



ARMY BASING TEAM

Army Basing Programme

Special GERMANY Edition | October 2014

HEADLINES

- Drawdown in Germany will result in the following estate being handed back to the Federal Authorities:
 - 28 barracks
 - 22 SCE Schools
 - 14 Medical Centres
 - 1 Storage and 1 Supply Depot
 - 3 Range Complexes and 10 Ranges
 - 2 Major Training Areas
 - 7,000 Single Living Accommodation
 - 7,000 Service Families Accommodation and 4,000 leased SFA

UPDATE FROM GERMANY

Rebasing of units and the subsequent drawdown from Germany will gather pace next year, with moves from Bergen-Hohne, Fallingbommel, Herford, Gütersloh and Elmpt starting in March through to September. Moves will mainly be concentrated during the school summer holiday period; during this time as many as 50 families will be moving per day.

During 2015 estate to be handed back includes 13 Barracks, 7 Schools, 5 Medical Centres, 2 Range Complexes and 2 Ranges, 1 Training Area, 5500 SLA, in excess of 1,170 SFA and 1,971 Leased SFA.

In the region of 10,000 military personnel and their dependants, 250 Civil Servants and 200 Contractors will return to the UK from BFG during 2015. As the military population decreases we will drawdown into a smaller geographic area; following the 2015 closures of Bergen-Hohne, Elmpt, and Herford, British Forces will be concentrated within a 30 mile radius in the former Central Region in Bielefeld, Paderborn, Sennelager and

Gütersloh (known as Westfalen Garrison). This will allow efficiencies to be made in support services while maintaining essential service provision.

Firm Base provision will be delivered until the final units return to the UK but it is likely to be provided in a different way than the current provision. Drawdown planning provides for medical, dental, and welfare services, as well as Service Children's Education. No unit will move to its new location in the UK unless sufficient SFA and SLA are available.

HABITUAL RESIDENCE TEST

If you are a European Economic Area (EEA) national returning to the UK and want to claim certain means-tested benefits, you must meet the conditions of the habitual residence test. The new legislation came into place on 1 Jan 14 and applies to all EEA nationals including British citizens who have been away for a "period of time" and who return to the UK and wish to claim certain benefits. There are two parts to the test:

- The Right to Reside – This means you have the right to live in the Common Travel Area (CTA) - **all Service families have this right.**
- Habitual Residence – You must show that you intend to settle in the CTA and make it your home.

Further advice can be provided by PS4.

Further information can be found at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/324553/dmgch0703.pdf

SPIRITUAL AND PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral care, spiritual support and moral guidance provision remains a high priority across the Garrison's during the drawdown. The main intent is to ensure that there is no 'diminution' of Chaplaincy in Germany; which includes support to families, school assemblies and church services across BFG to ensure continuity of care at a time of uncertainty and change.

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SPOTLIGHT ON 2015 MOVES

In previous editions of this Newsletter we have spotlighted Leuchars, Stafford and York.

Leuchars is a small town near the north-east coast of Fife in Scotland. RAF Leuchars, which, was established in 1920, adjoins the town. Some of the first units to move from Germany in 2015 will be those moving to Leuchars to allow for the differing term dates of the Scottish education system. These units are SCOTS Dragoon Guards, 2 Close Support Battalion REME and 110 Provost Company. Plans for infrastructure work are to include refurbishment and reconfiguration of existing buildings.

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. 1 Signal Regiment and 16 Signal Regiment will move to Stafford during summer 2015. 346 SFA are being built on MOD owned land adjacent to Beacon Barracks for families from 1 and 16 Signal Regiments. A contract to redevelop Beacon Barracks was awarded to Lend Lease Europe in October 2013 and this includes 28 new builds and the refurbishment of seven existing buildings.

The picturesque walled city of **York** is the county town for the largest county in England, Yorkshire. York is often referred to as the capital of the North and is located at the heart of North Yorkshire. In 1951 the Barracks were named Imphal Barracks. Imphal was considered to be the most significant battle honour won by the West Yorkshire Regiment in WW2. The siege of Imphal Plain was deemed to have been raised on 22 Jun 44 and this date continues to be observed as a Regimental day. Under A2020, 1 (UK) Armoured Division has restructured to become HQ 1 (UK) Division commanding the Adaptable Force (AF) in 2015. The HQ will form up on schedule in Imphal by 1 Aug 15, and will also act as the Land Forces proponent for overseas engagement. Plans for infrastructure at York include some new build and refurbishment and reconfiguration of existing buildings and facilities. Plans also include new build SLA and the provision of additional SFA being purchased from local developers with the first due to be delivered in Dec 14.



