



ARMY BASING TEAM

Army Basing Programme

Edition 5 | November 2014

HEADLINES

- Revised procedures for Local Authority visits to Germany based families have been produced and issued. Units should initially contact SO1 Drawdown in HQ BFG for further guidance.
- DIO has been carrying out significant environment, habitat and planning work around Salisbury Plain where about £800 million will be invested in new SFA, SLA, working, technical and training infrastructure to accommodate the 4,300 extra troops and their families moving to the area over the next five years.
- The Salisbury Plain Masterplan has been finalised. The first planning application for Salisbury Plain infrastructure works has been submitted to the local planning authority for SLA at Perham Down.

PROGRAMME UPDATE

25 units have moved and/or re-rolled within the UK, with the remaining 2014 moves on track to complete to schedule. The move of HQ 51st Infantry Brigade and HQ Scotland to Redford Barracks, Edinburgh will now take place in summer 2015. This will not affect the overall programme. Work is ongoing to obtain the necessary internal approvals to deliver the infrastructure solutions to meet the Army requirement. More than 30 business cases for infrastructure work have been approved with more to be considered in December and in the early part of 2015.

Early project enabling works are either planned, underway or have been completed at various sites including Catterick, Preston, Hermitage and York. DIO has also delivered more than £20 million worth of new build and refurbishment work at Elizabeth Barracks in Pirbright, Surrey to provide quality, fit-for-purpose accommodation and facilities for 1st Battalion Welsh Guards who will formally take over the site on 5 Dec 14, following the completion of their move from Cavalry Barracks in Hounslow, West London.

UPDATE FROM GERMANY

Work to release estate to the Federal authorities as units disband and leave Germany continues, and in November 2014 the estate in Hameln and Rinteln was successfully returned to the Federal authorities. Hameln (the Pied Piper town of fable) had been the home of the Royal Engineers since the 1960s as they used the River Weser to practice and hone their bridging skills. The town plans to re-use the vacated barracks as a centre for a range of local agencies such as the Fire Brigade, Ambulances, and Town Services.

A BFG Communication Plan to pass information to Germany based families as they relocate to UK has been produced and issued. This covers topics such as the removals process; applying for accommodation in UK, health provision in UK, travel to UK, and pet passports. This information will be published in Sixth Sense, Garrison magazines, and will be held electronically and accessed through BFGnet.

2014/2015 MOVES UPDATE

Support Command - All of the 2014 HQ Sp Command led unit moves are complete with the exception of 1st Battalion Welsh Guards who will have their Flag Change Day on 5 Dec 14 at Elizabeth Barracks, Pirbright. The formation of HQ 11 Signal Brigade and HQ West Midlands continues with the relocation of lodger units becoming a priority and the detailed assessment for the infrastructure requirements for Venning Barracks, Donnington being finalised. 3 Regt RLC and 27 Regt RLC will not now relocate and will remain in Abingdon and Aldershot respectively.

The planning for 2015 serials is underway with HQ Sp Comd visiting BFG in late November. This will enable better understanding of the movement process and the current support being provided in Germany and what the Unit Welfare Officers (UWO) would expect in the UK. Final output from the visit will be a system in the UK that has HQ Sp Comd / garrisons stood up to deal with basing issues beyond the remit of the UWO.

CONTACT THE ARMY BASING TEAM 94391 3258 – ARMY BASING-0MAILBOX

Army Basing Team

The MERCIANS are now in Bulford and are continuing with their Armoured Infantry transition programme. 215 Signal Squadron has also relocated to Colerne. The detailed formation of the 'new' Brigades (Bde) continues. The 1st Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (IS&R) Bde has formed at Upavon and completed its IOC on 1 Sep 14. The transition of 43 (Wessex) Bde to HQ 1st Artillery Bde & HQ South West continues the HQ now based in Tidworth.

