



Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases

No. 41 November 2009

Local, National and International News

Dear friends

Owing to unforeseen circumstances we were unable to publish the CAAB newsletter in time for October. We apologise.

Who is Harry Bubb? this is what he wrote on 30 October 2009 to a website – we publish it in full as the editorial.

'We Americans are such chumps. We continually allow our government and the economic system that supports it, to get away with murder – figuratively and literally. We view their continual immorality with nary a peep. We are so propagandized that we refuse to trust our own perceptions, common sense and morality.

Administration after administration makes war on unlikely and innocent nations, all quite unable to defend themselves from our relentless military or economic juggernaut. And when we beat them into submission, our leaders proclaim it as a victory for "democracy," our military sets up permanent bases on their soil, and then we move on to another defenseless foe. If I were to ask most people if America was an empire, they would probably shake their head, emphatically, no. We are the good guys, right?

Yet, we have well over 750 military bases in more than 100 countries around the globe, in addition to 11 carrier groups, which are mobile military bases in their own right. Wherever the US

military goes, it sets up permanent bases – and we never leave. World War II has been over for 64 years, but we still have bases in Germany and Japan. These nations are successful and powerful in their own right, they don't really need our troops based on their soil. Why are they there?

Despite the idealistic rhetoric of our leaders, the U.S. continues to invade and occupy nations without adequate reasons, detain foreign nationals for specious reasons, torture prisoners, fix and overturn foreign elections, use economic sanctions and IMF loans to coerce and dominate weaker nations, and in general, insinuate itself into the affairs of almost every nation on the globe.

To support the U.S. power elite's agenda – world domination – citizen services and citizen's real needs are starved of funds and attention.

Count the state governments in financial crisis. We have become an impoverished nation to subsidize greedy bankers and an ever expanding global empire.

Americans are such chumps, because we refuse to see what is going on right in front of our eyes. We refuse to trust our own common sense and our own morality. America has become the world's "evil empire," making us both victims and victimizers, and we don't seem to notice that fact. Shame on us'.

[Harry Bubb Jr. P.O.Box 89 Winchester – we will be writing to him to thank him for his piece – consider doing the same? It sums up why CAAB exists].

Around the US Bases

NSA MENWITH HILL

(near Harrogate, North Yorkshire)

Protocol between North Yorkshire Police and the Ministry of Defence Police Agency concerning extended patrols at RAF Menwith Hill and RAF Fylingdales:

We would not have known about this cosy arrangement unless an MDPA officer had not said that this protocol had been signed. We made a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for a copy of this document. The document was supplied. However several crucial sections of information were blacked out and not released including information as to the extent of the jurisdiction of the MDPA. We have appealed this decision. It is essential that members of the public know what the extent of the jurisdiction of the police (MDPA) is. The protocol was signed on 4 February 2008.

A rumour? Demise of the Ministry of Defence Police Agency?:

According to a report in the Sun which was later carried by the Independent on 12 October 2009 possibly up to 900 Ministry of Defence Police Agency (MDPA) officers – a quarter of the total – may be facing cuts under an ongoing review into defence spending.

On the Defence Police Federation (DPF) website: To date we have still not been sighted on the proposals nor been formally consulted on them. However on 23 October 2009 the National Chairman of the DPF [Trade union of the MDPA] said 'we can confirm that the Defence Police Federation has been furnished with a copy of the Hutchinson Report, under a classification of Restricted / Management and have been precluded by the MoD from openly discussing its content'.

MDPA officers, working on US bases are employed and paid for by the US authorities eg Menwith Hill etc etc. However given that the US is bankrupt will this mean that MDPA officers might be facing similar cuts too? Talking to officers they are concerned.

