



# Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases

No. 36 January/February 2008

## Local, National and International News

### *Dear friends*

A happy, healthy and peaceful New Year to everyone! Every New Year we hope for better things. In the context of CAAB's work it's looking good. We are helped by new people who have brought energy, ideas and commitment for the huge task ahead.

It's the 50th anniversary of the inception of CND this year. We congratulate CND. The world is awash with nuclear weapons. The weaponry gets more and more terrifying. There is much conflict round the world; and we never seem to learn that war is not the answer.

CAAB evolved in 1992, out of the long campaign of protest since the arrival of the US Army at the American base at Menwith Hill in 1952. It's important to remember history and the struggles along the way. We built on the struggles gained from other people's hard work and passion before.

Various people ask "Yes – but what have you achieved?" The answer is that we have achieved significant steps of change in the law, gathered information in different ways, and started to unlock the secrecy and lack of accountability concerning the presence and roles of the US military forces and their

Agencies in the UK and world wide (in a sentence!).

We never thought the task would be easy when we first set up CAAB. We are up against huge dark forces and we are a small campaign. But we have ideas, energy, commitment and a vision. We think of Margaret Mead when she said "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world: indeed it's the only thing that ever does" (adopted by CAAB).

We have persistently kept going and intend to continue! US bases are not going to close overnight. This is 'lifetime' work which we will hand on to future generations.

What the US military forces are doing round the world is deeply concerning. The American Missile Defense System lurches on, causing international tension, a new arms race, eating up billions of dollars and putting all our security at risk. Not often mentioned is that it is also an offensive system; in more ways than one.

In 2008 a new US President will be chosen. As Alan Bennett said at the annual 'Independence FROM America' demonstration on 4 July last year "In 1776 the Americans gave us notice to quit. I think it is about time we returned the compliment". This is CAAB's aim.

# Around the US Bases

## NSA MENWITH HILL

(near Harrogate, North Yorkshire)

### **Update on conditions imposed by North Yorkshire Police (NYP) for demonstrations (refer to newsletter 35):**

NYP imposed conditions on the 4 July and 'Keep Space for Peace' demonstrations which meant we could not walk round the base as we had done for many years – with the help of the police. We challenged this by contacting Liberty. James Welsh (Legal Director) thought the issues that concerned us were important and agreed to take this on. However, in the end we had to make a decision as to whether we would go ahead and apply for a Judicial Review. Because of time limits and the Opinion of a Barrister whose help Liberty sought, we decided that we would not go ahead; partly because of risk of cost to CAAB but more importantly because we could not guarantee that we would achieve a satisfactorily positive result (which would affect others). We are still waiting to hear from NYP with their Barrister's Opinion. There will be another opportunity to challenge NYP who, we say, are negligent in the upholding of the law of the right to protest. The legal issues have not been resolved.

Thank you so much to James Welsh and Adam Goodyear (Trainee Solicitor with Liberty) who continue to give so much of their time, expertise and energy to this case.

### **Update on Missile Defense (role of Menwith Hill):**

The 'burying of bad news' by Des Brown (when he made a Statement to the House of Commons in July last year) was followed by several influential and important critics which included the Defence Select Committee. In their report MPs said "We regret the manner and timing of the Government's announcement ... lack of Parliamentary debate on this issue". CAAB suggested various Parliamentary Questions (PQs) for Norman Baker (MP) to ask, including what Agreements and/or Memoranda of Understanding were signed, when, who by, and if this information would be made public (refer to section on PQs and Answers).

In response to a Parliamentary Question from Norman Baker MP as to when the two Space Based Infra-Red System radomes would be operational (see Parliamentary Questions and Answers section) Des Browne said "On current plans, facilities at RAF Menwith Hill for routing satellite data will be ready for operation early in 2008. The operational date for the Space Based Infra Red System is a matter for the US" *[maybe because this particular component of the US MD system is nowhere near ready?]*.

