



Army Basing Programme

Newsletter

Edition 11 - Jun 16

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INTRODUCTION

Edition 11 gives an update on what has been and will be happening in the UK and BFG as part of the Army Basing Programme. There is also an update on the progress on Salisbury Plain including some very interesting archaeological finds at Bulford and an article from BFBS. DCYP have then provided an update article. Finally we have an update on 2016 movements, where to access further information and guidance and an article from a unit advance party.

We hope you enjoy this edition of the ABP Newsletter and find it informative and useful. Any comments can be sent to the mailbox address on the final page.

PROGRAMME UPDATE

UK - On 12 May 16, the Permanent Secretary formally appointed Major General Alastair Dickinson, Director Basing and Infrastructure as the Senior Responsible Owner. Whilst this responsibility transfers from the DIO to the Army, this does not signify any change in the commitment and support that the DIO and Army will provide to the successful delivery of the Programme.

An Infrastructure Project Authority (part of the Cabinet Office) Review took place in May and independently reviewed the progress being made by the Programme. The overall assessment was positive with the delivery confidence showing an improvement from the last

review. The review team noted the progress made and achievements but highlighted challenges still to overcome in delivery.

Further good news includes Wiltshire Council (WC) granting planning permissions for our proposed work 'behind the wire' and resolving to provide planning permission for the build of SFA subject to the signing of the Section 106 (legally binding fee paid by MOD to WC to offset the costs of development including additional services). This has now also been agreed, further detail on Page 2. Rutland County Council has also resolved to grant planning permission for the plans at Kendrew Barracks, Cottesmore.

Single Living Accommodation is being erected at pace at South Cerney, Thorney Island, Dishforth and Keogh. All projects are due to be completed by Sept 16.

British Forces Germany (BFG) - Planning for the 2016 moves has now moved into the execution phase and will see the movement of Service personnel, UKBC and their families from Germany to various locations within the UK. Rebasing this year will see two major units plus two minor units prepare, pack and ship unit freight and vehicles plus SFA removals all within a condensed timeline. Unit advance parties that moved earlier in the year have taken over technical and single soldier accommodation in their new locations and now await the arrival of the main body parties.

The movement of unit freight and vehicles commenced in mid April and will see 290 20ft ISO containers, 71 road vehicles and 12 pieces of armour redeploy back to the UK. In terms of people BFG will see 440 families and 820 single/married unaccompanied personnel move to their future locations all within a tight movement window (from the end of June to beginning of September). Plans have been coordinated by HQ BFG planning staff in conjunction with Westfalen Garrison rebasing cell. The various site drawdown teams will be ramping up closure activity in preparation for an orderly hand-back of vacated facilities to the German authorities during September and October 2016 seeing another chapter close in the history of British Forces in Germany.

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SALISBURY PLAIN

As mentioned in the Programme Update WC have granted planning permissions for our proposed work 'behind the wire' and resolved to provide planning permission for the build of SFA. This was subject to the signing of the Section 106 which has now been agreed.

Plans include building new houses at Larkhill (444), Bulford (227) and at Ludgershall (246). All necessary approvals have been granted to enable engagement with industry with the aim of seeking approval by the end of 2016 with building work commencing early in 2017. Together with 100 properties purchased at Tidworth and an earlier approval to build 322 new homes at Tidworth (Ashdown Estate) that will now be delivered under the ABP, we will provide good accommodation close to soldiers places of work.



Ashdown Estate

Significant work has also taken place with Wiltshire Council to ensure sufficient education provision is made available for Service families in local schools. Part of the S106 settlement with Wiltshire Council will see the transfer of MOD land, which will enable the local authority to build two new primary schools at Larkhill and Ludgershall and to extend Wellington Academy. Wiltshire Council is also undertaking building works to extend the two primary schools in Bulford and the secondary school in the village of Durrington. The school extension at Bulford St Leonards was completed and officially opened by Claire Perry, Devizes MP on 18 Mar 16 – local story can be found [here](#). The extension at Kiwi school is progressing well and facilities will be completed in June.



Kiwi School Extension

We are expecting MOD and Treasury approvals shortly to enable plans to progress with the 'behind the wire' works. This will see the provision of over 2,500 new bed spaces for single soldiers and the construction, conversion or refurbishment of, combined, nearly 250 offices, garages, workshops and mess facilities.

BFBS *The following article is a personal view of the ABP and was provided by Shirley Swain, Salisbury Plain BFBS Reporter.*

I've been living on Salisbury Plain just about 10 years now. As a former Army wife the area was our final posting and therefore made sense to stay put, particularly as both my children were settled in school.

The area already had a lot to offer, though I've seen huge expansion and growth in the last five years. There are now more shops and businesses, meaning more jobs for spouses and indeed for personnel leaving the forces.

Notably for me the housing has improved massively, as has single living accommodation as seen often on various reporting assignments. That's not to say all housing and accommodation is perfect, some still needs a little TLC.

