer employee. Thank you to many of you who wrote pointing out my unfolding error, but particular thanks to supporters who sent donations towards the postal costs.

This newsletter is at last, printed on recycled paper adding a further £40 to the total cost, which is over a pound per copy. We have decided that this local financial burden is worth it against the global cost. It was the hardest year faced by CAAB, with the emotional turmoil created by the loss of Ann's son Matthew. We have been particularly reassured by your kind thoughts and continuing financial support.

Let us hope that 2007 will be a kinder year.

Christine Dean – Honorary Treasurer.

5 Garnett Street, Otley, LS21

2007 QUAKER MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

USAF Menwith Hill: Saturdays

3 February, 7 April, 2 June, 4 August, 6 October, 1 December from 2pm - 3pm outside the Main entrance contact Lindis: 01423 884076

'RAF' Fylingdales: Saturdays (alternating with Menwith Hill)

7 January, 3 March, 5 May, 7 July, 8 September, 3 November from 12pm - 1pm outside the Approach Road entrance to Fylingdales, near Pickering, North Yorkshire Moors – contact for Fylingdales: 01946 550410 or email

Chrisfellowes1@aol.com or Lindis

USAF Croughton: contact Rachel and Paul Milling email: paul@milling.freerve.co.uk

USAF Fairford: contact: Sue Fleming - 01285 641340

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..... *With love and peace*

Anni and Lindis



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