A proposal to re-base 5 FS Battalion REME to Hullavington rather than Cottesmore has been considered by the Programme Board and a case will be submitted to Ministers for their review and agreement of the way forward. Plans to relocate HQ 7th Infantry Bde and HQ East from Chilwell to Cottesmore are being developed, but again will be submitted to Ministers for review and agreement. Work to rebase Headquarters 102 Log Bde into Grantham is gathering pace with focus on the delivery of an interim solution centred on Cold Harbour House. Early arrivals from 1 Military Working Dogs and 2 Medical Regiment into North Luffenham are now in place to facilitate their Army Reserve recruitment drive. The main body of both Regiments are due to arrive as planned in summer 2015. Two Batterys from 16 Regiment RA (30 Battery and 49 LEAPP Battery) will remain at North Luffenham until their brand new living accommodation becomes available at Thorney Island.

SCOTS DG, 2 CS Bn REME and 110 Pro Coy remain on track to move to Leuchars during summer 2015. The RAF is still on site and the formal handover of command is planned for 1 Apr 15 i.e. Flag Change Day. It has been agreed that the Tactical Groups from 26 Regt RA will move into Albemarle Barracks with 3 RHA during summer 2015. Summer 2015 will also see the arrival of The LD, 4 SCOTS, 32 Engr Regt, RHQ 1 RMP and 1MI Bn at Catterick and HQ 1 (UK) Div to York. Under the BORONA Programme 1 Signal Regiment and 16 Signal Regiment remain on track to move to Beacon Barracks, Stafford in summer 2015.

47 REGIMENT ROYAL ARTILLERY

We asked 47 Regiment Royal Artillery to provide an article detailing their recent relocation to Larkhill:

The Regiment had been based at Thorney Island for

over a decade and was well established in the local community. Any move was going to be a wrench, and yet for all those concerned, the conclusion is that after a great degree of work from the team, the whole move went remarkably well.

The key to the moves success was early and detailed recces and planning. The plan started to be formed 24-18 months prior to the first move. A detailed matrix of requirements was produced through timely planning meetings with relevant personnel and recces of the areas being carried out. With this in place, and with one subunit deployed on operations, dates were set for the unit moves. These dates were arranged as early as possible and did not change; this allowed preparation, packing and other activities to be scheduled. In and amongst so many other areas of change, keeping the dates static enabled the process to run smoothly, which was welcomed by the soldiers and their families.

There were some initial issues to deal with such as deconfliction with other units already based within the Barracks and no funding being available for improvements that were identified in the early planning stage. However the most has been made of available resources. Planning of the families move to Larkhill began approximately 18 months before the first family departed Thorney Island. The moves have gone really well, removing the worries of the soldiers by satisfactorily housing their family in Service Family Accommodation means they can concentrate wholeheartedly on their professional job. The key to the successful move was communication. Countless briefings were held that explained all elements of the process. Families were given as much flexibility as possible, meaning that their needs such as schooling, work or medical circumstances could be managed.

47 Regt RA have identified infrastructure issues within Larkhill such as demand for SFA, pressure on the Medical Centre and local schools and availability of shopping facilities and amenities, particularly for young people. The Army Basing Team in conjunction with Wiltshire Council is addressing these issues. In total, 47 Regt RA moved in the region of 100 families from Thorney Island to Larkhill in six months. The success of the move was down to early and adaptable planning, clear communication between all stakeholders and a sound professional knowledge of individuals jobs and responsibilities by all concerned.

SPOTLIGHT ON FAMILY ISSUES



HEALTH CARE

BFG

British Forces Germany Health Service (BFGHS) is responsible for the provision of healthcare services to Service personnel and entitled civilians such as UK Based Civilians, some contractors and dependants in BFG. Healthcare is currently delivered under contract by the SSAFA GSTT Care Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) under the auspices of the Healthcare 2013 (HC2013) contract and overseen by BFGHS. The contract requires that healthcare is delivered, where practicable, to a similar standard to that of NHS England.

