



# Army Basing Programme Newsletter

Edition 9 - Dec 15

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## DIRECTOR BASING & INFRASTRUCTURE

2015 has been a particularly busy year for the Army Basing Programme. Much has been achieved that should be recognised. Over the summer months we relocated 16 units from Germany to bases in the UK, moving more than 5,000 Service personnel and a further 5,000 dependants, civilian staff and contractors. 99% of the British Forces Germany (BFG) 2015 rebasing target is now complete with only 24 personnel from unit rear parties and Garrison staff left to return to UK by the end of December. We have also moved one unit within Germany to support the closure of Bergen-Hohne Garrison.

In addition to people, we have moved from Germany in excess of 1,100 vehicles and trailers, over 580 unit freight ISO containers, 180 unaccompanied ISO containers and one horse – Talavera the Scots Dragoon Guards drum horse! Estate has also been returned to the German Federal Authority and is detailed further in the newsletter.

Away from Germany, seven units have relocated within the UK this year, one new unit has been created and nine units have re-rolled in situ. So, in addition to the

10,000 personnel that relocated from Germany over 1,500 single and married unaccompanied soldiers and more than 320 families have been moved within the UK as part of the ABP or Programme BORONA. On top of this almost 130 vehicles were moved and a further 140 ISO containers were used to move unit equipment and unaccompanied baggage within the UK. The success of the 2015 moves has been a genuine team effort and I would like to thank all of those involved in this year's achievements including HQ BFG, Germany Garrisons and Units, HQ Regional Command, and of course my own team as the controlling headquarters. My thanks also go to the DIO and Agility, the contractor who moved the unaccompanied baggage. At the height of the summer 250 families moved per week.

Work is ongoing to prepare for future moves. As announced on 5 Nov 15 the MOD has confirmed that the final units will relocate from Germany to their new home on Salisbury Plain in 2019. The moves out of Germany in 2016/17 will go ahead as planned. This provides our Service personnel and their families with greater certainty to allow them to plan for their futures. It also allows us to finalise our plans with Wiltshire Council and industry partners who will deliver the supporting infrastructure in the UK. In Germany we will continue to deliver the high quality of services and facilities that our personnel and their families need so they are well supported until they move. This is a significant milestone in delivering the Army's structure as set out in the 2010 SDSR.

I have been delighted and humbled by your support this year. Have a great Christmas break and steel yourselves for more problems to resolve next year!



Major General Alastair Dickinson CBE

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

## PROGRAMME UPDATE

BFG - 2015 has seen the largest and most concentrated peacetime rebasing and drawdown activity in a generation. In addition to moving over 10,000 British personnel from Germany to UK, the ABP has also closed Bergen-Hohne Garrison plus Elmpt and Herford Stations. This means that we have reduced our Forces in Germany from 20,000 in 2010 to 5,200; a reduction of 74%, thereby surpassing the Government's target of withdrawing 50% of our Forces from Germany by 2015. By the end of 2015 HQ BFG will have closed and handed back to the German authorities; 11 barracks with over 5,000 bedspaces, 6 SCE schools, 4 Medical Centres, and over 3,000 married quarters, ending the British military presence in Bergen-Hohne, Bad Fallingbostal, Herford (vacated area of site shown below) and Elmpt.



UK - Work has started on new en suite junior ranks accommodation at Keogh Barracks near Aldershot. Once complete in summer 16, the 70-bed facility will conclude the modernisation of junior ranks accommodation at the barracks. It's part of a wider £50 million redevelopment project to enhance the barracks over four years for its new occupants.

Work has also started on new SLA at Dishforth and South Cerney. Both developments are currently on track to complete in summer 16. A planning application will be submitted shortly for Kendrew Barracks in Cottesmore. The £40 million redevelopment proposals include new SLA, leisure and catering facilities, a larger and updated gymnasium and vehicle workshops. The plans are aimed at converting the former RAF base into a fit-for-purpose facility for three Army units. Invitations to tender for infrastructure works at Imphal Barracks in York and St George's Barracks in North Luffenham have recently been issued which will lead to contract awards in spring 16.

## MOVEMENT PROCESS

Army Basing – A lessons identified exercise led by the ABP with all key stakeholders in attendance took place in Oct 15. This focused on the movement of Service personnel, their families and equipment during the summer period. This was preceded by a BFG led lessons identified exercise on both rebasing and drawdown activity. The implementation of these lessons on future moves will help to ensure that the process of moving units from Germany to the UK and within the UK is as efficient and effective as possible.

Directorate Children & Young People (DCYP) School Transition - Rebasing during summer 2015 saw the closure of a number of Service Children's Education, (SCE) schools in Germany and the return of over a 1,000 children back to schools within the UK.

It has become apparent that there was a level of apprehension and uncertainty displayed by secondary students when units have moved on mass. Some of the students have not attended a UK school for some time; some have never attended a UK secondary school, some have never even lived in the UK. In an attempt to aid the students SCE are looking at innovative solutions to emulate the best practice model used for transition from primary school to secondary school.

This would normally involve a visit to the receiving school for two days to experience life in that school, gain knowledge of the physical layout of the school and meet some of their new teachers. Some of this can be carried out through liaison visits, funded through the Education Support Fund, which allow receiving schools in the UK to visit their SCE counterparts and to meet the students and parents. Increasingly receiving schools are making use of technology by also providing virtual tours of their schools or by providing special welcome packs or videos which provide a flavour of school life.

