



Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases

No. 50 February 2013

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

Four years ago we had a demonstration at NSA Menwith Hill on the day of the inauguration of Barack Obama. This banner said it all.



Probably many people round the world agreed with the message – especially after the disastrous two terms with George W Bush and his neo-con team. In a questionable address to US soldiers returning from Iraq in 2011 Barack Obama said “That’s what makes us special as Americans. Unlike the old empires, we don’t make these sacrifices for territory or for resources. We do it because it’s right”. What **IT** is, perhaps, is the problem.

In 2009 he was controversially awarded the Nobel Peace prize. The award drew initial criticism that it was undeserved or premature due to a perceived lack of significant accomplishments on Obama’s part so far and his role in conflicts abroad. Mairead Corrigan (co-winner 1976), expressed her disappointment, stating, “giving this award to the leader of the most militarized country in the world, which has taken the human family against its will to war, will be rightly seen by many people around the world as a reward for his country’s aggression and domination.”

He has said “To say that force is sometimes necessary is not a call to cynicism -- it is a recognition of history; the imperfections of man and the limits of reason.” However men and women with a vision for humanity and the common good do good things and don’t just follow a path of what has gone on before – that of violence as the means of settling conflicts and all that follows. You have a second and last chance to do things differently Barack Obama and fulfil the hope that we yearn for.

Ed: Please have a look at this website, it contains a very good and comprehensive chronology of Barack Obama’s first Presidency and who he has appointed for his second term:
stpeteforpeace.org/obama.html

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. We are always pleased to receive constructive comments or suggestions.

AROUND A FEW OF THE US BASES (UK)
NSA/USAF MENWITH HILL (near Harrogate,
 North Yorkshire)

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY
Thursday 4 July 2013



More details next newsletter

Demonstration To Mark The 11th Year Of Guantanamo Illegal Detention Camp: We focused on this disturbing, continuing and controversial US Naval base in Cuba at the Tuesday pm demonstration on 15 January 2013 (symbolically dressed in orange suits and hoods).



One of Obama's main campaign promises in 2008 was to shut down Guantanamo Bay Naval base; a move *The Washington Times* said "... would erase a terrorist recruiting tool and black spot on America's human rights record." It remains open. As of September 2012, 167 detainees remain at Guantanamo. In 2009 an interagency task force

created by the Obama administration cleared 86 prisoners to be released. Yet all 86 of those prisoners are still being held at Guantanamo Bay. As Patrick Seick (*The Eastern Echo* 23 January 2013) says "Obama's hands are not tied. He can exert his influence to shut down the heinous prison, but lacks the will ... By not making good on his promise to shut down Guantanamo Bay, Obama besmirches human rights, spits on the legacy of his Nobel Peace Prize and perpetuates the lie that the United States is a champion of freedom for all".

Briefing by RAF Liaison Officer: Over the years we have written to welcome and request a meeting with any new RAF Liaison Officer arriving at Menwith Hill. One previous Squadron Leader responded, but our request was refused. It has been very different since the arrival of Paddy Currie in May 2011.

A very welcome change of attitude culminated in a meeting in Harrogate in November 2012 when he agreed to give an invited small group (CAAB, Quakers and two people from YCND) a briefing of what goes on at Menwith Hill. This was the 'official party line' version. We have offered to give Paddy and anyone else at the base a briefing of what actually goes on there!

Paddy has two jobs at the moment. He is also Area Commander Scotland, Northern Ireland and Cumbria at RAF Recruiting. Unfortunately he will probably finally leave NSA Menwith Hill for Scotland in April/June.

Arrest Under Section 128 Serious Organized Crime and Police Act (SOCPA) 2005: Lindis Percy went to NSA Menwith Hill on the day Barack Obama was publicly inaugurated as President for a second term (21 January 2012). She carried an upside-down US flag with the words 'NOW THEN ... SECOND AND ONLY CHANCE OBAMA'. She was arrested under SOCPA and taken to Harrogate Police Station. She was not charged as the decision to charge under this section is made by the Attorney General (Dominic Greaves). He has six months to decide. Bail conditions were imposed even though she was not charged. However the police can do this as the law was changed in 2006. She was bailed to Harrogate Police Station on 21 March 2013. We will apply to the court for these

conditions to be varied.

