



ARMY BASING TEAM

Army Basing Programme

Edition 3 | May 2014

HEADLINES

- The final planning application to build Service Families Accommodation (SFA) for 1 and 16 Signal Regiments at Stafford has been approved and work has commenced.
- The updated Salisbury Plain Masterplan and supporting documentation is now available to view online.
- Assessment Studies analysis has identified a few instances where some infrastructure will not be available prior to the move. Temporary solutions will enable these unit moves to go ahead as planned.
- HQ Force Troops Command is now at Full Operating Capability and 'HQ 51 Infantry Brigade and HQ Scotland' has been established.
- 175 Inv Coy will not relocate to Cottesmore, elements will now go to Bulford and Donnington.
- The moves of DCSU and 15 POG to Hermitage are delayed until 2016. All other moves planned for 2014 will go ahead.

PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) has undertaken 48 Assessment Studies at MoD sites across the UK to consider options for delivering the Army's requirements under the Army Basing Plan. The conclusions from these studies have been analysed through a series of joint Army/DIO working groups and workshops at 1* and 2* levels and the Army Basing Programme Board has agreed a recommended options baseline. These options are now being used to inform Initial Gate Business Cases to seek investment approval for each project.

The decision has been made to delay the moves of 15 POG and DCSU to Hermitage until 2016 as critical living and working infrastructure would not be available in time to support the planned moves this year. Both

units will continue to operate in their existing location without any detriment to their operational effectiveness or to any other part of the basing programme.

UPDATE FROM GERMANY

In Germany, 2014 will largely be a year of consolidation as units transform into their future Army 2020 structures. HQ British Forces Germany (BFG) and the Garrison Firm Base structures will transform to meet the changing demand of the reducing military population. Detailed preparation for the 15 unit moves from Germany in 2015 will continue.

1 Regiment Army Air Corps will complete its move from Princess Royal Barracks Gütersloh to Yeovilton where it will join with 9 Regiment Army Air Corps and complete its re-rolling to WILDCAT. 3 MERCIAN will disband as an Armoured Infantry Battalion in Fallingbommel and the battalion's soldiers will be assigned to the two remaining MERCIAN battalions. 2014 will also see the disbandment of 28 Engineer Regiment in Hameln which will lead to the final closure of Hameln Station. With the demise of 28 Engineer Regiment the Army's wide wet gap crossing capability will transfer to 75 Engineer Regiment based in NW England, but a detachment of Royal Engineer specialists will remain in Germany to be based alongside the Bundeswehr in Minden until specialist facilities are provided in UK. The closure of Hameln Station will also see the closure of Prince Rupert School at Rinteln, which has provided secondary education for Forces children since the early 1970s. 16 Tank Transporter Squadron of 7 Theatre Logistic Regiment Royal Logistic Corps will disband as the tank transporter requirement in Germany reduces and the soldiers return to UK to bolster an expanding 19 Tank Transporter Squadron. This will see the end of Regular Army tank transporter lift in Germany as the vital heavy lift capability in Germany will be transferred to FASTRAX and a small Reserve team.

The major rebasing activity in 2015 will be concentrated in a short period in the school summer holidays so as not to disadvantage our children and to minimise disruption to their education. This sets

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different challenges in terms of capacity, not just for household removals, but also for the handover and takeover of SFA, the Married Quarters Cleaning Scheme, and for legal considerations including the correct deregistration and registration of large numbers of BFG cars over a short period of time. A great deal of work is ongoing between HQ BFG, HQ 1 (UK) Armd Div, and the Germany Garrisons and Brigades to develop procedures that will mitigate these challenges, and to minimise the stress of rebasing for individuals. There was specific concern over household removals capacity and a separate removals contract for 2015 bulk moves has been agreed with the company that currently provides household removals. Procedures for families will be unchanged; families will receive the standard removals and allowances package; and removals transit times to UK will be unchanged. Those units moving to Scotland will be among the first units to move to allow for the earlier start to the Scottish education year.