GRANTHAM

Prince William of Gloucester Barracks is situated on the A52 to the east of Grantham (pictured); the town centre is approximately three miles away. Grantham is about 26 miles south of the city and county town of Lincoln, and about 24 miles east of the city of Nottingham.

The barracks were established, on the site of the former RAF Spitalgate airbase in October 1976. The barracks were formally named after Prince William of Gloucester at a ceremony held in March 1977 led by Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester.

102 Logistic Brigade (102 Log Bde) traces its origin to 102 Beach Sub-Area, Normandy, France. It was one of three such formations raised late in 1943 to run logistic support operations across JUNO Beach, from D-day until the MULBERRY artificial harbours were operational. Once the MULBERRY harbours were in use there was no further requirement for the Beach Groups, which then dispersed to their original Lines of Communication roles. In 1993, 50 years after the original formation of 102 Beach Sub Area, HQ Combat Service Support Group (Germany) was established in Gütersloh and this has been the home of the HQ ever since. In July 1999 the formation was re-titled HQ 102 Log Bde and in October 1999 the Silver Halberd was officially adopted as the formation's tactical recognition flash. In May 1996, the HQ deployed to the Balkans on Operation RESOLUTE as the UK National Support Element. It has also formed the core of HQ Joint Force Support (Afghanistan) on a number of occasions, most recently from May-December 2014. In addition to this HQ commitment, units from the Brigade have continued to prepare force elements and individuals in support of current operations, primarily in Afghanistan, but also in Iraq and on United Nations operations in Cyprus, with approximately 200 - 300 soldiers and officers deployed at any one time.



CATTERICK

Catterick Garrison is situated on the edge of the Yorkshire Dales and close to the North Yorkshire Moors. The sea is only an hour's drive away, as is the Lake District. Also within an hour you can reach the city of Newcastle, the Metro Centre at Gateshead and the historic cities of York and Leeds. Closer to Catterick (pictured) are the market towns of Darlington, Richmond and Northallerton. Catterick Garrison has lots to offer with a sports and development centre that opened in 2009 and a further £25M of development that commenced in spring 2014, due to complete in 2016.

The siting of the garrison was first recommended by Robert Baden-Powell who founded the Scouting movement in 1908 whilst he was based at the Army barracks, at that time located in Richmond Castle. In August 1914, the order was issued for the construction of the camp, following the outbreak of WW1. The original intention was for Catterick to be a temporary camp. The base was originally named Richmond Camp and changed to Catterick Camp in 1915, later modified to Catterick Garrison. The idea to make Catterick a permanent military barracks was first suggested after the partitioning of Ireland in 1921. The required land was purchased and building plans were put forward in 1923 and by the mid 1930s most of the camp's facilities were complete.

The garrison consists of many different groups of buildings spread over a wide area and includes a number of barracks, most of which are named after historical British Army battles. Infrastructure being provided at Catterick includes some new build with reconfiguration and refurbishment of existing buildings and facilities across the individual barracks. Plans include some new build SLA and SFA. A number of hirings will be used to house families until new SFA is complete.

4th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland - The Highlanders, 4th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland (4 SCOTS) moved to St Barbara Barracks Fallingbowl in 2004. The Regiment has a proud and distinguished history dating back through its antecedents in The Queen's Own Highlanders (Seaforth and Camerons) and The Gordon Highlanders, and becoming a constituent part of the Royal Regiment of Scotland in 2006. The Regiment is a Heavy Protected Mobility Infantry Battalion and currently part of 7th Armoured Brigade, famously known as the Desert Rats. They will move into Bourlon Barracks, Catterick in August 2015.

4 SCOTS deployed to Helmand Province, Afghanistan on Operation HERRICK 19 and previously deployed in 2011 in support of Op HERRICK 14 as Combined Force Lashkar Gar taking control of security for the Provincial Capital with troops supporting, training and mentoring the Afghan National Police. On returning from the tour the Battalion conducted homecoming parades in Scotland followed by the presentation of new Colours by HRH Duke of Edinburgh in a parade held at RAF Kinloss in December 2011.

32 Engineer Regiment - Since initial inception in 1948, the Regiment has been re-named, re-organised and disbanded a number of times to meet the needs of the Army, latterly becoming 32 Armoured Engineer Regiment before taking its current name in the Army 2020 ORBAT as 32 Engineer Regiment. They will move into Marne Barracks, Catterick in August 2015.

