



Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases

No. 42 Spring 2010

Local, National and International News

Dear friends

This newsletter is being written before the General Election and at a time when many people are disillusioned with politicians and politics (rightly in our view). It's a dangerous situation when democracy is unhealthy and people opt out of the process. No wonder many people do think like this however and thus have no intention of taking part - "they're all the same" they say.

However if we don't engage we relinquish our say in what sort of society we long for. It could be a world free of nuclear weapons. The crucial Non-Proliferation Treaty conference is in May and the START discussions between Russia and the US limp on with Russian determined to include Missile Defense. It could be a world where instead of settling squabbles and deep hurts with violence and war, we pursue trust building, sharing of resources and talking to and negotiating with each other. It could be a world in which human rights are not only assured but acted upon. It could be a world in which Treaties and Acts are honoured. It could be a world in which the reason to live is not to make as much money as possible but one in which there is a collective aspiration to make sure that everyone has a chance to fulfill their hopes and dreams.

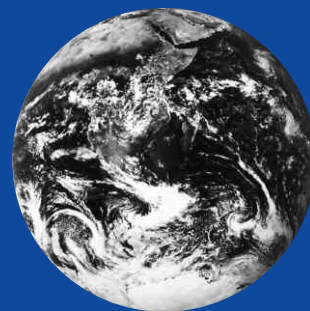
continues overleaf ...

LOOK

WHO'S COMING TO MENWITH HILL!

to
the Annual
'Independence FROM America'
demonstration at Menwith Hill on
Sunday 4 July 2010 2.00-7.00pm

Mark Thomas, Steve Hill
(Daftasadrum), Peter Tatchell,
Roy Bailey and 'Seize the Day' ...
more on CAAB website
nearer the date



PLEASE COME AND GIVE
MENWITH HILL ATTENTION! IT
NEEDS IT!

Picture credit: <http://eol.jsc.nasa.gov> AS17 Roll: 148 Frame: 22727 Mission ID on the Film or image: AS17 Image courtesy of NASA via <http://search.creativecommons.org/#>

continued from front cover

It is important to remember and think back in history (see article written by Christine Dean) as to how these rights were achieved. We take for granted freedoms and civil liberties – particularly the vote so painfully pursued for women in 1928. So how will you vote? Do you know for example what the major political parties' policies are on Missile Defense? Details will be on the CAAB website soon. We

owe it to those people before us who worked tirelessly attempting to bring us freedom and democracy – however imperfect the system. However we have to make sure those in authority and who we vote in to represent us are accountable to us – men and women of integrity, truth and with a vision of a fairer, more equal and peaceful world. It could be an exciting new dawn.

Around the US Bases

NSA MENWITH HILL

(near Harrogate, North Yorkshire)

Tuesday evening regular demonstrations:

We have asked for a meeting with Dave Long (Superintendent NW Division – Ministry of Defence Police Agency) because of continuing rough handling by officers from the Divisional Support Group (York) and inconsistent policing. This has been an on-going problem over many years.

Planning Applications: Grateful thanks to Steve Hill who has kindly offered to and is monitoring Harrogate Planning Office (for Menwith Hill) and North Yorks Moors Planning Office in Helmsley (for Fylingdales) for new developments.

Jean Johnson (Blackpool CND) contacted CAAB to say: Your piece in the November issue of the newsletter concerning missed planning applications asked for a volunteer to monitor all planning applications made in respect of US bases. It is not possible for any individual to do this for all bases, as each planning application has to be submitted to the local authority in whose area the US base is located. It is only when the planning application

has progressed further up the planning system that the Press is likely to pick it up – by which time it is too late for local people to object. However, most planning authorities now publish a list of planning applications submitted each week on their website. It is a five-minute job for someone to scan that list and pick up any application which refers to a US base. The answer, therefore, is for someone in each base area to take on this small weekly task, which will ensure that no further planning applications are missed.

REQUEST: *Is there anyone out there who would like to do this for USAF Lakenheath, Mildenhall, Feltwell, Molesworth, Croughton etc etc? We will help with how you do this. Ed.*

RAF FYLINGDALES

(near Pickering, North Yorkshire)

Change of RAF Commander: The new Wing Commander (replacing Gregg Hammond) is Martin Johnson. We have written to him welcoming him to the North Yorkshire Moors and requesting a meeting sometime. He recently replied saying that he will be in touch soon to arrange a visit. If anyone would like to come with us please let us know.