Keep Space for Peace demonstration – 3

October 2009: Since 2000 CAAB has responded to the call by the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space ('Keep Space for Peace') for a week of international protest by the Global Network Against Weapons and Power in Space ('Keep Space for Peace'). The specific focus this year was the use of space involving Unmanned Aerial Vehicles ('drones') in war fighting which have caused high numbers of deaths and injuries of civilians in Afghanistan and Pakistan. This year we invited Yorkshire CND to help with the organisation.

For the second year we moved from the main entrance to Menwith Hill to the Kettlesing Layby (on the A59 Harrogate to Skipton Road – which runs past Menwith Hill). The weather was even worse than last year with gale force winds, making it difficult to display banners, flags etc and impossible to even attempt to put up a gazebo. Despite the atrocious weather about 40 people came from Burnley, York, Bradford and Sheffield.

Martin Schweiger (Quaker, doctor and peace activist) hosted the event. Steve Hill (Daftasadrum) did a splendid drumming workshop and Sarah Cartin (Yorkshire CND) spoke about the current race for space. Messages were read out from a similar demonstration happening at USAF Croughton, from a CND Welsh member who was unable to attend to speak about 'drones' and from Lindis Percy (unable to be present). Dave Bevan supplied delicious food in really difficult conditions!

Diana Wallace (MEP Yorkshire and the Humber) questioned why it was necessary to get planning permission and accountability for windmills but not for the US Missile Defense installations and the pressing need to put money where it will really make a difference.

The police presence this year was inconspicuous and 'low key' – a marked contrast to previous years – thank you to North Yorkshire police for this welcome change in 'policing' peaceful protests. Thank you so much to all who helped to organise, participate and attend this important demonstration. *[Please refer to Parliamentary questions section re 'drones']*.

Parallel Silhouettes

by Christine Dean – Hon.Treasurer – CAAB

On Friday 30th June 1944. I was a happy 7 year old tricycling along the pavement in Harrow outside my home. After yet another night spent with my parents and baby brother in an iron cage – our Morrison shelter. I enjoyed stretching my legs before the short walk to school.

An air raid warning had sounded at 7.14 am but as ten sirens and ten All Clears had whined during the past 24 hours, my mother's philosophy was that we should carry on as usual. After all, nothing had 'dropped' in our area.

The milkman was leading his horse and float up the road. The only sounds were of hooves clapping, birds singing, wheels turning. Tranquility shattered in a instant by the loudest noise I'd ever heard – a metallic scream, a clattering cacophony. A gigantic, menacing black shape filled the air about my head. It hung there, then was silent.

It was a V1 rocket, a Vergeltun (Revenge weapon), a 'flying bomb', a 'doodle bug'. I was rigid with an emotion new to me – terror. The milkman shouted: "Christine, get home to your mother!"

The V1 had hurtled at 358mph, across the Channel, over fields, above London until its engine cut out. It crashed on to a row of houses a few hundred yards from my cycle path. The Headmistress was crushed under a door, but survived. (Half-an-hour later, on a normal day, the school would have been filled with children).

Seven people were killed. There were 45 stretcher and 59 sitting cases. The British Restaurant was demolished and up to 300 houses damaged by the after-shock, among them my godmother's. Her daughter was trapped under the stairs with back injuries that put her in a steel jacket for the rest of her life.

A paper boy, close to the scene of the crash, recalled that "people were screaming, many covered with blood, others appeared to be dead. I was sick and ran home as fast as I could. It affected my health, and my hair fell out in patches caused by the shock of what I had seen. It took 8 years for it to grow back to normal."

My grandmother, living in Highgate, wrote in

her diary that day: "We are living in terrible times now. Alerts nearly all day and night with these Flying Bombs which blast the places to bits."

.....

Years later, my brain felt kicked when I saw a photograph of a Cruise Missile. Its parallel silhouette drew me into the peace movement. Perhaps because of my history, I found something doubly terrifying about a robotic bomb whose nuclear content could create even more hellish havoc than its Second World War predecessor.

.....