The last time Lindis was arrested (USAF Mildenhall) under this section of SOCPA it took Baroness Scotland 6 months almost to the day. She represented herself before a District Judge. There were many hearings and one US 'security' personal was flown in from the US on the day of the trial. She was found not guilty and costs awarded - see CAAB reports on website.

Persona Non Grata: At the Tuesday pm demonstration on 22 January 2013 Lindis was told by the RAF Liaison Officer she was 'persona non grata' (she has been told this before). Definition: Fully unacceptable or unwelcome, especially to a foreign government ...

Taking an Unacceptable Time to Report Finding of Complaints: Complaints against the Ministry of Defence Police (MDP) in the case of R v Lindis Percy in April last year when Jane Goodwin (District Judge) strongly criticised the MDP (reported in last CAAB newsletter) still have not been concluded. Mick O'Byrne (Superintendent MDP) is the investigating officer.

A complaint was also made concerning the management of this case by the Crown Prosecution Service. After unsatisfactory investigations by three levels of management of the Crown Prosecution Service Simon Clements (Head of the Welfare, Rural and Health Division CPS) met Lindis Percy and a statement was taken. He has now completed his review and 'in accordance with our internal procedures I have now submitted my review to the DPP's Principal legal adviser, Alison Levitt QC, for her consideration'.

Coming to a Base Near You: Recently it was confirmed that the Tour de France will be coming to Yorkshire on 5-7 July 2014 – ending in Harrogate on the first day and going past NSA Menwith Hill on the second day.



Developments: Planning Applications and outcomes are listed on the CAAB website. There have been no significant applications for some time.

A Message From Christine Dean (Hon. Treasurer of CAAB): For the past eight years I have managed the accounts using my typewriter. Now I feel that an up-to-date approach is required. If you have a computer and are interested in taking over these duties, please contact me [5 Garnett Street, Otley, LS21 1AL]. The books are in good order and the routine straightforward. One hour together would suffice to explain what is involved.

Thank you so much to Christine for doing this job so ably and for such a long time. The books are indeed in good order. Christine chooses not to have a computer (there are quite a few people who do this!) so it has become increasingly difficult to do the Treasurer's job. The advantage of having a computer is that this job can be done from afar! CAAB needs a Treasurer. We are quite sure there is someone out there who is waiting to do the job, so please let us know who you are!

The CAAB accounts are available for anyone to see.

RAF FYLINGDALES near Pickering, North Yorkshire

Extract From Defence Codex, Issue 13 Autumn 2012: An Interview With the RAF Commander: Wing Commander Rayna Owens [RAF Commander at Fylingdales] is back at her desk after a trip to the US participating in a war game. Unfortunately, that is as far as she is prepared to go, explaining firmly that the nature of the exercise is not up for discussion. This aside, Owens is open and enthusiastic about her work and keen to engage a wider audience about the role of Fylingdales and the growing importance of the space domain ... With an appetite for new challenges, she sees Fylingdales as unique: "Here, I'm in command which is always a privilege but there are other areas of responsibility such as conservation and engaging with our neighbours. I also have a dual reporting chain to the UK and US. This means that every day is a new challenge."

Peace through deterrence; Fylingdales's primary role is to provide warning to both the UK and US

governments of ballistic missile events. There are three Ballistic Missile Early Warning System (BMEWS) sites housing Early Warning Stations, the locations selected during the 1960s – Thule in Greenland, Clear in Alaska and Fylingdales ...

“We need to normalise space so that we don’t treat it differently from any other capability within the RAF. This means educating people to think about what the future may or may not hold for us. European nations are beginning to realise that space is the cornerstone of pretty much everything we do today with the globalised world increasingly relying on space in one way or another,” concludes Owens.