During the period of drawdown and rebasing, healthcare will continue to be delivered under the HC2013 contract and as drawdown progresses the LLP will ensure that the service remains flexible and sustainable to meet the needs of the diminishing population, although the method of delivery in some areas may change.

Provision of primary healthcare (PHC) services in the UK for Service personnel is the responsibility of Defence Primary Health Care (DPHC) through Defence Medical Service (DMS). Service personnel can expect to access PHC at a military medical centre.

Responsibility for the provision of healthcare to civilians in the UK rests with the NHS. DPHC and the Army

Basing Team are actively engaged with the NHS to ensure a smooth transition to NHS care for the returning civilian population. Whilst it is not usually possible for families of Service personnel to use military medical facilities in the UK, in some areas this option may be available.

UK - The following article has been provided by the Department of Health.

Moving back to the UK or within the UK either in Service or after leaving the Armed Forces, or as a family member can be a stressful time. For those who will no longer receive GP, dentist and other health services from DMS, using and navigating the UK Health and Care system including the NHS can bring challenges; you can make the transition easier upon yourselves and your family by following this simple checklist.

Register with a GP - If you are not registered with DMS or will no longer be registered with DMS for your GP services then as soon as you know your future location, even if you think you will only be in one area temporarily, registering with a GP will:

- Alert services of your whereabouts
- Alert your local Health Visitor
- Ensure you have easy access to services
- Ensure medical records are transferred quickly

You never know when you will need these services.

[NHS Choices](#) have a simple postcode tool you can use to find your local GP surgery.

Register with a Dentist - You can either register with an NHS or Private dentist in your area; again it is important to register as quickly as possible.

[NHS Choices](#) have a simple postcode tool you can use to find your local Dentist.

Make services aware - If you or any members of your family have an ongoing health need or any special requirements it is vitally important that you inform the GP and other health and care services in your area as soon as possible. This will ensure that your health needs are met and the care you currently receive continues.

[NHS Choices](#) provides useful information and links to all health and care services.

EDUCATION



The Directorate Children & Young People's (DCYP) Education of Service Children Change Programme (ESCCP) has been working closely with the Army Basing Team (ABT) to ensure that the education needs of children returning from Germany, or moving within the UK, are recognised by those responsible for planning school places.

Moves are planned to take place, wherever possible, during school holidays to limit the impact on children at critical stages of their education. DCYP's Service Children's Education (SCE) schools in Germany are key in planning the transition of information for pupils and SCE school staff are one source of information for parents with questions about transferring to the UK education system, as is the DCYP Parent Partnership Officer (PPO) based in BFG.

The ABT, with DCYP, BFG and others, are continuing to arrange, visits from local authority (LA) staff in the UK to Germany to help answer questions directly that units and parents may have in relation to their new location including the education provision in the area. BFG has also arranged "market stall" events which are an opportunity for families to come and discuss any issues that they might have. UWOs are an excellent source of information for families and are able to redirect more complicated questions to the relevant experts.

For some Service families this may be the first time that they have had to deal with the UK education system and it may seem a daunting prospect. DCYP, through the Children's Education Advisory Service (CEAS), can provide appropriate information, support and advice in order to ensure that children and young people are provided with every opportunity to achieve the best outcomes and fulfil their potential. Initial contact with

CEAS for families based in BFG should be made through the PPO.

There are also steps that parents can take for themselves to ensure they can make informed decisions.

- Find out details of schools in the new location; contact the local HIVE, which produces Education Fact Sheets. Schools have their own websites which hold a wealth of information
- Keep an eye out for events held locally within BFG that give you the opportunity to ask your questions and use your UWOs.
- Ensure that information held by your Unit, or held by your child's school, is up to date. The ABT is capturing data on Service children numbers and age ranges, this information is then fed into the LA to help them plan not only for school places but also for childcare spaces.

The admissions process within the UK can differ depending upon the location, and type of school, your child will be attending. Advice is available on LA websites but CEAS can also offer advice on the admissions process.