Now homo sapiens has nightmared a new killer – the 'the Drone, the 'Predator'. These rely on satellite technology to determine their targets. The human drones in Menwith, in fact, feed these machines – yet another reason to campaign for accountability.

If we are silent as to the deployment of these missiles, we are complicit in inflicting terrible times on new generations. We must, as a species in charge of our beautiful planet, empty the skies of all weapons, and keep space for peace.

(Statistics from A.R.P and Ambulance Depot War Diaries, Harrow Archives).

"We live in a state of constant mis-interpretation and mis-information, which depends on reducing the past, obliterating memory. That is the death of what makes us human." John Berger The Guardian: 16.4.2005

USAF CROUGHTON

(near Brackley, Northants)

New date for civil action: A case management hearing will now be held on 4 January 2010 at Oxford County Court (refer to newsletter no 40 for details of case).

CAAB spontaneous protest: Lindis Percy protested and gave out CAAB leaflets to drivers coming out of the base at the main entrance to USAF Croughton on 28 October 2009. There were some good conversations. One conversation with a heavily pregnant young woman went like this: "What are you doing? [explanation given]but we protect people all round the world...." She said her husband had just been sent to Afghanistan. We wish him well.

USAF FAIRFORD

(near Letchlade, Gloucestershire)

Fairford operations and staff cuts planned: In an effort to cut costs, England's RAF Fairford will lose its permanently assigned airmen and greatly reduce its daily operations starting next year.

For years, the west England base served as a standby airfield for bombers and other transient aircraft, including the initial wave of B-52s heading toward Iraq in March 2003. Starting in August 2010, it will be operational only when aircraft actually need it, according to 3rd Air Force officials.

As a result, the 112 airmen stationed there with the 420th Air Base Group will be relocated and the unit deactivated. The base's capabilities will remain, but there will be no U.S. airmen there when aircraft are not passing through, said Capt. Kelley Jeter, a 3rd Air Force spokeswoman in England. Instead, U.S. personnel will be moved onto the base to support aircraft when needed, arriving one or two days before the jet arrives, Jeter said.

The Fairford consolidation is part of a U.S. Air Forces in Europe effort to cut costs across the command's wings and is expected to save USAFE about \$16 million annually, she said. The base boasts a 10,000-foot runway, the longest in the U.K. The runway and fuel bunkers underwent \$200 million in renovations in 2002, according to Tech. Sgt. Kristina Barrett of the 501st Combat Support Wing, the unit that oversees Fairford and a handful of small bases across England.

Built in 1944 for aircraft heading to the D-Day invasion in France, Fairford has also hosted B-2 stealth bombers. The Air Force is still determining the status of base support functions such as Army and Air Force Exchange Service outlets, Jeter said. The Royal International Air Tattoo, one of the world's largest air shows, will still take place at Fairford next summer, she said.

For Brits in the area, the base has been "a good neighbor," said Ray Theodoulou, a

Gloucestershire County Council member who represents nearby Fairford village. While small in number, the base's airmen often engaged with the local community in a variety of ways, he said. Many Air Force kids attended British schools in the area.

Economically, the loss of local jobs will have an impact on the area, Theodoulou said, though leaders here suspected such a move might come at some point. "We're very sad about it," Theodoulou said. [Geoff Ziezulewicz, Stars and Stripes European edition 19 September 2009]. [PLEASE NOTE: on 29 October 2009 USAF Fairford was very quiet and obviously in the process of being deactivated - CAAB research].

RAF FYLINGDALES

(near Pickering, North Yorkshire)

We try to regularly monitor the Planning Applications for this base. However we missed both these applications.

- 1) Feb 2009 Closure of the permissive bridle path
- 2) May 2009 Erection of single storey living accommodation for 45 personnel including individual bedrooms and communal kitchen, dining and mess facilities

If there is anyone out there who would be willing to take on this important work (not arduous or time consuming but you do need a computer) please let us know. It is particularly disappointing that we missed the application to close the permissive footpath - missed because too much to do! ideally we should be monitoring all Planning Applications on US bases.