### **Debate in the House of Lords:**

For many years we have worked with William Wallace (Lord Wallace of Saltaire) keeping him informed of 'all things US bases' and in particular about Missile Defense, and since July last year the formal use of Menwith Hill in this folly of a weapons system in space. We were therefore delighted when he secured a debate specifically on Missile Defense on 10 January 2008. The full text can be found at:

<http://www.theyworkforyou.com/lords/?id=2008-0110a.949.8&s=missile+defence#g987.0>

The work of CAAB was mentioned and we were referred to as “the eyes and ears of the public for what is happening there”.

We sent out an alert by way of a CAAB media release before the debate to as many press lists and our lists as possible. It was disappointing that only a few local newspapers covered the fact there was going to be a debate. We sent the actual debate round and not one national newspaper followed it up (as far as we know). We will not give up however, and are working to try to get a debate in the House of Commons now. At the time of publishing this newsletter *Newsnight* may have done something (we have been continually contacting Peter Barron - Editor - to encourage him to include Missile Defense in the programme). Please encourage your MP to sign the **Early Day Motion 65** initiated by Jeremy Corbin MP, which calls for a debate in the House of Commons.

## USEFUL WEBSITES

### RE: MISSILE DEFENSE

**Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space:**

[www.space4peace.org](http://www.space4peace.org)

**Acronym Institute:**

[www.acronym.org](http://www.acronym.org)

**Yorkshire CND:**

[www.ycnd.org](http://www.ycnd.org)

**US Military Websites:**

**Google search Missile Defense or any of the components of MD e.g. Space Based Infra Red System (as at Menwith Hill)**

**Court:** There have been several hearings at Harrogate Magistrates’ Court in the stages necessary before fixing a trial date, involving the charges (obstruction of the highway and ‘aggravated trespass’ section 69 during a Tuesday evening demonstration at MH in October last year) against Lindis Percy. To date we are still awaiting a response from the Crown Prosecution Service to the Defence Skeleton argument.

### **Future of Menwith Hill Forum (MHF):**

CAAB helped to set this forum up about 7 years ago by supplying names of local Councillors and other contacts whose ‘patch’ included Menwith Hill. Anni Rainbow and Chris Dean regularly represented CAAB on MHF since the beginning and meetings have been held in Otley, Harrogate and York.

MHF has done excellent work however. For several years it has been dominated by a certain group which has meant that attendance (particularly by MPs, Councillors and residents has been steadily declining – the general rationale of MHF).

Otley Town Council (9 miles from MH) has now decided not to be represented on MHF anymore and at the next MHF meeting there will be a decision as to the future of the involvement of Leeds City Council (LCC). We very much hope this forum (under the auspices of Leeds City Council) will continue with a new direction and energy.

### **Regular Monitoring of MH:**

CAAB continues to physically monitor the base, has spontaneous demonstrations at either of the gates and regularly monitors the Planning office for new Planning Applications (also at Helmsley Planning office for Fylingdales). There have only



been a few applications for sometime. Out of these the significant application (in September 2007) is: 2.5 metre high antennae and 0.9 metre high triangular metal frame to water tower. A decision is still pending.

### **Report on 'Keep Space for Peace' Demonstration – 13 October 2007 at MH:**

The theme this year was 'Drum Them Out'. About 100 people came – now in our seventh year focusing specifically on Missile Defense. Jean Lambert (Green Party MEP) and Hilary Wainwright were the main speakers. In their speeches they spoke about the risks involved, the loss of sovereignty to the US, international tensions and start of a new arms race as a result, the outrageous spending of resources and the lack of democracy and accountability of Menwith Hill. We were grateful to Manchester Samba band and 'Honey Drum' who drummed magnificently! *[All the issues included in the speeches were concerns we raised when CAAB first found out about and revealed in 1997, that MH was to be 'designated' as the European Ground Relay Station for the Space Based Infra Red System (SBIRS) - Ed].*

**History of the Work of CAAB:** We are delighted that Margaret Nunnerley - a Quaker and former lecturer at the Department of Peace Studies at Bradford University - is to research and document the work of CAAB. This will be a two year project. The project will then be available to a wide range of people as to what has worked, etc. and also the campaign will be set down in history.