The period leading up to the move can be a potentially emotional time for many children and parents. Pupil & Family Services (P&FS) is part of SCE that is dedicated to providing support, guidance, and advice to pupils, parents, and school staff. P&FS employs Educational Psychologists, Educational Social Workers, Disability Advisory Teachers, and Specialist Teachers for Special Educational Needs (SEN).

Service children within SCE schools who have an identified SEN should be assured that there is a well rehearsed process for the transition from an SCE school to a school within the UK. This process involves parents identifying the school that they would like their child to attend at their destination and the transfer of information from the SCE school. In more complex situations direct liaison between schools and the receiving LA can help to build a picture of the child's needs and the provision that a destination school will need to make.

More information on all these matters can be found on:

DCYP.GOV.UK

[A guide for Service families: UK education system](#)
[Moving schools parental guide](#)

EMPLOYMENT

The aim of the Partner Employment Project (PEP), which is part of the New Employment Model (NEM), is to better understand the issues surrounding partner employment and to develop proposals to address it. Results from the evidence gathered showed that Service partners face unique barriers to employment; disruption caused by regular postings, remote location of units and accommodation, access to appropriate childcare, and a skills mismatch of those looking for work against the available opportunities at the Service location. Employers and job centres can also struggle to understand and take account of the complex nature of Service life.

As part of the PEP, the MOD is supporting two programmes: the RBLI LifeWorks for Families programme and the University of Wolverhampton's Dependants' Business Start-Up Programme. These Armed Forces Covenant LIBOR funded programmes are aimed to assist spouses/civil partners into new or more suitable employment, or to help them start their own business.

LifeWorks for Families Programme - LifeWorks deliver workshops to help spouses identify their strengths as well as potential career and training opportunities available to them, build their confidence and 'sell' their skills to an employer. The team is able to provide employment support by telephone and email as well as through the workshops. In addition RBLI is developing a remote access programme, which will enable it to reach out to more spouses. The workshops are now also being delivered in Germany and Cyprus as well as the UK.

The course is FREE and available to all spouses and partners of any serving (or recently discharged) member of the Armed Forces, including Reserves.

Further details can be found at www.rblilifeworksfamilies.co.uk or telephone 0800 319 6844 (UK), +44 1622 795997 (Abroad).

Dependants' Business Start-Up Programme - The programme has been developed specifically for Armed Forces families to provide them with the transferable skills and support required to start and maintain a business that will not be restricted to a geographical area, allowing families to become more financially stable

and break the cycle of being unable to work. It is a 10 month programme that includes an introduction to business start-up; a four day business start-up course; individual and group mentoring sessions with business advisers. This programme will continue until January 2015 with provision to take Cohorts to Germany and Cyprus as well as throughout Garrison locations in the UK.

The course is FREE to Service Dependants and is run by experienced and knowledgeable business advisors. The course and group mentoring sessions will be delivered at the Wolverhampton Business Solutions Centre. Individual mentoring sessions can be carried out via Skype, by telephone or in person

Further details are available at www.wlv.ac.uk/supportingtheunshero or telephone 01902 321677 / email mod-enquiries@wlv.ac.uk.

ARMY FAMILIES FEDERATION

The following article has been provided by the AFF.

AFF staff members throughout the UK and Germany are working closely with families to identify their issues and concerns related to rebasing both in Germany and the UK. Whilst unit and individual moves have been a fact of life for many years, the sheer scale of these moves has left some families feeling anxious about their needs being met on arrival. Local AFF Co-ordinators possess the knowledge to inform and reassure families that preparations are well underway to support their move; where they don't have the knowledge to hand, they pass the query up to AFF Specialists to seek resolutions or better inform the family.

At Regional Manager and Director levels AFF attend rebasing meetings, these demonstrate how hard all chain of command staff are working to ensure that the planned rebasing moves are in hand. Representatives from local authorities who attend these meetings are able to report progress on availability of school places and reassure that the local health services will be able to deal with the extra residents. The AFF covenant liaison, Julie Lowe, works with the other specialists liaising with local authorities on any specific rebasing issues which may also be related to the Armed Forces Covenant. The real value of AFF being involved in rebasing is the ability to listen to the concerns of families and feed back to the rebasing team or local Brigade staff.