The aim is to make the transition back to the UK during this phase of drawdown the best it can be for those students transitioning from secondary to secondary and those about to start secondary for the first time in the UK. The Army Basing Team and the DCYP/SCE are working with local authorities impacted by rebasing to arrange liaison visits between receiving and sending schools and by looking at other innovative approaches to better aid transition.

## STAFFORD

*The following article has been written and submitted by the Stafford Support Unit: BORONA – The end of an era? BORONA began in Stafford in 2008 and is now reaching its conclusion. During that period of time we have seen ideas turn to fact, designs turn to structure and managed the move of two regiments and 250 families into new and refurbished working and living accommodation. This is an incredible achievement not only by the Armed Forces (AF) but by DIO, Lendlease and Lovell who delivered challenging construction targets.*

It would be easy to sit back now and say that the road was smooth but delivering such a large build in a barracks that is already occupied with two existing units and 22 lodger units, many of which are operational military units, would be incorrect. The road has at times been difficult and challenging but the people living and working in Beacon Barracks have embraced the trials and tribulations brought about by this large development of the site by accepting, that to gain the benefits, you must first suffer some inconvenience. It must also not be forgotten that the MOD supporting contractors, the media and the local populace including organisations such as the local borough and county councils, the health service, the education services and voluntary services have been tremendously supportive throughout this period and have contributed much to the delivery of services for Service dependants in a wide variety of areas. As an example all of those families that moved from Germany reside in new Grade 1 SFA, every child but one has been placed in their first choice of school and there are sufficient medical and dental facilities.

In summary, BORONA has not only met the AF target of relocating two regiments from Germany to Stafford during the summer of 2015 but has done so in style. Every Service person living and working in Stafford has benefitted from what the programme has delivered. There is still a short way to go before full completion and we are dealing with minor issues but the Army has created a Royal Signals centre of operational capability within the West Midlands that will allow the Corps to meet the demands of the future, whilst enabling soldiers to have a full career in a static location that further enables their dependants to settle in a town and county that is welcoming and supportive.

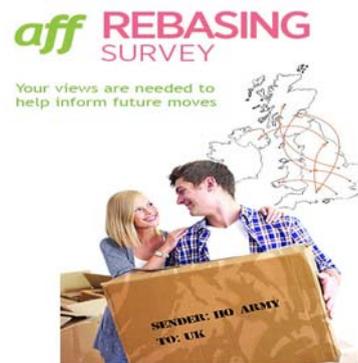
## SALISBURY PLAIN

DIO and Army are continuing to work closely with Wiltshire Council, the NHS and other partners to ensure housing, education and health provision is in place as it's needed. 5 Rifles will move to Bulford next summer into barracks and accommodation vacated by 4 Rifles this year, with the remaining moves to Salisbury Plain taking place in 2019, when 20 Armoured Infantry Brigade and Force Troops Command supporting units returns to the UK from Germany.

Planning applications for DIO infrastructure developments are progressing well. Ten applications have now been approved. This includes nine for priority works within bases and one main works application for Perham Down. Applications for the three SFA developments and main developments at Larkhill and Bulford camps are due to be determined in coming months. An application for works at Upavon will be submitted next year. Planning permission for the extension of Bulford St Leonards Primary school has been granted and the application for the extension at Bulford Kiwi Primary school is expected to be determined shortly. The expansion of both schools is necessary for the arrival of 5 Rifles and also to cater for an increasing population not attributed to rehousing.

Demolition works are continuing at the Ludgershall site earmarked for 246 new Service family homes. The demolition works are expected to complete by early next year. The construction programme within bases is expected to commence from autumn 16, starting with the priority works which have already received planning permission. The SFA construction programme is expected to commence early 2017.

## AFF



[www.surveymonkey.com/r/armyrebasing](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/armyrebasing)

## 2016 FORWARD LOOK

**ABP** – Following on from the success of the unit moves during summer 2015 focus is now on the 2016 moves. This will include four moves from BFG to the UK, two moves within the UK, one re-organisation and the creation of two new units.

2016 will see the rebasing of approximately 1,400 personnel from BFG, this includes 500 families. Moves will again be concentrated during the school summer holiday period to minimise disruption to children's education.

Further information regarding the moves taking place in 2016 will be detailed in the next edition of the ABP Newsletter

**BFG** - Planning for 2016 rebasing moves has started, and it has been confirmed that rebasing from Germany will be completed in the summer of 2019 when 20 Armoured Infantry Brigade and Force Troops Command supporting units will rebase to the Salisbury Plain area as the final piece of the Army Basing Plan jigsaw. Many will be sad to finally leave Germany where we have served and been so welcome for many years, but we have certainty that rebasing and drawdown will be completed by the end of the decade, and so we continue to enjoy Germany while we can, and make use of the excellent training facilities that Germany provides. Those yet to move should be reassured that the lessons learned this year will ensure that future rebasing is equally successful.



## 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](mailto: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](http://www.bfgnet.de)

Email - [BFG-RebasingOOGpMailbox@mod.uk](mailto:BFG-RebasingOOGpMailbox@mod.uk)

### Army HIVEs

[www.army.mod.uk/welfare-support/23438.aspx](http://www.army.mod.uk/welfare-support/23438.aspx)

### Army Basing Team

Email – [armybasing-0mailbox@mod.uk](mailto:armybasing-0mailbox@mod.uk)

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