**New CAAB Website:** The CAAB website has needed urgent attention and a serious upgrade for a long time. We were encouraged to apply to the Andrew Wainwright Reform Trust (AWRT)

and were so pleased to have been given a very generous grant to enable us to do this. There is a lot of information and resource on the website which will take some time to work through. In the meantime please be understanding! Thank you so much to the AWRT.

## **USAF FYLINGDALES** (near Pickering, North Yorkshire)

**Second Visit to Fylingdales:** We received an invitation from Nicky Loveday (Wing Commander of Fylingdales) to visit the base (with others) at the beginning of August last year. This was a timed to coincide with the apparent completion of the 'upgrade' of the base for Missile Defense. There was a 'power point' presentation and a chance to ask questions. Nicky Loveday confirmed that the system is entirely in the control of the US authorities. We are still awaiting a copy of the 'Operational Certificate' which we asked for. We built up a good relationship with Nicky Loveday, who was refreshingly open and honest. Unfortunately she has come to the end of her time at Fylingdales (January 2008).

**New Base Commander:** The new base Commander is Wing Commander Greg Hammond. The Press Officer at Fylingdales has already been in touch as Greg Hammond would like to make contact with CAAB.

**Court:** The trial of Lindis Percy, who was charged in October for breaching section 69 ('aggravated trespass') will be held on 14/15 May 2008 at Scarborough Magistrates' Court. The CPS are on notice to prove the legal boundary of the base (a question of the invalid byelaws at Fylingdales).

**Planning Applications:** There have been no new PAs since 2005.

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

**Demise of the MDPA?:** The Ministry of Defence (MOD) planned to change security at RAF Welford from an armed police force to an unarmed guard service in October this year. The station warden for RAF Fairford and RAF Welford, Mike McKee, denied that there were plans to change security at the base, which is currently protected by armed MOD police. But a letter seen by [newburytoday.co.uk](http://newburytoday.co.uk), confirms that the Agency Consultancy Services (ACS) proposes to replace the armed MOD police officers at the base with unarmed MOD guards. [Extracts from Newbury Today 3 January 2008: *This has been expected. There is an interesting document (heavily reacted) by the US Forces and the MDPA called 'Tiger Team' which looked at the security of US bases in 2005 – we have a copy – the most interesting sentence is: "US Force operations on these installations are a sovereign activity but they take place on government property"*].

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

**New RAF Liaison Officer:** Squadron Leader Jerry Neild arrived in October 2007 and is the only RAF officer at USAF Lakenheath [*this is a good example of it being clear that the 'RAF Commander' is not in control of US bases - known as 'RAF' – he/she is a RAF Liaison Officer. The US Commander is in control - Ed*].

## **Lakenheath to Get New F-15E**

**Simulators in '08:** Air crews who fly and maintain the F-15E Strike Eagle jet will be at the forefront of their field early next year with the arrival of new, state-of-the-art flight simulators. RAF Lakenheath will be just the third Air Force base worldwide to get the \$35 million Boeing simulators, which will give crews a better view of the battlefield while allowing them to train with other aircraft stationed around the world. The tentative plan, if all the testing goes smoothly, is to have the new simulators operational by February, Holsinger said. The new simulators are being leased from Boeing, and the company will provide staff – many of them former pilots – for training and maintenance ...

"We'll be able to look outside, look over the rails, and see our target," he said, adding that missions like close-air support rely on being able to look out instead of relying on instruments. "Being able to see things on the ground can be a huge asset." [Extracts from Stars and Stripes European edition 26 December 2007]

## **USAF CROUGHTON** (Brackley, Northants)

**High Court London:** The hearing for the Judicial Review brought by Lindis Percy is to be heard on Thursday 7 February 2008 (refer to last newsletter and CAAB reports 188 and 199). The decision to be reviewed is against Corby Magistrates who refused the application for summons to be issued against Frank Macdonald (US military) and two MDPA officers.