USAF LAKENHEATH

(near Brandon, Suffolk)

Storms caused \$2M in damage to U.K. bases: A brief yet fierce thunderstorm earlier this month caused millions of dollars in damage to the Air Force's two largest bases in England, base representatives said this week. The June 15 storm caused \$2 million worth of damage to 62 facilities at RAF Lakenheath, home of the 48th Fighter Wing, according to Staff Sgt. Nathan Gallahan,

base spokesman.

The majority of the damage occurred at facilities where the roof and gutter systems couldn't handle the large volume of water and hail, he said in an e-mail, with most damage consisting of flooded floors, waterlogged walls and ruined light fixtures. Approximately 23 facilities took damage at Mildenhall, with repair estimates ranging between \$15,000 and \$20,000, according to Master Sgt. Charles Tubbs, base spokesman.

No injuries were reported at any of the Air Force bases in connection to the storm, which lasted about three hours and included a funnel cloud that formed over the Mildenhall runway. Nearly an inch of rain fell in less than 30 minutes during the storm, base officials said. [Geoff Ziezulewicz Stars and Stripes European edition 27 June 2009]

The US perspective: There are several extraordinary videos on this website which gives information about life on this base from an American perspective. It is also clear who is in control. www.lakenheath.af.mil

USAF MILDENHALL

(near Brandon, Suffolk)

Arrest under Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 (Designated Sites under Section 128) Order 2007 (S.I. 2007 No. 930): Lindis Percy (Coordinator CAAB) was arrested at USAF Mildenhall on 29 October 2009. A US 'security police' serviceman waived her through after she showed him her driving licence as ID. She has been bailed to Bury St Edmunds Police Station on 23 November 2005. The Attorney General will be required to give his consent to any prosecution. Police bail conditions were imposed: Not to enter any stations where the United States Air Force are stationed in the United Kingdom for any reason.

An application to vary the conditions will be made on the grounds that the conditions are disproportionate, the reason given why conditions were necessary was that Lindis had committed an offence while on bail (she was not on bail) and that bail conditions must be certain. It is unclear as to 'where the USAF are stationed in the UK'.

The new United States Air Force 'bunker busting' weapon:

by Paul Rogers

Professor - Department of Peace Studies
Bradford University

The United States air force's sophisticated new "bunker-buster" weapon could become a critical factor in any escalation of tension over Iran's nuclear programme.

The United States department of defence has confirmed that it is rushing into production the world's largest ever bomb, one designed specifically to destroy underground targets. The Massive Ordnance Penetrator (MOP) weighs just short of fifteen tonnes, more than 80% of which is made up of a massively hardened ferro-cobalt alloy casing. When dropped from high altitude, the bomb will drive through earth and concrete before two-and-a-half tonnes of explosive are detonated to destroy the target ...

...in particular, it is the deep tension between the US and Iran over Tehran's nuclear plans that makes the arrival of the new weapon a significant political as well as technological event.

The MOP is set apart by its sheer size and the much more devastating power it contains. Since it can be deployed on the B-2 it would be possible (with air-to-air refuelling) to deploy the weapon to a war-zone in the middle east from Diego Garcia, RAF Fairford in England's Gloucestershire or, indeed, the B-2's home base in the United States.

...

... there are clear dangers in the arrival of a weapon of this size and destructive power, not least if it proves difficult or impossible to negotiate a settlement with Iran. The ambitions and unpredictability of the Mahmoud Ahmadinejad regime, and a regional environment where Israel's concerns and tensions with Hizbollah have ever-present combustible potential, make such deadlock a real possibility (see "Iran, America, Israel: the nuclear gamble", 2 October 2009). In the event of continuing deadlock, there would be very heavy pressure on Obama from rightwing sources to take military action – perhaps in the approach to the mid-session Senate elections in November 2010. In those circumstances, the United States air force would be only too willing to utilise the new capabilities in its arsenal – including the Massive Ordnance Penetrator. The very existence of this weapon would most certainly add to the pressure on the president. [Open Democracy Paul Rogers October 22, 2009]



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Useful website: www.opendemocracy.net

Brief Selection of Parliamentary Questions

(fewer PQs this newsletter because of the summer recess)

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles

Q: Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's policy is on the present and future use of unmanned aerial vehicles by the armed forces.

