



Army Basing Programme

Newsletter

Edition 8 - Aug 15

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INTRODUCTION

This has been an extremely busy year for Army Basing. This edition focuses on development over the calendar year, including what's happening in Germany and unit moves progress.

There is a survey on the back page about the ABP Newsletter. We would really appreciate any feedback as it will help ensure we are giving you the information that you want, in the format you want to see it in.

PROGRAMME UPDATE

This is the first 'big move year' of the ABP with more than 5,000 Service personnel moving out of Germany. This along with some moves under the BORONA Programme will allow Elmpt, Herford, Fallingbostal and

Hohne to be handed back to the German authorities. Unit plans within the UK include nine moves, nine reorganisations and one new unit being created. All are progressing to plan with the final move activity taking place in Dec 15 in the UK.

Work is progressing well on developing detailed designs for new infrastructure and planning procurement activities. A number of infrastructure works are underway and some have completed including SLA delivery at Salisbury Plain and at Aldershot.

UPDATE FROM GERMANY

16 units are rebasing from Germany to UK in 2015 under the ABP and Programme BORONA. The total BFG population (this includes Service personnel, United Kingdom Based Civilians including teachers and contractors plus all dependants) in Germany will reduce from 23,700 to 12,400 and will be concentrated in the Central Region in Bielefeld, Gütersloh, and Paderborn/Sennelager. This makes for a much more cohesive geographical laydown in a single garrison area that includes SCE primary schools, a single secondary school in Gütersloh, excellent training, welfare, and adventurous training opportunities in well found barracks and good quality families living accommodation.

In the region of 2,200 families and some 3,000 single soldiers will move as part of the 2015 bulk moves, and by the end of August we expect to have moved all but 120 of these families to a range of destinations primarily in UK but also to new assignments across the world. While there have been minor issues, the process has been overwhelmingly successful thanks to the preparatory work of a range of organisations including HQ BFG, the Germany garrisons, HQ Support Command, DIO Service Delivery Accommodation, CarillionAmey, plus Agility Ltd, the removals contractor. Special thanks are also due to the resilience and understanding of the families that have rebased through the process.

CONTACT THE ARMY BASING TEAM 94391 2151 – ARMY BASING-0MAILBOX

MOVEMENT / UNITS

The table below identifies units that are programmed to rebase from BFG this year and the status of their main party move at the end of August.

Unit	To	Status
16 Sig Regt	Stafford	Complete
SCOTS DG	Leuchars	Complete
HQ 1 (UK) Armd Div	York	Complete
2 CS Bn REME	Leuchars	Complete
HQ 102 Log Bde	Grantham	Complete
1 Regt RLC	Bicester	Complete
QDG	Swanton Morley	Complete
3 RHA	Albemarle	Complete
32 Engr Regt	Catterick	Complete
4 SCOTS	Catterick	Complete
1 MI Bn	Catterick	Complete
2 Med Regt	North Luffenham	Complete
1 Sig Regt	Stafford	Ongoing
RHQ 1 RMP	Catterick	Complete
110 Pr Coy, 1 RMP	Leuchars	Ongoing

STAFFORD

There has been significant development at Beacon Barracks, Stafford to accommodate the arrival of 1 and 16 Signal Regiments under the BORONA Programme. The redevelopment programme involves 29 new builds and the refurbishment of seven existing buildings to provide facilities including workshops, a combined Mess, offices, garages, catering outlets, shops, leisure facilities and a medical-dental centre. The work includes building 346 new Service family homes on the site adjacent to Beacon Barracks.

An event was held on Thursday 18 June at the site to welcome one of the first arriving soldiers and his family with the keys to their new home. A ceremony was also held to officially open and name one of the SLA blocks.



SALISBURY PLAIN

Planning Applications - DIO continues to progress planning applications for ABP infrastructure developments in the Salisbury Plain area. Nine priority works applications for developments within bases have been submitted to date with eight now approved. All three major applications for the SFA housing developments across the basing area have been submitted and can be viewed online on Wiltshire Council's planning web-pages. The applications for the main development works at Perham Down, Larkhill and Bulford camps have also been submitted, with the application for Perham Down now approved.

Ludgershall - Demolition work is underway at Corunna Barracks in Ludgershall to prepare the site for 246 new SFA. It's one of three housing developments planned for the area to accommodate Service families relocating as part of the ABP. Working on behalf of the DIO, specialist contractors are demolishing 62 buildings, removing car parks and lifting and moving temporary accommodation units to other MOD sites for reuse. Some of the warehouses are about the same size as the Twickenham rugby pitch and other buildings being leveled include workshops, kit stores, catering facilities and vehicle servicing bays.

Somme Road Cycleway - Construction is underway on the new Somme Road cycleway. The route, once finished, will provide a safe link between the housing estate in Perham Down, the rear gate of Swinton Barracks and Wellington Academy in Ludgershall. Funded jointly by the DIO, Army and Wiltshire Council, surveying and ground works will be carried out by 26 Regiment, and bitchesmen, funded by Wiltshire Council, will be laid by specialist contractors. The work is part of a pilot scheme which aims to create a network of cycle ways across the garrison stretching as far as Larkhill. The tasks which will be completed by military personnel have been designed by military engineers to civilian standards and will be constructed with the same equipment used on operations.