**More Demonstrations:** Oxford Peace Group have notified us that they are planning to organise another demonstration at USAF Croughton. This follows the successful yearly 'Keep Space for Peace' gathering on 6 October 2007 when about 60 people attended. Lindis Percy was one of the speakers. *[CAAB has in the past and does give this base attention but it needs much more - as do all US bases in the UK!]*.

## PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (Small selection – contact for more!)

### Ballistic Missile Defence

**Q: Mr. Willis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what discussions his Department has had with the US Administration on plans to develop missile silos and x-band radar on land or sea bases in the UK; (2) what discussions he and officials from his Department have had with the US Administration on plans to site interceptor missiles or related equipment in the UK.

**A: Des Browne** *[holding answer 16 October 2007]*: The Ministry of Defence continues to discuss ballistic missile defence issues with the US Administration. It is not the practice of the Government to make public details of all discussions with foreign governments as this would, or would be likely to, prejudice international relations. As I set out in my statement of 25 July 2007, *Official Report* column 72WS, we have no plans to site missile interceptors in the UK. [17 October 2007] *[CAAB is very wary of the phrase 'no plans' and will be alert to this]*.

**Q: Mr. Hancock:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will hold a public consultation on the US's use of Menwith Hill base as part of the US Missile Defense Programme; and if he

will make a statement. [165043]

**A: Des Browne:** The MOD published a consultation paper on 8 December 2002, "Missile Defence: A Public Discussion Paper", ahead of a full parliamentary debate on 15 January 2003 on the UK's involvement in the US ballistic missile defence system. The principles underpinning that debate have not changed, and we have no plans to hold a further public consultation on this issue [17 October 2007].

### RAF Menwith Hill

**Q: Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date the decision was taken to give permission to the US Administration to use Menwith Hill in the Missile Defense system; who took the decision; and what (a) formal agreement and (b) memorandum of understanding was produced.

**A: Des Brown:** The Government's agreement to missile warning data being routed through RAF Menwith Hill for use in the US missile defence system was given in an exchange of classified letters between the US Defense Secretary (date 29 June 2007) and the UK Secretary of State for Defence (date 17 July 2007) [11 December 2007].

**Q: Baroness Miller of Chilthorne Domer (House of Lords):** Further to the Answer by Baroness Taylor of Bolton on 22 November (*Official Report*, cols. 924-6), whether the proposed United States missile defence bases in Poland and the Czech Republic as currently planned could function without RAF Menwith Hill.

**A: Baroness Taylor of Bolton:** The overall effectiveness of the US ballistic missile defence system is dependent on the co-ordinated interoperability of all the elements in the proposed architecture. The proposed ballistic missile defence assets in Poland and the Czech Republic could function, albeit at a lower level of effectiveness, without the ballistic missile early warning data routed through RAF Menwith Hill. [4 Dec 2007 : Column WA175]



## RAF Fylingdales

**Q: Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many (a) UK and (b) US personnel were employed at RAF Fylingdales in each year since 2002, broken down by employer. [171225]

**A: Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** I refer the hon. Member to the answers given on 11 March 2003, *Official Report*, column 181W, and 14 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1235W, to the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker). As of 3 December 2007 the figures for RAF Fylingdales were: one US military personnel; 13 US contractors; 79 RAF personnel; 162 UK contractors; 105 Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency personnel and 37 UK civilian personnel work at the base. The number of personnel who worked at RAF Fylingdales in 2002, 2004 and 2005 is not available in the format requested. [12 Dec 2007: Column 612W]

## RAF Fylingdales and Menwith Hill

**Q: Mr. Goodwill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the future role of RAF Fylingdales and Menwith Hill in ballistic missile defence systems.