Fylingdales celebrates their 50th anniversary next year and Owens and her team will be taking the opportunity to tell more people about their work and encourage greater interest in the future of air and space power. Requests to visit RAF Fylingdales should be sent to the address below. They say: Please be aware that the Station gets many requests each year and unfortunately not all requests can be accommodate RAF Fylingdales, Pickering, North Yorkshire, YO18 7NT.

Ed: We are disappointed that Rayna Owens has still not responded to either of the two letters we sent to welcome her and requesting a meeting when she arrived in January 2012. The previous three Wing Commanders have been open and friendly.

USAF CROUGHTON near Croughton Oxfordshire

Military Land Byelaws (MLBs) Proposed: USAF Croughton is currently covered by the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 which contains rather draconian penalties if ‘you did trespass’. CAAB is perplexed by the proposal to add MLA byelaws to the legal protection of the base since the same MLBs which apply at various other US bases (ie. NSA Menwith Hill, USAF Lakenheath/Mildenhall, JAC Molesworth (see CAAB website) have not been used for many years. You have 50 days to object (and please do) from 13 December 2012. We are examining the draft and have asked various Parliamentary Questions.

JOINT ANALYSIS CENTER MOLESWORTH (near Molesworth, Cambridgeshire)



Largest Small Arms Range in United Kingdom Reopens at RAF [JAC] Molesworth: [Extract from article written by Staff Sgt. Brian Stives 501st Combat Support Wing Public Affairs 10 October 2012]. Twelve Airmen from the 423rd and 422nd security forces squadrons at RAF Alconbury and RAF Croughton were among the first people to qualify at the RAF Molesworth small arms range after it reopened Oct. 15. The firing line was shut down in 2010 due to lack of use and the training was handed over to RAF Feltwell. However, RAF Feltwell was becoming overwhelmed with the number of personnel needing training and US Air Forces in Europe decided that reopening the Molesworth range was the most efficient solution.

Department of Defense employees within the 501st Combat Support Wing and 352nd Special Operations Group will use the range to qualify with M16 and M4 rifles, M9 and M11 handguns, and M870 shotguns. The 423d SFS Combat Arms Training and Maintenance section will conduct training Monday through Thursday, and three new instructors are inbound to assist with the increased workload.

Medical Arrangements For US Personnel In The UK: [Extract from article written by Peter G. Park JIOCEUR Analytic Center 16 October 2012] ... US service members and dependents in the UK receive most of their care from US military clinics and a US Air Force hospital at RAF Lakenheath. The US military in the United Kingdom relies on the British National Health Service, on a cost-reimbursable basis, for care in certain medical specialties, such as oncology, not available in the US Air Force hospital. Stanford is now awaiting orders to this next assignment with a Warrior Training unit either back in the US or in Germany.

USAF LAKENHEATH near Lakenheath, Suffolk

MP Presses Top US Official On Base Future: *South West Norfolk MP Elizabeth Truss has set out the case for the latest fighter aircraft to be stationed at RAF Marham to senior American officials. She was one of a group of MPs who met US Defence Secretary Leon Panetta at Westminster last Friday.*

As previously reported, Ms Truss and supporters of Marham, are lobbying for the base to house the new Joint Strike Fighter planes and have highlighted the base's close proximity to American bases in Suffolk.

She said: "He is now fully appraised of the excellent expertise, technical know-how, and superb strategic positioning that RAF Marham has, being so close to the US bases at Lakenheath and Mildenhall." Though no final decisions have yet been made, defence secretary Philip Hammond did say last summer that it was "likely" the planes would be stationed at Marham. (Lynn News 27 January 2013).

[We have asked Fabian Hamilton to ask a PQ and alerted a local Councillor who didn't know about this].

War Games: [Extract from article written by 2nd Lt. Lyndsey Horn, 48th Fighter Wing Public Affairs 18 January 2013]. *The 493rd Fighter Squadron from Royal Air Force Lakenheath is participating in the Tactical Leadership Program here Jan. 16-Feb. 7. The TLP is a multi-national program that enhances key leadership and mission planning skills needed for NATO operations.*

"It's a ten-nation consortium within NATO that tries to develop tactical leadership skills specifically by developing mission commanders in a variety of different flying fields," said Lt. Col. Mike Casey, 493rd FS commander.

