



ARMY BASING TEAM

Army Basing Programme

Edition 1 | November 2013

HEADLINES

- Eight unit moves have taken place in 2013 including the early move of HQ 8 Engr Bde to Minley, and 22 unit moves are planned for 2014.
- Nine other units will either re-role or convert during 2014.
- Nearly 200 new SFA are being purchased across SPTA and will be delivered by March 2014 as part of an overall requirement for approximately 1900 SFA across the whole Programme.
- Upward of 100 SLA blocks are being converted in 2013 and 2014 to provide additional z scale bed spaces on SPTA.
- The Army and DIO are working closely with local authorities to ensure that sufficient housing, schooling, medical and dental provision is available as units rebase within UK and back from Germany.

BACKGROUND

In July 2012 the outcome of the Army 2020 Study was announced. It said the Army would be made up of an integrated force of 112,000 personnel; 82,000 Regulars and 30,000 trained Reservists.

The Army 2020 structure will be made up of a Reaction Force capable of undertaking short notice operational tasks, and an Adaptable Force used for a wide range of tasks including providing HQs and units for ongoing operations, Defence Engagement and homeland resilience. Support to both these forces would be provided by Force Troops with a wide range of capabilities such as artillery, logistics, military intelligence and signals.

On 5 March 2013 the Regular Army Basing Plan was announced and this will support the full implementation of the A2020 plan. The Basing Plan set out the location changes for the Army and also confirmed the drawdown of all units from Germany by

2020. In broad terms it provided a timetable of when units are to move and to which location.

UPDATE

The Army Basing Plan has transitioned into a delivery Programme and this will affect most areas of the Army as more than 100 units will either relocate, re-role, convert or disband over the next six years. This is a massive undertaking and Support Command (Sp Comd) and the Army Basing Team (ABT) (aka BORONA Programme Team (BPT)) have the Army lead for implementation of the plan, working jointly with the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) within the Army Basing Programme (ABP). They are also working very closely with Capability Directorates and the chain of command to refine units' requirements at the new locations, enabling the ABP to agree the most appropriate laydown of facilities to meet those requirements.

A finite budget of £1.6Bn has been set aside to implement the Plan, of which over £800M will be invested in Army living accommodation, providing some 1900 new SFA units and nearly 4,800 additional SLA bed spaces. The DIO is currently undertaking Assessment Studies to identify potential infrastructure options to deliver the Army laydown and analysis of these options will take full account of what is affordable. Where additional capacity is required this will be provided but in the majority of cases existing facilities and infrastructure will be used, with future improvements to these facilities targeted as funding allows.

The DIO is closely engaged with local authorities where the unit moves will necessitate new infrastructure and the additional provision of Service Families' Accommodation (SFA), and the Army is closely engaged with local authorities to ensure that there are sufficient school places and medical & dental provision for dependants at the new locations. The Regional Brigades are the first point of contact within the Army for engagement with the local authorities.

CONTACT THE ARMY BASING TEAM 94391 5941 – ARMY BORONA-MAILBOX

The biggest development area will be around Salisbury Plain and, in concert with Wiltshire Council, the ABP is organising a number of public exhibitions to raise awareness of future plans and to seek feedback. The first of these will be held at Wellington Academy, Tidworth on November 27 from 1930 – 2100. From 28 November until 6 December there will also be exhibitions at Amesbury Library and Tidworth Leisure Centre.

1 R ANGLIAN	Bulford	Woolwich
1 MERCIAN	Catterick	Bulford
47 Regt RA	Thorney Island	Larkhill
16 Regt RA	N Luffenham	Thorney Island
2 PWRR	Woolwich	Cyprus
65 Fd Sp Sqn RE	Hameln	Kinloss

2014 PLANNED MOVES

Unit	Current Location	Destination
1 WG	Hounslow	Pirbright
HQ 51 Bde and HQ Scot	Stirling	Edinburgh
SCOTS PDIC	Canterbury	Edinburgh
42 Geo Regt	Hermitage	Wyton
DCSU	Henlow	Hermitage
15 POG	Chicksands	Hermitage
MSSG	Larkhill	Hermitage
241 Sig Sqn	Colerne	Bicester
1 Bde Sig Sqn	Tidworth	Colerne
HQ 1 Arty Bde and HQ SW	Upavon	Tidworth
27 TLR	Aldershot	Abingdon
3 CSLR	Abingdon	Aldershot
3 Med Regt	Catterick	Preston
2 MERCIAN	Belfast	Chester
1 SCOTS	Edinburgh	Belfast
3 RIFLES	Edinburgh	Edinburgh