A: Mr. Quentin Davies: On current operations, unmanned aerial vehicles are giving our troops vital information and are an invaluable asset for our commanders. They have a crucial role to play in future operations and we will continue to invest in them. [1 Jun 2009 : Column 21W]

Q: Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) when he expects the final Reaper unmanned air system to be delivered; (2) when he expects the third Reaper unmanned air system to be cleared to fly in US airspace; (3) how many

flight training hours have been purchased from the United States Air Force to train Royal Air Force crews on the Reaper unmanned air system; and what the cost was of that purchase.

A: Mr. Quentin Davies: The final Reaper unmanned air vehicles are due to be delivered in 2010. I am withholding further details as disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

We are delivering the training of UK Reaper mission crews through a combination of places on the US Air Force Reaper Formal Training Unit and the UK Reaper Operational Conversion Course based at Creech Air Force Base, Nevada. I am withholding further details of the support provided by the US Air Force as its disclosure would prejudice commercial interests. In the longer term, the UK is exploring the viability of basing and flying a UK Reaper unmanned air vehicle in US airspace to support UK mission crew training. We are, however, in the very early stages of this complex process and it is too early to comment on when a UK Reaper unmanned air vehicle might require or receive clearance to fly in US airspace.[9 Sep 2009 : Column 2003]

RAF Fylingdales

Q: Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will publish the agreement of 5 November 2007 between the Secretary of State for Defence and the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to amend the boundaries of the land in the Register of Titles concerning RAF Fylingdales.

A: Mr. Kevan Jones: A copy of the agreement to amend the boundaries of the land in the Register of Titles concerning RAF Fylingdales is being obtained and will be placed in the Library of the House as soon as practicable.[29 Jun 2009 : Column 47W - we have asked for a copy of the agreement].

USA

Q: Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent requests his Department has made to the US administration for talks between the President of the United States of America and Government

representatives.

A: Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has made no recent requests for discussions between President Obama and representatives of the Government. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister and US President Barack Obama have regular Video Teleconference discussions on key issues. They most recently spoke on 8 October 2009.[16 Oct 2009 : Column 1163W]

USA: Nuclear Weapons

Q: Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the US administration on the international threat of nuclear proliferation.

A: Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discusses nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regularly with US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and did so most recently on 11 October 2009. Mrs. Clinton said after that meeting that British leadership had been pivotal in the run up to the historic UN Security Council session on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament chaired by President Barack Obama. The Council unanimously adopted UN resolution 1887 that affirmed its commitment to work toward a world without nuclear weapons.[19 Oct 2009 : Column 1248W]

Q: Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the US administration on methods by which the international stockpile of nuclear weapons may be reduced.

A: Mr. Ivan Lewis: President Barack Obama's engagement and leadership on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament have intensified our already close counter-proliferation co-operation with the US. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton regularly discuss these issues, in particular the Iran nuclear case which requires regular close high-level engagement. The US values the UK's contribution.

President Obama warmly welcomed the UK's "Road to 2010" blueprint on nuclear non-

proliferation launched by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 16 July 2009 and Secretary of State Clinton gave strong praise to the UK's ideas leadership in the run-up to last month's historic UN Security Council Summit chaired by President Bill Clinton [19 Oct 2009 : Column 1248W].

World Military Spending – Global Issues

www.globalissues.org

This website has interesting and informative information.

...Includes the 2010 Fiscal Year 2010 Pentagon Defense Spending Request ...