Acknowledging that the BFG footprint will reduce following the closures of Elmpt, Herford and Bergen-Hohne in 2015/16, HQ Westfalen Garrison was established on 1 April 2014 to coordinate and provide the Firm Base for the BFG population in the central region. HQ Bergen-Hohne Garrison remains outside Westfalen Garrison to complete the rebasing and drawdown of Bergen-Hohne Garrison (Hohne and Fallingbostal Stations) before closure by early 2016. As part of the move to a smaller geographical footprint the decision was taken to close the SFA in Detmold, and this will be completed by late 2014 allowing occupants to move closer to their places of work.



Armoured Personnel Carrier on Bergen-Hohne ranges.

SPTA MASTER PLANNING

A public consultation was undertaken between 19 February and 1 April 2014 and the comments received during that period have been considered. The MoD's proposal for developing Army sites on Salisbury Plain has been refined and the SPTA Masterplan has been updated.

From 20 May 2014 the Masterplan and supporting documentation has been available to view online at: www.gov.uk/dio and www.army.mod.uk/basing. Hard copies of the documentation can be viewed at the public libraries in Tidworth, Amesbury, Ludgershall, Salisbury and Durrington.

There is an email (DIO-ArmyBasing@mod.uk) and a Freepost address if you have any comments:

FREEPOST RTGX-TXYU-AXSL
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Ropemaker Court
11 Lower Park Row
Bristol
BS1 5BN

HOUSING

The provision of SFA in a timely manner, to the correct standard and location is recognised as a key element of the Army Basing Programme. Based on A2020 establishments and known future locations a detailed plan of requirements has been developed to identify where additional SFA will be required, current stock to be upgraded and, where surplus stock exists, disposals can be put in place. Where there is an identified shortfall, a number of means will be used to deliver properties including Capital Build, Capital Purchase and Substitute SFA (SSFA). However, SSFA will only be used as an interim solution until an enduring solution can be delivered. The Army has confirmed that after taking account of planning and site constraints, the SFA should be located as close as is practical to the barracks where the soldiers will be based. This principle is extremely important in maintaining unit cohesion, decreasing secondary living expenses for families and reducing our carbon footprint. On current plans, additional SFA in support of the ABP will be provided at: Larkhill (540), Bulford (277), Tidworth (100), Ludgershall (300), Cottesmore (110), Grantham (62), Aldershot (251), York (76), Preston (20), Halton (17) and Newbury (22). Consultation with Local Authorities is underway to

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agree sites for these properties and will ensure that the appropriate support services are also available to our soldiers and their families. Current plans include buying from local Housing Developers at a number of sites including Tidworth, Grantham, York, Preston, Halton and Newbury. The total provision of SFA to support the ABP is also reliant on a number of other funded SFA projects at: Catterick (315), Tidworth (Area 19) (322), Stafford (346) and Andover (150). Planning for these other projects is well advanced.

Below are examples of SFA that has recently been completed on the Canadian Estate in Bulford.