IN GERMANY

In Germany Celle Station, Münster Station and Rhine Garrison have closed and work is well advanced to hand back the Rheindahlen Military Complex to the German authorities before 31 December 2013. The rebasing of HQ BFG from Rheindahlen to Bielefeld has placed it at the centre of the remaining military population in Germany, from where it will be better able to support the BFG community.

In 2014 a number of units will disband or amalgamate, allowing the closure of Hameln Station on the disbandment of 28 Engineer Regiment. Major ABP rebasing moves from Germany will occur in 2015 when 7 Armd Bde units will move from Bergen-Hohne and Fallingbostal, HQ 1 (UK) Armd Div will move from Herford, and 16 Signal Regiment and 1 Armoured Division Signal Regiment will rebase from Elmpt and Herford to Stafford, enabling the closure and release to the Federal authorities of Bergen-Hohne Garrison and Elmpt and Herford Stations.

These changes will allow a revised BFG Garrison structure to be developed to support the community until rebasing is complete. The intention is to establish a central region Garrison HQ on 1 April 2014 from the current Paderborn and Gütersloh HQs; the new HQ will be titled HQ Westfalen Garrison. Bergen-Hohne Garrison will remain as a satellite HQ until its closure in 2015. In the longer term, Gütersloh Princess Royal Barracks and elements of Paderborn Garrison will close in 2016, while final withdrawal from Bielefeld, Paderborn and Sennelager is planned for 2019, with a stretch target of 2018.

Once all moves to UK are complete there will be greater stability for Service personnel and their families allowing better integration into local

communities, greater potential for spousal employment and continuity in education for Service children. BFG families will be provided with detailed information as move dates get closer. The Army/Local Authority liaison is working well with information flowing to enable decisions to be made about housing requirements, schooling and health provision in the new locations.

MOVEMENTS - THE PLAN

Over the last two months planning for the moves of units and families has been gathering pace. HQ Sp Comd hosted two meetings with all dependent units to discuss their UK to UK movement requirements for 2014. There was also a successful two day event at the HQ 1 Div Conference Centre in Herford in Germany on 30/31 October, where the ABT and other key speakers briefed unit personnel on the 2015 movements plan, housing allocations and timelines. This included an informative brief by Olivia Denson, AD Children's Education Advisory Service. The Army Basing Movements Working Group met with all key stakeholders in November to refine the detail and to discuss with the civilian removals contractor the plan for the moves in 2015.

All units in Germany have been given clear guidance on the procedures to be adopted and have been assured that the rebasing plan and their part within it remain on schedule. Refinement of actual numbers moving to the UK is ongoing and will continue to be monitored. Sp Comd has briefed the majority of units moving in 2014 on the movements plan and schedule. Detailed Movement Instructions will be issued covering all aspects of unit moves nine months prior to the move period.

HOUSING

Applying for and allocation of UK Service Family Accommodation

When should you apply?

Applications for Service Family Accommodation (SFA) for block unit moves should be submitted from **six to four months prior to relocation**. An Assignment Order is not needed for bulk moves as the unit point of contact (POC) will provide a list of all movers. The

list will include types of SFA currently occupied and details of any families with special needs. Numbers and ages of children are not required. On receipt of the list the Housing Allocations Service Centre (HASC) Manager will allocate a move code, which is to be included in all application forms. For block unit moves offers of SFA will not be made until all unit applications have been received. Consequently units are recommended to co-ordinate all applications and submit them en-masse via the POC.

How to apply

Applications for SFA should be made online using Form e-1132. The unit POC can apply for an account to centrally manage housing applications, which ensures that all applications are submitted at the same time and allows for easy cross-checking against the original unit list. On receipt of all applications the HASC Manager will convene an allocation panel with the unit to agree allocation; how moves will be conducted (by individuals or by proxy); dates; and timelines. SFA offers will be made following the allocation panel, which is held as close as possible to the four-month prior to relocation date.