Message from Martin Johnson (on RAF Fylingdales webpage:

www.raf.mod.uk/raffylingdales/)

Our mission is “to provide an uninterrupted ballistic missile warning and space surveillance service”. Our tasking from the Ministry of Defence, through Headquarters Air Command, splits into four jobs. Firstly we are charged with continuously providing warning of ballistic missile events to both Her Majesty’s Government (through the UK Missile Warning Centre at RAF High Wycombe) and the United States’ authorities (through the Missile and Space Domain, which is situated in the Cheyenne Mountains in Colorado). Secondly, the Station’s complementary mission is to support – on a non-interference basis with the warning mission – the United States’ developing Missile Defense System. The Station’s third job – and secondary mission – is to contribute to the Allied Space Surveillance Network, and this enables, fourthly, the Station to support UK forces worldwide through the Satellite Warning Service.

Gathering evidence: The Military Land byelaws are invalid and a case is being compiled to reveal this. The last time there was an arrest under the byelaws at Fylingdales was in 2000 – no further action was taken on the advice of the Crown Prosecution Service. The Defence Review Byelaws Team was set up to review a long list of suspect byelaws. Refer to: www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/MicroSite/DE/WhatWeDo/Byelaws/

USAF CROUGHTON

(Brackley, Northamptonshire)

Civil action a pyrrhic victory: The Claim brought by Lindis Percy against Frank Macdonald, (First Class Airman at USAF Croughton, see CAAB Report: 119) has finally been resolved after 4 years of legal struggle. In the end Frank Macdonald made an offer to

settle the claim, out of court, which Lindis very reluctantly had to agree to. The cost of further legal proceedings was deemed prohibitive since Lindis represented herself while Frank Macdonald was represented by the Treasury Solicitor. The case is typical of how many civil actions end when there is such an imbalance of power.

Frank Macdonald never once appeared in court and brought dishonour on himself by omitting any reference in his statements to the serious injuries he caused Lindis; as did the two Ministry of Defence Police Agency officers involved. Frank Macdonald avoided the truth and got away with assault. The MDPA officers stood by while criminal offences were committed by a member of the US Visiting Forces (USVF), and the whole incident was defended by the UK government in the guise of the Treasury Solicitor.

We hope that in future members of the USVF will abide by both their own instructions and English law when dealing with peaceful protestors. We also expect the MDPA to use their authority and insist that they take control of any incidents involving peaceful British people. They seriously neglected their duty. This was a case of ‘he who pays the piper plays the tune’ since the MDPA are paid for and under the operational control of the USVFs. *[Lindis intends to write a detailed article soon covering some of the implications of the outcome of this case].*

USAF FAIRFORD

(near Letchlade, Gloucestershire)

The Royal International Air Tattoo (RIAT): sponsored by BA Systems – will be held on 17/18 July 2010. The base is now in ‘mothballs’ [see November 2009 newsletter.]

USAF MILDENHALL

(near Brandon, Suffolk)

To prosecute or not to prosecute: Lindis Percy has been bailed 6 times since she was arrested in October 2009 under the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2000. She was invited in by a US security man at the gate after she showed her driving licence as ID. Prosecutions are decided by the Attorney General's office.

Joint Analysis Center at MOLESWORTH

(near Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire)

Security?: Lindis Percy was at Molesworth recently to do some research. She walked in through the front gate and was on base for over an hour. A passing US 'security' patrol asked to see her ID. She immediately said she was leaving. The Ministry of Defence Police Agency were called. She was escorted out by an officer. No action was taken as no offence had been committed.

USAF WELFORD

(near Newbury, Berkshire)

Welford airmen prepare to ship 800 tons of munitions - US cluster bombs still in UK:

Airmen at RAF Welford are preparing to ship more than 90,000 munitions and parts during the 2010 Turbo Containerized Ammunition Distribution System exercise to be completed by mid May.

Turbo CADS is an Air Force-wide exercise that tests the capability of units to transport large quantities of munitions via military shipping containers. The operation also gives the 420th Munitions Squadron an opportunity to move out expired stock and purge the supplies of both RAF Welford and RAF Lakenheath's cluster bomb units, said Capt. Kurt Umlauf, 420 MUNS.

"During the upcoming weeks we will pack more than 50 containers at RAF Welford and receive about 40 containers from RAF Lakenheath," Capt. Umlauf said. "In mid May we will then assist with transporting all of those containers out to a port where they'll be placed onto a vessel to be transported out of the country. Not only will this allow us to make room for new stock, but it adds to our storage capability for (U.S. Air Forces in Europe)." Planning for the exercise started at the beginning of the year.

"We started planning by working backwards from when we knew the ship would leave the port, eventually giving us the date we knew we had to complete the work by," Capt Umlauf said. "From there we worked a plan to ensure we had the munitions in the right containers, and crafted the wood bracing for the containers ourselves, to now beginning the process of placing the weapons inside the containers."