HOUSING



DIO has introduced a new end-to-end service for managing SFA in the UK.

Under the new arrangements, CarillionAmey will provide a full range of housing services on behalf of DIO. This includes managing the applications system, allocating properties, attending move in and move out appointments, maintenance/repair, improvement work and the provision of SFA furniture.

The new contract rolled out across Scotland and Northern Ireland on 1 Nov 14 and will take effect in England and Wales from 1 Dec 14, when the provision of furniture will also move over. However, the management of allocations for the whole of the UK transferred from the Housing Allocations Service Centre (HASC) to the CarillionAmey Occupancy Services Helpdesk on 3 Nov 14.

The new contract replaces arrangements in the UK previously delivered by MOD civil servants, MODern Housing Solutions, Turners Estate Solutions and local maintenance arrangements in Northern Ireland.

As a result, there is now one national help desk (0800 707 6000), as well as local customer service centres and a new website (www.carillionamey.co.uk) which will continue to be developed with the intention of allowing customers to report maintenance issues online in the future. Personnel who need to call the Helpdesk from overseas can use an alternative number – (0044)151 728 1630.

One of the key differences for Service personnel is that the new arrangements will give you the power to sign off work, and highlight when work does not meet the required standard. Therefore all SFA customers are advised to read the CarillionAmey housing guide which is being delivered to SFA in the UK and can be found at www.carillionamey.co.uk. Further information is also available at www.gov.uk/dio/sfa and in Defence Instructions and Notices 2014DIN04-212.

For each unit move the UWO will have the opportunity to influence the allocation of SFA dependent on each family's specific needs.

UK Service Family Accommodation

CALL: 0800 707 6000 or 0151 728 1630

Apply for SFA:

<http://apps01.domis.r.mil.uk/e1132/>

MOD systems only to protect your information

BFBS FILMS

BFBS is currently making a number of visual guides (short films) on the locations that units and families will relocate to in 2015 from Germany. The purpose of these guides is to provide an insight on the location they will be moving to. Items aim to cover issues that concern families, e.g. education, health, early years, employment opportunities and local places of interest. The first of this series of films has been broadcast on Forces TV and is available on the BFBS website: <http://www.bfbs.com/>. We are hoping to obtain DVDs of the film for use by units and others.

EARLY MOVER STATUS

Early Mover Status (EMS) is designed to allow families with children at critical stages of education (GCSE or A levels) to move to the UK up to 18 months ahead of the main unit move dates into Service or private housing at the future Duty Station. **This is subject to the availability of Services Families Accommodation.** Applications by individuals for EMS are to be made through the Unit to HQ BFG G1 Ops.

SPIRITUAL AND PASTORAL CARE



The Royal Army Chaplains' Department (RACHD) is mindful of the pastoral needs of soldiers and their families arising out of the Army Basing Programme and is doing everything it can to maintain a reassuring degree of chaplaincy cover. There are still 20 padres based in Germany, including two community chaplains. Padres continue to be posted into BFG. Reservist chaplains have helpfully deployed from the UK to close gaps. There will be a Westfalen Garrison Chaplain by Christmas and efforts are being made to establish a similar position to cover the drawdown at Hohne next year.

For BFG veterans in particular, the Army's churches can have deep emotional significance, as sites of weddings and baptisms and funerals over the decades. The aim is to keep each church's doors open until the station around it is finally ready to close, offering refuge in the midst of so much change. Unit chaplains in consultation with their Quartermasters are coordinating the effort to return regimental artefacts and personal gifts, while also determining what should be brought back to the UK to provision the garrison churches that regiments may inherit at their new bases. Where no such church exists, padres will be aiming to establish a little chapel or prayer room within unit lines. Padres will also be forming links with local churches and clergy, helping to draw the military and civilian communities closer together. Units are encouraged to consider a 'homecoming service' in their adopted church soon after arrival.