Although a multi-role capability, 32 Engineer Regiment derives its heritage from the engineer tank units of the 79th Armoured Division commanded by Major General Sir Percy Hobart. These tanks were modified to carry and operate bridges, fascines and breaching equipment. Known as 'Hobart's Funnies' after their creator, they proved vital to the Commonwealth Sectors during the D Day Landings. As a result the Regiment is still known as The Assault Engineers and wears the 79th Division Bull's Head insignia on its uniform – the only Regiment in the Corps of Royal Engineers permitted to wear a battle insignia.

The Regimental Family ensures the morale of the Regiment is maintained. The families of its soldiers have provided unwavering support to their loved ones both in barracks and when deployed. Whilst the Regiment re-

organises, rebases and moves it will no doubt continue to live by the 7th Armoured Brigade motto 'all of one company' and maintain its historic Assault Engineer legacy into the future and in the Adaptable Force.

1st Regiment Royal Military Police (1 RMP) - 1 RMP was originally raised for service in Northern Ireland on 5 Nov 71. 1 RMP remained in Northern Ireland until 12 Feb 85, when the Regimental Headquarters (RHQ) and two of its sub-units were removed from the Army Organisation.

On 1 Apr 96, 1 RMP was reformed for service in Germany, in its new role in support of the 1st (United Kingdom) Armoured Division in peace and war. The RMP has served in Germany at varying strengths from that time.

Under its transition to Army 2020 structures, 1 RMP will disband 111 and 114 Provost Companies in Germany on 1 Dec 14 with the remainder of the Regiment starting to rebase in the UK in early 2015. The rebasing will be in line with the broader drawdown of BFG as the Regiment will retain its responsibility to police Germany until final closure. 1 RMP will move its RHQ from Herford to Catterick and will reorganise into a hybrid RMP Regiment, ceasing its command relationship with 1 (UK) Div to sit under the newly formed 1st Military Police Brigade.

ALBEMARLE



Albemarle Barracks is located 1.7 miles south of Stamfordham, Northumberland and 10.5 miles west of Newcastle-upon-Tyne (pictured). Although it is in a rural location Albemarle Barracks is located just off the A69 so local amenities are accessible by car. Newcastle is renowned for its many theatres, museums and concert venues as well as its numerous bars, nightclubs and restaurants. There are many attractions nearby including

Durham Cathedral and the many historic castles in Northumberland. The coast line in Northumberland is mile after mile of unspoilt beaches.

The Harlow Hill area is steeped in military history and was once the site of Roman Mile Castle 16 on Hadrian's Wall. The Barracks itself began life as RAF Ouston, built in the early years of WW2 as a fighter station. The airfield formally opened on 10 Mar 41. After the war and during the 1950s and 1960s Ouston was used by a variety of small units, and the RAF Gliding School became the last RAF unit to occupy the site before it was taken over by the Army in 1975 and renamed as Albemarle Barracks.

In August 2015, 3rd Regiment Royal Horse Artillery (3 RHA) will rebase from Hohne to Albemarle Barracks, Harlow Hill. They will form part of Force Troops Command (FTC) and reorganise into a Close Support Artillery Regiment by January 2015.

The component batteries within 3 RHA have existed from the Napoleonic Wars; however, the Regiment was only formed in 1938 from 3rd Brigade RHA. In WW2 the Regiment supported the 7th Armoured Division during the Western Desert Campaign, in Italy, and following the Normandy landings, while more recently it has supported 7th Armoured Brigade in Bergen-Hohne.

Since arriving in Hohne Garrison just over 15 years ago, the Regiment has shared many collective and individual achievements. Shortly after its relocation to Germany in the summer of 1998, 3 RHA embarked on an operational tour of Bosnia and has subsequently had an operational presence every year since, including tours of Iraq, Kosovo, Cyprus and most recently Afghanistan on Op HERRICK 19. During this time several past and present members have earned operational honours for their endeavours.

During the period summer 2015 until circa 2018 there will be a shortfall of SFA and SLA within the Albemarle area due to three Batteries of the current Regiment remaining in situ while 3 RHA move in. Once these additional Batteries relocate in 2018 there will be ample living accommodation within Albemarle Barracks for 3 RHA. During this interim period a number of individuals will either live in SSFA or SSSA, but due to the rental capacity in the area this may have to be provided within a 20 mile radius of the Barracks.



NORTH LUFFENHAM

St George's Barracks is situated in a rural location between the villages of Edith Weston and North Luffenham close to the south shore of Rutland Water. The town of Stamford (pictured) is approximately nine miles away.