Support Command

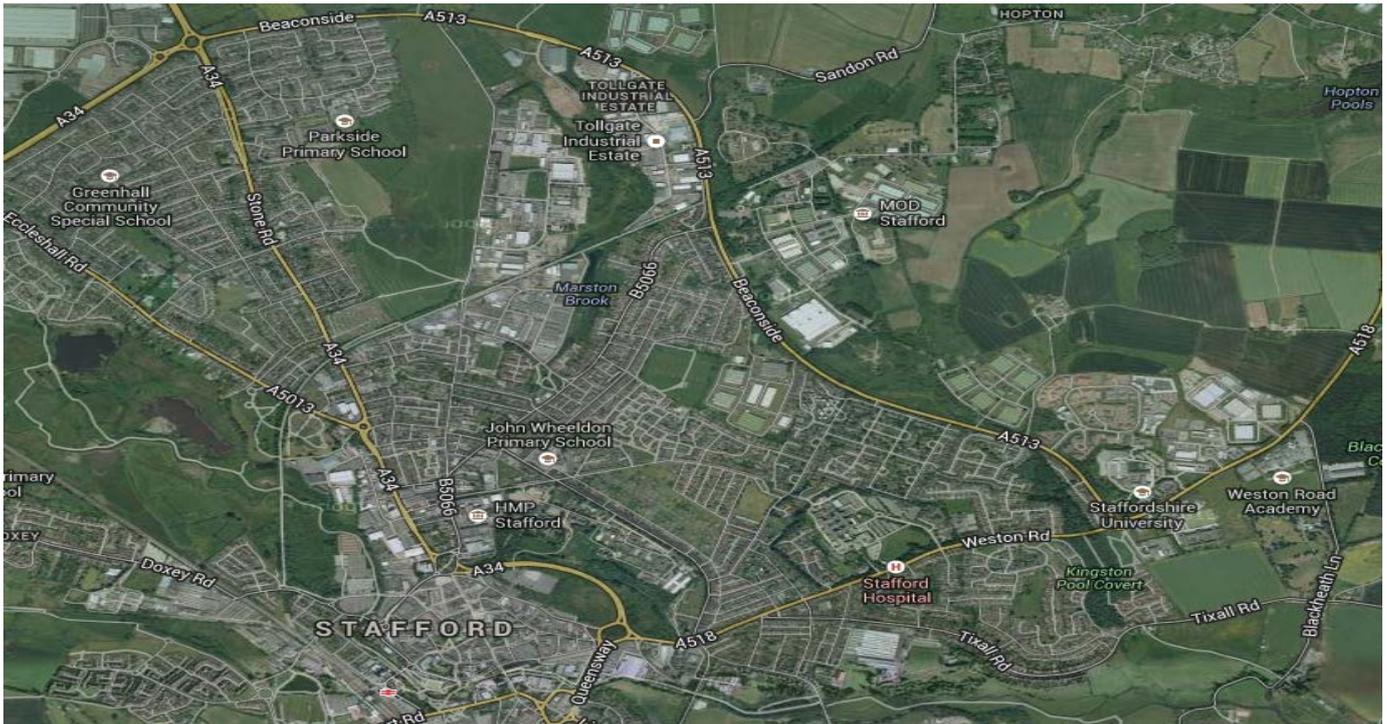
20 unit intra-UK moves and in-place re-roles scheduled during 2014 are on track to be completed successfully. Planning and preparation is ongoing to facilitate the 2015 and beyond moves. 2014 includes 1WG's delayed move into Elizabeth Barracks Pirbright; SCOTS PDIC move from Canterbury into Redford Barracks, Edinburgh; 241 Signal Sqn will move from Colerne to Bicester into St Georges Bks; 215 Sig Sqn will move from Tidworth to Colerne. In a series of linked moves 2 MERCIAN will move from Palace Bks, Belfast to Dale Bks, Chester to be replaced by 1 SCOTS from Dreghorn Bks, Edinburgh with 3 RIFLES moving within Edinburgh from Redford to Dreghorn Bks. In Catterick, HQ 4 Mech Bde will merge with HQ 15 (NE) Bde to form HQ 4 Inf Bde and HQ NE. 9 Regt RLC in Hullavington, RRF in Tidworth, 1 LANCS in Catterick, 1 R IRISH in Clive Barracks, Tern Hill, RL and RDG in Catterick and the KRH and RTR in Tidworth will re-role in situ with infrastructure requirements being delivered during 2015-16.

Army Basing Team

Spring 2014 sees the start of the next phase of the merging of the Mercian Regt. This involves the current three Battalions (Bn) reforming into two. 1 MERCIAN will form in Bulford from late May where they will utilise the areas currently occupied by 1 Royal Anglians, who are moving to Woolwich. 1 MERCIAN will continue to expand until fully immersed into the Bulford Area of Operational Responsibility by July. This will see the Bn moving elements from Catterick and Fallingbostal and when fully trained in their new role, assume the position of an Armoured Infantry (AI) Bn within 1 AI Brigade (Bde).

Summer 2014 will see the occupation of Denison Barracks, Hermitage. Units moving into Hermitage include SAG HQ, MSSG, MOG (Reserves), SCBT, 73 MI Coy (Reserves) and SGMI (Reserves). The formation of HQ 11 Signal Brigade and HQ West Midlands continues and the detailed assessment for the infrastructure requirements for Venning Barracks, Donnington are being finalised. HQ 101 Log Bde, HQ 11 Infantry Bde and HQ South East and HQ 104 Log Bde will re-role and restructure during 2014.