The centrepiece of chaplaincy in BFG for more than 30 years has been Church House at Lubbecke, a place of hospitality for those of all faiths and none, offering an education in the softer skills of military life. Recognising

its role in facilitating care across the welfare spectrum, GOC BFG has engineered the availability of Church House until 2018. In tandem, scoping is underway to find a successor to Church House within northern Britain to complement the work of Amport House in the south. The RACHD has helped to establish many such houses since the First World War and looks forward to opening the doors of 'Hardy House' – the project's working title - as a place of personal and spiritual refreshment, promoting the moral component and underpinning the Firm Base for the Regular Army and Army Reserve alike.



HIVE

The Army HIVE Information Service has worked with the Army Basing Team to ensure that information is easy to access and understand. HIVE Information Support Officers are available at any time during the rebasing process to provide information support you may require.

HIVE provides local information through HIVE Blogs. These are updated daily to provide information on a range of topics including what's on in the local area, topic specific information such as health, education, employment and much more. You can subscribe to daily emails on the latest Blog posts in your area.

If not received when moving into SFA the HIVE can provide you with a Move In information pack, this contains essential information such as local amenities, important telephone numbers and more. Similarly when moving out of an area, the local HIVE is able to provide you with information for your next location.

To find your nearest HIVE visit www.army.mod.uk/hives

CIVILIAN STRUCTURES PROJECT

Work continues on the initiative designed to ensure that the Army's civilian structure is aligned with the changes to the Regular Army and Army Reserves structure under Army 2020. The revised structure is being implemented in three phases currently 2014/15 (short term), 2015/16 (medium term) and 2017+ (long term).

Organisations undergoing structural change in the first phase (2014/15) have undergone post mapping to identify how posts map from the current to the future structures. Civilian personnel whose employing unit is restructuring during this first phase will receive final notification of the outcome of post mapping on conclusion of TU consultation and the appeals process.

Line managers and the chain of command play a critical role in implementing phase 1 of the new civilian structures: they must support their staff as unit's transition to the new Army structures; and will assist staff in securing alternative employment where posts have not mapped across. This will include supporting staff registration on CS Jobs and providing guidance on compiling and presenting evidence for alternative job applications. Further information is available on the [CSP Website](#) and this is being updated as the project progresses.

A2020

Over the last quarter, the Army 2020 Team has continued to consolidate its approach to the next Phase of the Programme – transforming the Army. Structural change is now largely in the hands of the Field Army, in which the practical impacts of these changes are now being felt, whether they are unit moves, re-rolling, disbandments or re-subordinations. The Transformation phase will involve more subtle changes required to maximise the utility of these new structures and, although profound, these conceptual changes will take longer to effect and should have less physical impact.

The Army 2020 Team is using the Programme's benefits as the lens through which to assess delivery. Some benefits relate to the use of resources and some to the way in which the Army prepares itself, but the key benefits cover improvements in the way the 3 Core Purposes of the Army are delivered: Contingent Capability for Deterrence and Defence, Overseas

Engagement and Capacity Building and Civil Engagement and Homeland Resilience

Against this background, the Army 2020 Team has been reviewing risk and its dependencies. This has included looking at the relationship with the Army Basing Programme and the impact that it might have across many of Army 2020's benefits. In relation to the core purposes, Army 2020 has been trying to understand more effectively the linkage between individual basing moves and the delivery of military capability in a way that allows risk within the Army Basing Programme to be assessed against the Army 2020 benefits.

FURTHER INFO AND CONTACTS

Housing:

www.carillionamey.co.uk

Tel: 0800 707 6000

From overseas: 0044 151 728 1630

Education:

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

BFBS

<http://www.bfbs.com/>

Army Families Federation

<http://www.aff.org.uk/>

Army 2020 Transforming the British Army – An Update

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

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