US Military Spending

The United States has unquestionably been the most formidable military power in recent years. Its spending levels, as noted earlier, is the principle determinant of world military spending and is therefore worth looking at further.

Generally, US military spending has been on the rise. Recent increases are attributed to the so-called War on Terror and the Afghanistan and Iraq invasions, but it had also been rising before that.

NATO WATCH is a new campaign

NATO Watch Observatory is a new Bi-monthly newsletter that focuses on NATO policy and operations, drawing its clips from a wide range of subscriptions, feeds and alerts covering a substantial part of the major English language newspapers and other periodicals worldwide.

NATO Watch Observatory: to be found on the CAAB website to read/download:

There are many interesting articles and news items.



SOME GOOD NEWS

Obama chooses missile defense critic for advisory post

November 2nd, 2009

foreignpolicy.com

October 28, 2009

President Obama today nominated of Philip Coyle, a leading critic of Bush administration missile defense schemes, to be a top White House scientific advisor.

Coyle, who was the head weapons tester at the Pentagon during the Clinton administration, was nominated to become the Associate Director for National Security and International Affairs at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. There he will lead a team tasked with giving scientific advice to Obama on a range of national security issues and will report to Director John Holdren.

Since his last tour at the Pentagon, Coyle has been a leading analyst on weapons systems for the Center for Defense Information, a component of the World Security Institute, a defense-minded think tank. From that perch, he's been actively involved in several of the national security debates involving advanced technology and a staunch watchdog on the missile defense system the Bush administration rushed to deploy throughout its tenure.

Coyle has often pointed out that the testing done by the Pentagon on ballistic missile defense components since 2001 has been either shoddy or thin. Moreover, he has repeatedly questioned the basic rationale for investing billions to deploy ballistic missile defense around the world, especially in Eastern Europe.

"In my view, Iran is not so suicidal as to attack Europe or the United States with missiles," he testified before the House Armed Services Strategic Forces subcommittee in February, "But if you believe that Iran is bound and determined to attack Europe or America, no matter what, then I think you also have to assume that Iran would do whatever it takes to overwhelm our missile defenses, including using decoys to fool the defenses, launching stealthy warheads, and launching many missiles, not just one or two."

Coyle has often argued that the Bush administration rushed to deploy missile defense systems around the world to build momentum and keep money flowing into the program. He has

repeatedly said that the Missile Defense Agency has been amassing hardware that is either not aligned with the threat or can't be relied on in case of an actual emergency.

Over \$120 billion has been spent on ballistic missile defense since its inception during the Reagan administration. ...

FINALLY...

Are you on the 'secret state' data base just because you attended a protest or demonstration? If you don't know where to begin to find out please let us know (the Guardian 26 October 2009).

Money matters – message from Christine Dean – Hon. Treasurer Thanks to the generosity of those who attended the 4 July (Independence FROM America) demonstration £110 10p dropped in the bucket. Regular payments form the bedrock of our campaigning. Should you wish to support us this way, standing orders can be arranged with: the Co-operative Bank Plc, PO Box 250, Skelmersdale WN8 6WT or on-line at www.cooperativebank.co.uk/business Our account no is 50095311 – sort code: 089229. Cheques are also welcome anytime through my letter box at 5 Garnett Street Otley LS21 1AL or donations may be made via the website. Thank you. Christine Dean Hon.Treasurer

Meeting for Worship:

Continue outside various US bases – contact CAAB for details

CAAB Co-ordinators: Lindis Percy and Laila Packer

Hon Treasurer: Christine Dean

5 Garnett Street, Otley, West Yorkshire LS21 1AL

Webmaster: Ray Middleton

CONTACT: 59 Swarcliffe Road, Harrogate, HG1 4QZ

Tel/Fax no: 01423 884076

Please note new E-mail: mail@caab.corner.org.uk

Website: <http://www.caab.org.uk>



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