Enquiries

Comprehensive information is available on the SFA website at www.gov.uk/dio/sfa and in JSP 464 which is the overriding policy document. However, if you cannot find the answer you need and you have an allocations enquiry, the HASC is the primary point of contact. The HASC has dedicated teams which cover different parts of the UK, and their email addresses can be found on the SFA website. Alternatively, you can contact the HASC by telephone - 0800 169 6322 or military 94510 80 00 or from overseas 0044 1904 418 000. The HASC telephone lines are open 0830 to 1500 hrs Monday to Friday (except on Thursday, when they close at 1200 hrs for staff training and development).

SCHOOLING

Under the MoD's Directorate Children & Young People, the Education of Service Children Change Programme has been established. This programme of work consists of four projects that aim to ensure that the educational needs of Service children in the UK and overseas are met in a manner that allows each child to fulfil their potential. Project three of the programme is led by Olivia Denson, Assistant Director

Children's Education Advisory Service (CEAS), and is specifically concerned with seeking to meet the educational needs of Service children returning from Germany and those affected by major unit moves within the UK.

The project is working closely with the Department for Education, Devolved Assemblies and Local Authorities as well as maintaining close links with the Army Basing Team and Support Command and where possible providing briefings for units.

More information on the work of the Education of Service Children Change Programme will be issued in due course but any questions should be addressed to DCYP-ESCCP@mod.uk

What Service parents moving into and around the U.K. and Northern Ireland need to do to secure school places for their children will vary, depending on which of the home countries they are moving to. The easiest way to find out what should be done and when is to visit the Education/Learning/Children's Services pages published by the local authority (in Northern Ireland, these are called 'Education and Library Boards') to which the family believes it is moving. If locations in more than one local authority are possible destinations, even within one of the home countries, local arrangements may differ and it would be wise for all relevant web sites to be interrogated for information. Support Command, through the Regional Brigades is engaged with local authorities and schools to supply information about numbers and locations of incoming and outgoing children, as well as to ensure that moving families have all the information and support they need to apply for school places in the right way and at the right time.

Further independent information, advice and support may be obtained from CEAS at: www.gov.uk/childrens-education-advisory-service.

ARMY HIVES

Understandably, there is a requirement from units, serving personnel and their families for information about the location to which they will be moving. This information is available from HIVE Information Centres, which support the chain of command and service communities through the provision of up-to-date and relevant information. The HIVE is an information network available to all members of the

Service community. It serves both married and single personnel, together with their families, dependants and civilians employed by the Services. The HIVE Information Centres offer an extensive range of information on relocation, local unit and civilian facilities, places of interest, schools and further education, housing, healthcare facilities, employment and training opportunities.

Information on relocations is one of the key areas of information support and is available either in advance or on arrival at the receiving unit. HIVE information support officers can, as part of the welfare briefing team visits, provide the information that serving personnel and their families will want to know. Further information about Army HIVES, including contact details can be accessed using the link below. www.army.mod.uk/welfare-support/23438.aspx

CAREER ASSISTANCE FOR SPOUSES

If you are a spouse of a member of the Armed Forces looking for your first job, or restarting your career, the Royal British Legion Industries Lifeworks for Families course offers career guidance and tuition delivered by their qualified and professional coaches. The programme is a vocational assessment and employability course that gives you the tools to enable you to get the job you want, that you are going to succeed in and enjoy.

This is a 3-day course that builds on existing skills and includes researching vocational options, identifying particular employment skills and developing a range of interview techniques. The course also includes a change module in which candidates are able to analyse and better understand the key issues that affect them as they undergo life changes. Candidates are taken through practical CV design and development, letter writing and completing application forms.

Future courses will be held at Catterick from 21 -23 January 2014; Plymouth from 25-27 February 2014; Aylesford, Kent from 10-13 March 2014; Marham, Norfolk from 25-27 March 2014. For further information please contact 0800 3196844, email lifeworks@rbli.co.uk, or visit the RBLI web page at www.rbli.co.uk.