SPOTLIGHT ON STAFFORD



MoD Stafford was acquired by the MoD in 1939. Originally an RAF station, although never used for flying, it was taken over by the Army in 2006 and renamed MoD Stafford with the Main Site named 'Beacon Barracks'.

MoD Stafford is centrally and strategically located in the West Midlands with excellent access to the national motorway network and nearby major cities. Staffordshire University is 0.5 miles away with the Town Centre and train station within 2 miles. East Midlands, Birmingham and Manchester airports are under an hour away and there are 19 hospitals within a 25 mile radius.

Employment

- Local Enterprise Partnership and Business Support Programme would be useful for anyone interested in starting a new business in Staffordshire.
- Open Door Staffordshire is a voluntary work experience placement scheme established to enable job seekers to gain up-to-date work experience to help them towards permanent paid employment.
- University of Wolverhampton Community Education and Training project is preparing to bid for courses to be delivered in the Midlands

community.

- A City Deal in Staffordshire has been announced, this is worth £113 million and will support up to 23,000 jobs for local people over the next decade.
- Staffordshire County Council is working with JCB to create 2,500 jobs within the next 5 years, with a further 7,500 in the supply chain.

Childcare

The ABT has been working with Staffordshire County Council to assess demand for childcare. To ensure that sufficient childcare, of the correct type, is available in 2015 a childcare survey has been created and can be found at:

<https://consultation.staffordshire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/80142bb5>

If you require childcare in Stafford in 2015 please complete the survey.

Healthcare

Hospital services for residents in Stafford and its surrounding areas are currently provided by Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust. The Trust runs two hospitals, Stafford Hospital and Cannock Chase Hospital.

In April last year, the Trust was put into Special Administration due to the challenges it faced in trying to provide high quality services that were both clinically safe and affordable in the long term.

Plans for the future of services at Stafford and Cannock Hospitals were developed by the Trust Special Administrators (TSA) and subject to a public consultation before being submitted to the Secretary of State for approval.

In February this year, the Secretary of State approved the recommendations put forward by the TSA, which included a recommendation to dissolve Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust. This means the management of Stafford and Cannock Chase Hospitals will transfer to the University Hospital of North Staffordshire NHS Trust and the Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust as soon as is possible.

The TSA recommendations mean that nine out of ten patient visits will continue to take place locally at Stafford and Cannock Hospitals.

Full details of the recommendations can be found on the TSA website at www.tsa-msft.org.uk

Housing

On 20 May 2014 Stafford Borough Council approved the planning application to build 346 SFA on MOD owned land adjacent to Beacon Barracks for families from 1 and 16 Signal Regiments.

16 SIGNAL REGIMENT

16th Signal Regiment's history can be traced back to the 1930s; since 1958 it has been in the North Rhine Westphalia District of Germany. 1958 - 1995 it was located in Bradbury Barracks, Krefeld before arriving in Elmpt (formerly RAF Brügggen) in 2002. As a Campaign Signal Regiment it had undertaken a considerable number of Operational deployments, the last being Op HERRICK 16/17 returning successfully in November 2012.

With the draw down in Afghanistan well under way the Regiment is focused on becoming the first Royal Signals MRSR, redesigned to meet the challenges of Contingency Operations under Army 2020. This role will see large numbers of the Regiment being on "short notice to move" in support of UK interests globally commencing on the 1st of January 2015.

Currently the Regiment has two field squadrons, 230 (Malaya) Signal Squadron and 255 (Bahrain) Signal

Squadron, together with Support Squadron. The third field squadron will arrive as part of the Army restructuring programme; 207 (The Desert Rats) Signal Squadron currently based in Hohne, West Germany will be re-subordinated into 16th Signal Regiment in summer 2014. Fully manned the Regiment will number over 500 officers and soldiers.

The final piece of the jigsaw is our move back to the UK in summer of 2015, to Staffordshire, Beacon Barracks. Preparations have commenced to ensure that we arrive for the new school term in September.

DIRECTORATE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The MoD's Directorate Children and Young People (DCYP) has established the Education of Service Children Change Programme (ESCCP).