Because of the complexity involved of moving such a large quantity of weapons, the safety and accuracy of how they are put in the containers are heightened. "Each container was specially packaged for the weapons they are carrying," Capt. Umlauf said. "Every weapon has its own unique hazard so it's critical everything is correct. Not only does every weapon have a specific spot in each container, but each container has a specific position on the boat as well." The exercise also affords Airmen at RAF Welford the opportunity to show the pride in their work when it comes to munitions ... *Staff Sgt. Joel Mease, 501st Combat Support Wing Public Affairs – 10 March 2010 [slightly edited version].*

Background on the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM):

CCM prohibits all use, stockpiling, production and transfer of Cluster Munitions. Separate article in the Convention concern assistance to victims, clearance of contaminated areas and

destruction of stockpiles. The Convention was adopted in Dublin by 107 states (including the UK) on 30 May 2008 and signed on 3 December the same year. The Convention becomes binding international law when it enters into force on 1 August 2010. However states must ratify the CCM.

The Cluster Bombs Bill (having cleared the Lords) had its second reading in the Commons on 17 March 2010 and will clear all remaining stages on 23 March 2010.

Relating to the UK, Cluster bombs are stored at USAF Welford, USAF Lakenheath and Diego Garcia (which is a British 'territory'). Concern was expressed in the debate on 17 March in the Commons as to whether cluster bombs on US bases would be removed, being on land in the possession of the Secretary of State for Defence. [Please refer to House of Commons debate in Hansard: 17 March 2010]

New Military Land byelaws: There are new byelaws at USAF Welford. They came into force on 31 December 2009 and are known as the RAF Welford Byelaws 2009. Very little time was given to submit objections. CAAB was one of those objectors.

USAF FELTWELL (Deep Space Surveillance Mission) **(near Brandon, Suffolk)**

Housing under construction: Ground work is under way for a new housing development at RAF Feltwell, a U.S. Air Force base in eastern England. The houses are scheduled to be finished in September 2011. US service members reporting for duty at RAF Feltwell, RAF Mildenhall or RAF Lakenheath can be put on the waiting list for the units. Construction on the 66 homes is scheduled to begin in March, said Stephen Harvey, Programs Flight Chief for the 48th Civil Engineer Squadron.

Thirty-eight will be allotted for junior non commissioned officers and 28 will be designated for senior non commissioned officers. [*Stars and Stripes – European edition 21 February 2010.*]

Article by Christine Dean (Hon Treasurer of CAAB)

LINES FROM THE FRONT

"Dear Old Ern,

Just a line to say your letters have arrived safe and I was very upset to hear the news, but expected the worst after your first letter [their mother had died].

Well, Ern, we have had a great time of it. We got warned for service on Easter Monday and left 3 hours after. We started fighting on the following Friday and it was a splendid bout. They were on a large range of hills and the batteries shelled them. We then advanced but they fired very little, but when we began to retire - on they came in thousands and it was a splendid fight. They had about 2,000 Afghans to help them. After the first go the Afghans went back to their own country.

We got a sudden move a few days after and had to race for the Khyber Pass about 50 miles off to get possession, for it was reported the Afghans had all broke out, but it was not true.

We then returned to Shaikhabad (south of Kabul) and went all through their country, burnt all their villages and crops and gave them all they wanted. We had two very bad nights for they came on about 10 at night to rush us. The batteries, maxims, star shells and rifle fire at once started.

Gen. W. is a wallah and don't give us rest and I think it is the best way. We always started off at 5 am, returned about 6 pm. The tribes would start sniping about 9 but you took no notice.

We had rather hard time of it for it was awful hot, the ground all sand and very little water. We never got a wash for 8 days, but soon after got a camp with a pond and were soon in it.

I am pleased to say that I am as hard as nails just now and in splendid health, weight 9 stone 10 lbs so no fat. We shift to Murree Hills on Monday and very pleased for the climate there is grand and I mean to have a bit of training – (boxing) to keep in good health.

Rather a sad thing happened in my trench one evening. We were cleaning our rifles and a chap started to clean my company officer's revolver and did not notice it was loaded, and pulled the trigger and shot dead Private W – the man who was to have gone home, this trooper. We buried him next morning in a blanket.

The days after, Major Mel. our 2nd in command, got a touch of the sun and blew out his brains. He was a grand soldier, stood 6 ft 3 and a toff, so we were all very sorry. We returned yesterday, a tired and thirsty regiment, but will soon be straight again.

Well, Ern, I think that is about all just now. It is awful hot so will close and have a pint. Give my love to Em [my grandmother] young Chas [my father] and all at home.

From your affectionate bro Chas."

Charles Stewart was serving with the Seaforth Highlanders in the North West Frontier Province. He sent this letter home to his brother, my grandfather, on the 3rd May 1908 – that was ONE HUNDRED AND TWO YEARS AGO!

These lines vividly illustrate the futility of war.

The terror of the poor souls whose villages and crops were burned, was surely as great as those who now cower beneath bombers, missiles and drones. The instances of 'friendly fire' and suicide are tragically replicated in today's armies.

