



**CAMPAIGN for the ACCOUNTABILITY of AMERICAN BASES**

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Aubrey Smith  
Chief Inspector North Yorkshire Police  
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Dear Aubrey Smith

We write to say how much we appreciated the way the demonstration was 'policed' on 4 July 2010. It was such a welcome change and restored and established various traditions and civil liberties.

It was so much better that the police presence was 'low key' - instead of as in the past vast numbers of police present, standing aggressively at every gate to Menwith Hill and scores of Ministry of Defence Police Agency officers buzzing about on quad bikes and cars plus dogs and horses. There was no intrusive and harassing videoing and photographing of all the people present to be seen. The fact the horses were not around was also sensible. The cost of the demonstration as a result must have been greatly reduced.

The walk round the base was so good - enabled by the police who could not have been more helpful. They were all very pleasant, courteous and helpful. This is how we expect the police to behave. Once again we would like to say how much we appreciated the care, attention and humour of Dave Tetley (PC Pateley Bridge). We would be grateful if you would convey this message to him.

We thought that it worked well to have officers accompany us on bikes on the walk and also the use of the police on motor bikes to 'shepherd' the traffic safely and efficiently along.

As you know, over the past few years the relationship between the police and ourselves has become very soured because of the over zealous behaviour and attitude by the police officers – senior and junior ranks. The demonstration has always been peaceful and it was so good that you acknowledged this and as a result changed the way it was planned and managed.

One of your officers said “It was good to see democracy in action”. Yes indeed – it’s really important to do that in these days of precious civil liberties being undermined. It has however been a struggle! Thank you for your part in helping this to happen.

Yours sincerely

Lindis Percy and Laila Packer  
Coordinators – CAAB

Cc Grahame Maxwell – Chief Constable NYP