Started in 1978, the course is an organization formed under a Memorandum of Understanding between ten NATO nations. The 493rd FS, flying F-15C Eagles, is training alongside six other NATO partners from Belgium, France, Greece, Italy, Spain, and the United Kingdom ...

USAF MILDENHALL (near Brandon, Suffolk)

What is the AtHoc System?: [Extract written by 100th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs Senior Airman Ethan Morgan 25 January 2013]. *Recently Airmen across RAF are being visited by the pop-up fairy telling them to update their AtHoc contact information.*

People may be asking what AtHoc is and how it affects them. AtHoc is USAFE's primary emergency, installation warning and mass notification system. The AtHoc system automates the full spectrum emergency communication process, delivering physical security, force protection, situational awareness, and personnel accountability:

How can AtHoc benefit RAF Mildenhall Airmen? *It allows the 100th Air Refueling Wing Command Post to send one emergency message using a combination of multiple means such as phone, text, giant voice and e-mail to either targeted groups or the entire population within a short period of time.*

"AtHoc allows the Command Post to quickly provide you critical information regarding things such as weather conditions, active shooter situations and threat level changes," said Senior Master Sgt. Ernest Evans, 100th ARW CP superintendent. "Help us to help you. Follow the instructions on the automated message to ensure you only get notified of information you need to know."

Airmen should know that whereas inputting contact information is optional for civilians it is mandatory for all Active Duty members. To change or add personal information into the AtHoc system click on the arrow located at the bottom right hand corner of the screen. From here, AtHoc can be accessed by clicking the purple globe and choosing 'Access Self Service' where users will be able to add personal contact information in the devices section.

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (Source: Hansard)

(We held PQs over for this newsletter because of lack of space in the last edition)

Q: Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Attorney-General what the cost to the public purse was of the prosecution of Lindis Percy in April 2012 at Harrogate Magistrates' Court. [*Simon Clements CPS said he will find out what this case actually cost to the public purse*]

A: Oliver Heald (Solicitor General; North East Hertfordshire, Conservative): The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) does not operate a time recording system on individual cases but assesses cost through an activity-based costing model. Using this model, the estimated cost to the CPS of prosecuting Lindis Percy was £875. This costing is not specific to the case but is based on data produced on the indicative average cost for each defendant involved in a summary trial at the magistrates court. An uplift has been applied to take account of the higher than average number of hearings in this case and the length of the trial. (26 November 2012, c2W) [see item on complaint to CPS on page 3]

Q: Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many RAF personnel are based at (a) NSA Menwith Hill, (b) USAF Lakenheath, (c) USAF Mildenhall, (d) USAF Feltwell, (e) USAF Molesworth, (f) USAF Fairford, (g) USAF Croughton, (h) USAF Barford St John, (i) Blenheim Crescent and (j) USAF Barford. [*Ed - there is no US base of this name - our mistake!*]

A: Mark Francois (Rayleigh and Wickford, Conservative): The numbers of RAF personnel based at the stations listed are shown in the following table:

Base	Number of RAF personnel
RAF Croughton	1
RAF Fairford	0
RAF Welford	0
RAF Barford St John	0
Blenheim Crescent	0
RAF Lakenheath	1
RAF Feltwell	0
RAF Menwith Hill	3
RAF Mildenhall	4
RAF Alconbury	1
RAF Molesworth	2

RAF Fairford, RAF Welford, RAF Barford St John and Blenheim Crescent are administered by RAF Croughton, and RAF Feltwell is administered by RAF Lakenheath; as such there are no RAF personnel based at these sites. RAF Molesworth is also administered separately, by RAF Alconbury, although there are two RAF personnel based at RAF Molesworth.

There is no additional base at RAF Barford, beyond RAF Barford St John (26 November 2012, c24W).

Q: Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the names are of the US Commander and the RAF Liaison Officer at (a) NSA Menwith Hill, (b) USAF Lakenheath, (c) USAF Mildenhall, (d) USAF Feltwell, (e) USAF Molesworth, (f) USAF Fairford, (g) USAF Croughton, (h) USAF Barford St John and (i) USAF St Mawgan.