But, side-by-side, 'shoulder-to-shoulder' with the violence, shines through the soldier's love for his family back home, a love which rests in all combatants now.

How wasted is that love in today's violent world. It must be channelled back from institutionalised warfare to create a safe and peaceful world, so that we stop making the same mistakes.

Unless we learn from the past, there is no future.

PLEASE
have a look at the
CAAB website
(www.caab.org.uk)
on the Video page –
there is an interesting
selection of videos
covering many issues
concerning the US
military and related
subjects

BRIEF SELECTION OF PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

(David Drew (MP Stroud) has agreed to ask suggested Parliamentary Questions on behalf of CAAB – thank you to Colin Challen MP Morley and Rothwell)

RAF FAIRFORD

Q: Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what emergency services will be maintained at RAF Fairford following the withdrawal of the US Air Force in 2010. [306812]

A: Bill Rammell: The current planning intent is to retain 24-hour fire and rescue services making use of Defence Fire Risk Management Organisation (DFRMO) personnel. Details surrounding shift patterns and numbers of personnel are being progressed with DFRMO and US Fire Service personnel at RAF Croughton, with formal trade union consultation expected to commence in January 2010. [16 Dec 2009 : Column 1217W]

RAF MENWITH HILL

Q: Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the space-based infrared system at RAF Menwith Hill to be operational. [312742]

A: Bill Rammell: The Space Based Infra-Red System (SBIRS) facilities at RAF Menwith Hill are ready for operation. The operational date for SBIRS is a matter for the United States, but is unlikely to be until later this year.

Q: Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to his Department was of (a) the erection of a single-storey extension with bermed earth covering and (b) the detached substation with four cooling units developed at RAF Menwith Hill. [312743]

A: Mr. Kevan Jones: The building works carried out at RAF Menwith Hill were funded by the US authorities.

Q: Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what dates members of the Intelligence and Security Committee have visited Menwith Hill since 2000; and which members of the committee participated in each such visit. [317979]

A: Bill Rammell: The Intelligence and Security Committee does not comment on its work programme. Where appropriate it publishes information on visits it has undertaken in its annual reports. [The Intelligence and Security Committee reports directly to the Prime Minister – they last visited Menwith Hill in 2007 [9 March 2009 : Column 177W]

Q: Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the Missile Defence System operations at RAF Menwith Hill in the next two years.

A: Bill Rammell: There are no plans to change the existing missile defence arrangements at RAF Menwith Hill. [22 Feb 2010 : Column 32W]

RAF WELFORD

Q: Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for North Devon of 30 April 2009, Official Report, column 1408W, on RAF Welford security, on what date Ministry of Defence Police are expected to withdraw from RAF Welford. [296485]

A: Bill Rammell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 17 November 2008, Official Report, column 153W. The Ministry of Defence police will not be withdrawn from RAF Welford until the necessary security enhancements have been put in place at the base by the United States visiting force. I will

write to the hon. Member once this has been done and place a copy of the letter in the Library of the House.

MISSILE DEFENCE CENTRE

Q: Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what expenditure his Department has incurred on the Missile Defence Centre since it opened. [318010]

A: Mr. Quentin Davies: Since its launch in July 2003 until the end of financial year 2008-09, the Ministry of Defence has spent some £35.7 million on missile defence research managed by the UK Missile Defence Centre. A further £4.6 million is forecast for the current financial year. [22 Feb 2010 : Column 29W]

DEFENCE ESTATES BYELAWS REVIEW: MANPOWER

Q: Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many full-time equivalent staff the Defence Estates Byelaws Review Team has on its establishment; and how many posts on the Review Team are vacant. [305609]

A: Mr. Kevan Jones: The Defence Estates Byelaws Review Team currently has only four staff on its establishment (some of whom have been engaged on other work) and one administrative post which is presently vacant. [14 Dec 2009 : Column 825W]

[refer to: www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/MicroSite/DE/WhatWeDo/Byelaws/]

China and Russia combined spend only a paltry 10% of what the U.S. spends on defence. There are 750 U.S. military bases in 50 nations and 255,000 service members stationed abroad, 116,000 in Europe, nearly 100,000 in Japan and South Korea

[source: *the Real News*].

In the money is the new US Commander, replacing Mary O'Brien at Menwith Hill. His name is ...

COLONEL TIMOTHY CASHDOLLAR

... who moves from USAF Alconbury/Molesworth. The RAF Liaison Officer is still Squadron Leader Lumsden

MONEY MATTERS!

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Activity and talks by CAAB since the last Newsletter:

- **Stall at Leeds Summit** – Together for Peace
- **Yorkshire General Meeting in Leeds** (Quakers)
- **Harrogate Labour Party AGM**
- **Network for Peace AGM** – Huddersfield
- **Activist Geographies day conference** – Leeds University

Meeting for Worship:

Continue outside various US bases – contact CAAB for details

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