**A: Des Browne:** The early warning radar at RAF Fylingdales will process and pass on tracking data into both the UK's own US ballistic missile warning system, the US ballistic missile defence (BMD) system. RAF Menwith Hill will continue automatically to route information from US satellites but will now also pass this data into the US communications network for BMD. This data will also alert our own missile warning radar at RAF Fylingdales as part of its long-standing UK mission to provide missile attack warning. [3 Dec 2007 : Column 818W]

## RAF Feltwell

**Q: Norman Baker:** When I asked the Secretary of State how many RAF personnel there were at RAF Feltwell, the answer was

none. When I asked why, I was told that there was no requirement for any RAF personnel at RAF Feltwell. Is it not time that we acknowledged the reality and started calling such bases US bases? Is it not symptomatic of British defence policy that we pretend to be in control, when we are little more than the back end of a penny-farthing to President Bush?

**A: Des Brown:** I am not entirely sure whether the hon. Gentleman has struck an important point for the defence of the realm in the question that he asked. I will consider the point that he makes about the naming of RAF Feltwell, but I suspect that I will come to the conclusion that we will continue to call it RAF Feltwell.

There is no question about the independence of our defence policy. However, we are part of the most successful military and political alliance that the world has known in NATO. The Americans are a very valued ally and I make no apology to the House for working closely with them. Among other things, I am proud to say that because of our discussions with the Americans, they will deploy significant additional resources to southern Afghanistan in support of our troops and those of the other countries present there. That is the sort of support that the Americans give us and I am proud of the fact that they are prepared to do it.

## Military Bases: USA (most recent information)

**Q: Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list those (a) establishments and (b) parcels of land where the US authorities have been granted exclusive occupation by his Department. [178154]

**A: Mr. Bob Ainsworth:** The United States Visiting Force (USVF) has never been granted exclusive occupation of UK bases; rather they are made available under the terms of the NATO Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) 1951, and other arrangements. The following

establishments in the United Kingdom are currently occupied by the USVF under the terms of the NATO SOFA of 1951:

- Blenheim Crescent, London
- Joint Maritime Facility at RAF St. Mawgan, Cornwall
- RAF Alconbury, Cambridgeshire
- RAF Barford St. John, Oxfordshire
- RAF Croughton, Northants
- RAF Fairford, Gloucestershire
- RAF Feltwell, Norfolk
- RAF Lakenheath, Suffolk
- RAF Menwith Hill, North Yorkshire
- RAF Mildenhall, Suffolk
- RAF Molesworth, Cambridgeshire
- RAF Upwood, Cambridgeshire
- RAF Welford, Berkshire

In addition, Edison House and Providence Court in London are privately owned buildings that MOD leases on behalf of the USVF. The USVF also has family quarters housing allocated to them, in several locations in the UK. UK nationals work in a variety of roles at all the principal USVF bases. At RAF Menwith Hill and the Joint Maritime Facility at RAF St. Mawgan there is a joint UK-US mission, where UK nationals are also employed in an operational role. [15 Jan 2008 : Column 1137W]

## Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency

**Q: Dr. Fox:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence at what locations Ministry of Defence police officers have been replaced with (a) civilian police forces and (b) private security forces since 2003. [177588]

**A: Derek Twigg:** The Ministry of Defence Police have never been replaced by a civilian police force or a private security force at any functioning Defence establishment. However, when establishments close and all MOD

functions have withdrawn it is possible that private security forces are used, but this would provide a guarding not policing service. [17 Jan 2008 : Column 1398W]

**We would welcome any comments about the newsletter, letters from you and/or articles. Contact CAAB**

### Talks/workshops since last

**Newsletter:** Conference at Leeds Metropolitan University, CND conference in London, Farringdon Peace Group

**Press contacts and interviews:** BBC Look North, BBC Radio Leeds, BBC TV Inside Out, Stray FM, BBC Radio York, Stars and Stripes, Real Radio, Red Pepper.

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

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Heartfelt thanks once again for the generous donations received in the time since our last Newsletter. As Hon. Treasurer, once again I assure you that our funds are carefully spent to promote this long and arduous campaign. Thank you one and all. [Christine Dean, Hon Treasurer, 5 Garnett Street, Otley, LS21 1AA.](#)

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