A: Andrew Robathan (South Leicestershire, Conservative): *The names of the US Base Commanders and RAF Commanders based at the stations listed are shown in the table on page 7.*

Q: Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether members of the Intelligence and Security Committee have complete access to all areas of the operations area of NSA Menwith Hill; and when (a) he and (b) any other Minister last visited NSA Menwith Hill.

A: Andrew Robathan: The Intelligence and Security Committee does not comment on the details of its work programme. Where appropriate it publishes information on visits it has undertaken in its Annual Reports.

The Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend Mr Hammond, has not visited RAF Menwith Hill to date.

The last ministerial visit to the Base was in August 2011 by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague) (24 October 2012, c878W)

Name	Position	Base
Colonel Hamilton Squadron Leader Still	US Base Commander RAF Commander	RAF Barford St John, RAF Croughton, RAF Fairford (1) (1)–
Colonel Robinson Squadron Leader Neild	US Base Commander RAF Commander	RAF Lakenheath and RAF Feltwell (1) (1)–
Colonel Gilmore Squadron Leader Currie	US Base Commander RAF Commander	RAF Menwith Hill (1) (1)–
Colonel Kulas Squadron Leader Fryer	US Base Commander RAF Commander	RAF Mildenhall (1) (1)–
Colonel Reiner Squadron Leader Wood	US Base Commander RAF Commander	RAF Molesworth (1) (1)–

(1) Indicates brace

RAF St Mawgan is not a US Visiting Force Base (29 October 2012, c32W)

Q: Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether RAF Menwith Hill plays a role in the planning and deployment of drones in (a) Afghanistan, (b) Pakistan, (c) Yemen and (d) Somalia.

A: Andrew Robathan: For operational and security reasons we do not comment on the specific activities carried out at RAF Menwith Hill. (12 September 2012, c228W)

PQs and answers we have asked in 2013 will be published in the next newsletter.

SINCE THE LAST NEWSLETTER

One to One interview – Martin Wainwright talks to Lindis Percy – BBC Radio 4, 8 January 2013:
www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01pp569

QUAKER MEETING FOR WORSHIP – 2013

NSA MENWITH HILL

2.00 – 3.00pm

2 February • 6 April • 1 June

RAF FYLINGDALES

12.00noon – 1.00pm

2 March • 4 May • 6 July

USAF CROUGHTON

Main Gate

from 2.00pm for 1-2 hours

4th Saturday each month

Contact: Elisabeth Salisbury 01865 515163

MONEY MATTERS: Fundraising: CAAB has a stall at **OTLEY GREEN FAIR** on Saturday 13th April from 10.00am–4.00pm. We shall be selling CAAB mugs and bags and other goodies. This is always a good opportunity to tell people about our campaign and to meet kindred spirits on other stalls. Please support us. *Christine Dean.*

It is now possible to donate to CAAB on the website. A Paypal account has been set up which will make it much easier to donate money for the work of CAAB:

CAAB account No: 500095311

Sort Code: 089229

The Cooperative Bank

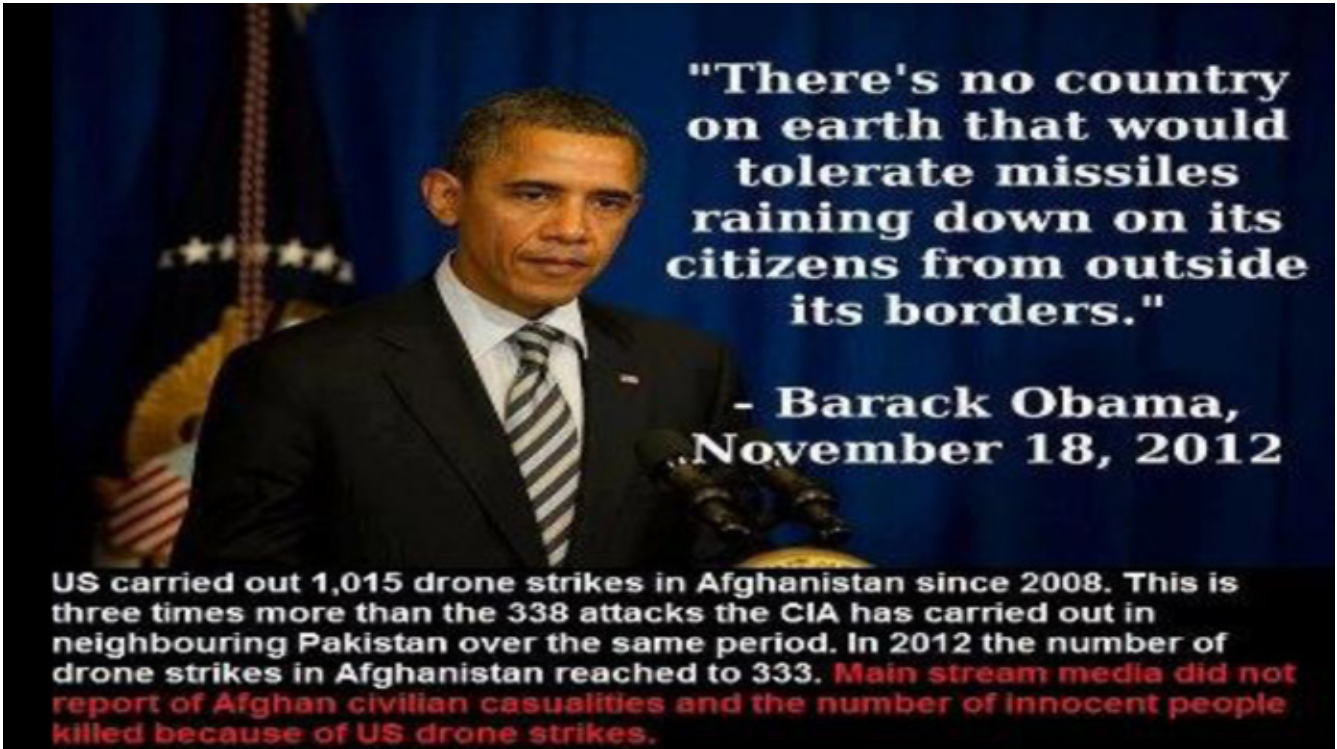
1 Balloon Street

Manchester M60 4EP

We want to make sure that the information on the labels is correct. - please let us know if it is not. Also if you receive a paper copy of the CAAB newsletter and an e-newsletter would be acceptable in future please let us know your email address. We saved £168 by buying stamps at the old prices but even so the cost of stamps is expensive.

COMMENT: A retired RAF Navigator on our mailing list wrote to us: “It grieves me deeply that my predictions about Iraq and Afghanistan are constantly coming true. The cost in shattered lives is appalling ... keep up proving that we are still a free country by producing your newsletter.”

AND FINALLY: Out of the Mouths of Babes and Sucklings: Fia (daughter of Laila and Rob Packer) has been coming to various events at NSA Menwith Hill since before her birth. She is now 4. When Laila (Joint Coordinator – CAAB) asked her if she would like to come to Menwith Hill she replied, “No thank you, it’s very boring, the naughty people come out in their cars and they won’t even let me in at the gates”. Later she was asked again, “Yes, I can tell them not to be naughty and then they can be our friends! Fia then asked if she could make a batch of banana buns for them to bring with her “So they can like us and be our friends”.
[Ed: Please take immediate note of what Fia says Menwith Hill and then go back to your borders ...]



The US Empire Of Bases Abroad – Over One Thousand ...

The Pentagon estimates that each year it spends \$22.1 billion to maintain its bases and troops around the world. However, the actual cost, even on conservative estimates, is about \$170 billion annually.

The totals could be even higher. Estimates of maintaining US bases abroad since the start of the war on terror in 2001 range from \$1.8 trillion to \$2.1 trillion.

There are about 1 million US military and Defense Department personnel and families abroad.

Read in full: www.allvoices.com/contributed-news/13628055-the-us-empire-of-bases-abroad-over-one-thousand – more information on the CAAB website

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