SFA / SLA

SFA - To date 90 new SFA have been purchased as part of the ABP across Grantham, York and Newbury. These new homes are already being allocated to Service families. The purchase of new homes at Tidworth is also progressing well with 100 due to be delivered as planned over the next three years. Planning applications have been submitted for the 900 new SFA being built across Bulford, Larkhill and Ludgershall in the Salisbury Plain area.

SLA – Work is progressing to deliver new and reconfigured SLA. In total more than 4,600 new SLA bed spaces are planned to be built with 1,800 reconfigured SLA also being provided. To date over 600 bed spaces have been provided.

CHURCH HANDOVERS

As BFG continues to drawdown, the Reverend Dr David Coulter, Chaplain General HM Land Forces Army, visited Hohne for three days to meet the congregations and mark the closure of three Garrison churches: Holy Family RC Hohne, St Thomas More RC Bad Fallingbostal and All Saints Bad Fallingbostal, and the transfer to the Bundeswehr of St George's Church, Hohne. The visit was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the spiritual community across Hohne Garrison. A mixture of joyous celebration and sombre reflection, the visit culminated with the ceremonial handing over of the keys to St George's Church (shown below) which will now remain a place of worship after the British Army leave. The transfer begins a new chapter in the church's history and reminds us all of the common bonds and unique linkages that we continue to share with our German hosts.



GERMANY TO UK EVENTS

A number of units relocating to the UK from Germany over the summer months held challenging events to mark their relocation to the UK.

A team of eight soldiers and one officer from the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards travelled by road bike from Fallingbostal in Germany to their new home at Leuchars Station. They pedaled up to 120km a day and completed the ride in nine days.

A 20 strong team from 2 Medical Regiment also completed a cycle challenge from their base at Hohne to their new location at North Luffenham. The grueling challenge saw the team spend five days in the saddle, while raising £9,000 for British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association (BLESMA).

14 soldiers from 1st Regiment Royal Military Police marked leaving Germany by completing an arduous 1,200km trek from Bergen-Hohne Garrison to their new Regimental Headquarters in Catterick. They completed this under Army Annual Fitness Test conditions. Working in two man teams they covered every eight miles in two hours carrying a weight of 17kg before passing the challenge to the next team.

Well done to all those involved in these challenging events.

AFF

The following article has been written and submitted by AFF: Enquiries to AFF on re-basing are quite low this summer and feedback is that the information on BFGnet is a great help to families. For those re-basing from overseas please 'like' the **AFF overseas** facebook site to keep up to date with latest news and top tips. At the Tidworth roadshow most questions focused on housing and visas but with some interest on services and school places. We have further roadshows in Catterick and Stafford. Whatever your question – rebasing or routine, please come along. We are supporting spouse businesses and will be having stalls at both events. So whether you want to buy or sell, take a look at our website <http://www.aff.org.uk/roadshows> or contact Jackie on 01264 382313.

8 October 15 – Catterick, St Aidan's Church Hall

26 November 15 – Stafford, Beacon Barracks Amenity Centre

DRUM HORSE OF SCOTS DG

The following article has been written and submitted by SCOTS DG:

As the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards rebased this summer from Fallingbostal to Leuchars, an unusual but important constituent of the regiment's historical fabric needed to be brought with it - the Drum Horse. Now designated as its official mascot, the tradition of the Drum Horse derives from an era when the regiment (and previously its antecedent, the Royal Scots Greys) was established with its own band, including a Drum Horse bearing a pair of large silver kettle drums played by the rider. Whenever the Drum Horse is on parade, its rider wears a white bearskin cap, unique within the British Army today. It is also normally flanked by a Grey horse on each side, which were ridden by trumpeters in the days of the regimental band. In recent years, the Drum Horse has taken part in important regimental parades and occasional public military events. Since the beginning of the 20th century the horse itself has been black (as opposed to the typical piebald or skewbald pattern of other military Drum Horses) in order to complete the contrast with the white bearskin cap. From the amalgamation in 1971 that formed the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards onwards, HM The Queen, as Colonel-in-Chief, has presented the regiment with its successive Drum Horses. First was Trojan, presented at the amalgamation itself, followed by Ramillies, and then the current incumbent, Talavera, who now resides in livery stables near Leuchars. As part of the infrastructure programme for Leuchars Station, the DIO will be building a stable facility for the Drum Horse within the barracks, which will enable the regiment to sustain this tradition into the future.



Talavera being lined up for a regimental parade.

SURVEY

Tell us what you think of the ABP Newsletter by taking a quick online survey. The survey can be found [here](#). Or you can email your responses to ArmyBasing-CommsSO2@mod.uk

The questions you will be asked are shown below:

1. How did you receive the ABP Newsletter?
2. Do you find the content of the ABP Newsletter useful?
3. Is the ABP Newsletter easy to read and understand?
4. How do you find the length of the ABP Newsletter?
5. What other information would you like to see in the ABP Newsletter
6. How could we change or improve the format of the ABP Newsletter?
7. How often would you like to see the ABP Newsletter?

This will allow us to provide you with the information you want in the format you want.

USEFUL CONTACTS AND LINKS

Army Basing

<http://www.army.mod.uk/structure/33834.aspx>.

BFGnet

www.bfgnet.de

Email - BFG-RebasingOOGpMailbox@mod.uk

Army HIVEs

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

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