This programme brings together four projects to mitigate the impact on Service children of various changes in Defence, and other government policy, including drawdown from Germany and rebasing. The projects cover the drawdown from Germany, the placement of Service children within schools in the UK and future policy for meeting the needs of Service children both within the UK and overseas.

Project 1 is focused specifically on the future needs of Service children within the UK. As a result of detailed consultation with a broad range of stakeholders potential solutions for how best to achieve the recommendations of the House of Commons Defence Select Committee to make greater use of the State maintained education sector, particularly when considering boarding requirements, are beginning to emerge.

This does not mean the abandonment of the independent boarding sector. It is not feasible that the children of Service families for whom Continuity Education Allowance (CEA) is being claimed should all go to State Boarding school; there simply is not sufficient boarding capacity within the State sector because many non-military families use State Boarding as an appropriate solution to their children's educational needs.

There is still much detailed work to complete before any draft proposals, or changes in policy can be formulated and it is unlikely to be in place before mid-2016. For more information contact the ESCCP team: [DCYP-ESCCP \(MULTIUSER\)](mailto:DCYP-ESCCP (MULTIUSER)@mod.gov.uk)

A2020

The transition to new Army 2020 structures is well underway, and a great deal has already been achieved. For example, HQ Force Troops Command is now at Full Operating Capability, and 'HQ 51 Infantry Brigade and HQ Scotland' has been created.

The original Army 2020 Report provided a detailed blueprint for re-structuring the Army, it recognised that further work is needed to define and articulate the transformational aspects of Army 2020. The programme has now reached that point: with the structural foundations now mainly in place, the focus of the Army 2020 Team has shifted to how the Army will function in its new configuration to exploit these new structures, and how best to deliver effective and sustained transformation.

This involves looking again at the existing Army 2020 'enabling projects' to ensure that they are delivering what they need to in accordance with an agreed transformational blueprint. The next step will then be to identify whether other projects need to be created. This work is essential to enable and sustain the key characteristics of the A2020 integrated force design, and allow the Army to function effectively within the new structures. Without this work, the skeleton of structural change will simply not have the necessary muscle to meet future challenges. While the composition of these projects may yet change, they currently include those to enable a more effective recruitment pipeline; introduce more supportive policies to encourage integration of Regulars, Army Reserve, civilians and contractors; offer a more efficient and cost-effective training programme and basing solution; and offer a more flexible and adaptable career management structure that supports the future needs of the Army.

CIVILIAN STRUCTURES PROJECT (CSP)

Following endorsement of the future structure and conclusion of the Trades Unions consultations, CSP is now in its implementation phase. The changes are being phased in accordance with wider restructuring of the Army. Unless directed otherwise units and organisations undergoing Army 2020 change will adopt their future civilian structure from their Initial Operating Capability (IOC) date. Where possible, the change will be complete by the Full Operating

Capability (FOC).

Army HQ continues to identify which civilian posts are subject to change. The CSP Implementation Team has created a plan on how the changes will be implemented. Implementation of the structures will be delivered in phases with the first phase taking place in 2014. All affected staff will be given sufficient notice of change in accordance with Departmental policy. Further information can be found on the [Civilian Structures Project \(CSP\)](#) website.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND CONTACTS

Housing Allocations Service Centre:

SFA website - www.gov.uk/dio/sfa

Tel: 0800 169 6322 / 94510 8000

From overseas: 0044 1904 418000

Education:

CEAS Website

www.gov.uk/childrens-education-advisory-service

Email - enquiries@ceas.uk.com

Tel: 0044 (0) 1980 618244 / 94344 8244

Education of Service Children Change Programme

Email – DCYP-ESCCP@mod.uk

Learning Directorate Scotland

www.scotland.gov.uk/About/People/Directorates/learning

Army HIVEs Website

www.army.mod.uk/welfare-support/23438.aspx

SPTA Public Consultation

Information – www.army.mod.uk/basing

Comments to DIO-ArmyBasing@mod.uk

Army 2020 Transforming the British Army – An Update

http://www.army.mod.uk/documents/general/Army2020_Report.pdf

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