Originally a RAF station built as a training airfield it opened in 1940. The station was taken over by the Army and renamed St George's Barracks in 1998.

2 Medical Regiment (2 Med Regt) - Under Army 2020 structures, 2 Med Regt will move from Hohne to North Luffenham in July 2015. It will lose 28 Medical Squadron and C (Force Support) Squadron, leaving 2 regular squadrons (29 Medical Squadron and 22 Support Squadron) and it gains two Army Reserve squadrons (222 Medical Squadron and 250 Medical Squadron). Its future role is to provide support to 102 Logistic Brigade as one of two hybrid Adaptable Force Medical Regiments. While 2 Med Regt is a relatively new regiment, its squadrons have a deep history, in some cases stretching back to WW1.

1 Military Working Dogs Regiment (1 MWD Regt) - The Royal Army Veterinary Corps (RAVC) has provided military working dog support to the Army since 1946. Initially dogs were used to protect fixed sites, but their usefulness in the operational search role was soon realised and has been proven time and again, in the

Malayan Emergency of the 1950s, Borneo in the 1960s, and Northern Ireland in the 1970s, 80s and 90s. Working dogs have been in particular demand during the counter-insurgency campaigns of the past ten years in Iraq and Afghanistan.

1 MWD Regt RAVC was formed in 2010 by a merger of Military Working Dog Support Units from across the Army, in order to provide better training and management of dogs and their handlers. The Regiment has been based in Sennelager since its inception, but has detachments in Cyprus and at locations in the UK. The key roles of the Regiment's dogs are 'Protect and Detect': protection dogs (Alsatis and Belgian Malinois) are trained to chase, catch and hold an intruder; search dogs (of a variety of breeds) specialise in searching buildings, vehicles, or to detect arms, explosives and improvised explosive devices. Under Army 2020, 1 MWD Regt will start to rebase to North Luffenham in September 2015 where it will continue to support the wider Army while working to build the Reserve element of its structure.

Infrastructure being provided at North Luffenham includes some new build facilities including dog kennels, offices and training facilities. There is currently ample SFA and SLA within the area to meet the unit moves. Personnel working at St Georges Barracks will be given priority to be housed at North Luffenham but there may be a requirement for some to be housed at Cottesmore.



SWANTON MORLEY

Swanton Morley is a large village and parish situated in a quiet rural area of Norfolk. The River Wensum flows nearby and Robertson Barracks is situated on one of the highest points in Norfolk. The Market town of East Dereham is approximately four miles away. Swanton Morley camp is approximately 18 miles from the centre of Norwich (pictured).

The village has a long history; documented in the 11th-century Domesday Book, and was home to the ancestors of Abraham Lincoln. Robertson Barracks was formerly RAF Swanton Morley. During WW2 the first combined bombing raid with British and American personnel was launched from here on 29 Jun 42. In 1996, it was formally handed over to the Army. Following its handover the base was renamed Robertson Barracks in honour of Field Marshal Sir William Robertson (the first and only British Army soldier to rise from private to field marshal).

In summer 2015, the Light Dragoons will leave Robertson Barracks and be replaced by The Queen's Dragoon Guards (QDG). The QDG is the Cavalry Regiment of Wales and the Border Counties (Shropshire, Herefordshire and Cheshire). It is the senior Regiment of the Line in the British Army and has 328 years of distinguished history. The current regiment was formed in 1959 by the amalgamation of 1st King's Dragoon Guards (raised in 1685 as Lanier's or 2nd

Queen's Regiment of Horse by James II of England in reaction to the Monmouth Rebellion) and the 2nd Dragoon Guards (Queen's Bays) (the former Peterborough's or 3rd Regiment of Horse, also raised in 1685 by James II in reaction to the Monmouth Rebellion).

QDG has been based in Sennelager, Germany since 2008 when it moved from Osnabrück in the Armoured Reconnaissance role, operating the Combat Vehicle Reconnaissance (Tracked). The regiment is currently changing as part of Army 2020, restructuring to take a Light Cavalry role. This will see the Regiment equipped with Jackal patrol vehicles as part of the Adaptable Force - a highly manoeuvrable unit ready to be deployed anywhere in the world. QDG proudly wear the double eagle of the Habsburg family as their cap-badge, reflecting historic ties to the former Austrian monarchy which are maintained to this day.

All SFA is situated behind the wire adjacent to the barracks. There is sufficient SFA available to meet the requirements of the incoming unit. There is currently no requirement for any infrastructure work at Swanton Morley.

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