It has to be said though it is a beautiful part of the country and though Salisbury Plain is a military training area access to it is vast, walking, cycling, running, and horse riding all on the doorstep. If you're not the outdoors type there are nearby towns like Salisbury, a gorgeous city with shops and many restaurants.

I've watched and reported on the Army Basing Plan with great interest. It's been a slow start, in terms of trying to understand what will eventually be in place, but there's now a vast amount of information available. Everyone seems to be engaged, from the local community to the people at the top that are making all the plans happen and it's not an easy task; the amount of planning involved is huge. My advice to all is be patient, do your research and ask ask ask if you're not sure.

As a local though, my main concern was the transport links, and the increased traffic. It's a rural area and it can be a challenge if you don't drive so do be prepared to get on your bike or thoroughly research the public transport system.

Archaeology Prehistoric monuments, Anglo-Saxon graves and military features from WW1 and WW2 were discovered during pre development works on the site where 227 SFA will be built in Bulford. Further investigations within the site revealed an Anglo-Saxon cemetery of about 150 graves. Artefacts found included spears, knives, jewellery, bone combs and other personal items. One of the burials has been radiocarbon dated to between AD 660 and 780 which falls in the mid-Anglo-Saxon period in Britain. Local story [here](#).



A skeleton in the cemetery prior to excavation (Crown Copywrite/MOD 2016)



Ladies work box found in grave (Crown Copywrite/MOD 2016)

Further excavation has been undertaken to examine the two prehistoric monuments beside which the Saxon cemetery was established. The archaeologists have excavated a 60m long characterisation trench through the two prehistoric monument henges (enclosed ritual and / or ceremonial space). This will help to understand any chronological relationships between the two features and to understand the construction process. The henges are likely to be granted scheduled ancient monument protection by Historic England before they are reburied and preserved in situ for the future. They are in an area of the site that won't be developed. News story can be found [here](#).

There has also been archaeological finds at the Tidworth SFA site with a cemetery, comprising of around 55 burials and of late 7th to early 8th century AD date being discovered. Local story can be found [here](#). An extensive network of trenches used to train troops in WW1 have been discovered at the Larkhill site.

The following article was provided by the Directorate of Children and Young People (DCYP).

The move of families from BFG to Stafford went well. DCYP recently carried out a survey amongst pupils who moved to Veritas Primary for their opinion on how they believe the move went and what they would have done differently. One child would like to have flown the aeroplane back but several other comments related to being able to have as much information as possible about their new school and most importantly the new teachers. One important top tip was not to worry as you will make new friends quickly.

Visiting Veritas Primary, it is clear how highly the resilience and skills of the children who moved from Germany is valued, and this was referred to by the Head teacher in her speech when the school was officially opened.

The information received from the children in Stafford has been passed onto pupils at Blankenhagen School, Gutersloh, ahead of their moves to UK schools in this summer. The advice from children who have already been through the process of transitioning to new schools will be helpful in helping to ease any concerns of children still to move.

For most of the year Blankenhagen School has run with the theme of business as usual recognising the normality of moving for many Service children, whilst the school strives to have its best year ever, conveniently abbreviated to BYE. Visits have taken place between the Head at Dishforth Primary, where many of the children from 6 Regt RLC will go, and Blankenhagen School to support the children's transition.

There has also been close engagement between SCE schools and the other schools in the UK that children are moving to in 2016.

Preparations are under way for those moving back to the UK and also to help those remaining in BFG transition to Haig School, where they will be continuing their education in September. In addition there are a series of events marking Blankenhagen's history and legacy, such as the move of the school's Berlin Bear to the local German school.

2016 MOVES



2016 will see eight activities as part of Army basing. This includes: two UK to UK moves, four Germany to UK moves and two reorganisations. Moves will be concentrated during the summer holiday period to minimise, as far as possible, any disruption to Service children's education.

Locations receiving units from Germany in 2016 are Bulford, Bicester, Dishforth and South Cerney. Further information can be found on these locations and also on pre move and post move activities in the ABP Special Edition Location Newsletters, June 2016 which can be found on the ABP website:

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

An ABP led Army Movement Guide was produced in 2015. This explains the end to end process of moving location. The film is broken out into a series of chapters so you can access the information that is applicable to you. A Chapter for 2016 providing an update on any information that has changed or is now out of date has been produced and is available [here](#) (not viewable on DII).

Working with BFBS a Base to Base location guide for Wiltshire (Bulford) has been produced. This gives a flavor of the local area and highlights housing, education, employment and healthcare. The film guide also includes interviews with the Garrison Commander, Wiltshire Council Leader, Head Teachers from local schools and Army families living in Bulford. The film is available [here](#) (not viewable on DII).

If you require further information regarding your move your first point of contact should be your Unit Welfare Officer. [BFGnet](#) has recently undergone an update and provides a wide range of advice and guidance for those moving from Germany in 2016.

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ADVANCE PARTY

This article was provided by SSgt Parker, 6 Regt RLC: 6 Regt RLC is scheduled to complete its transitional move to the UK by Sept 16. In order to maintain its very congested operational commitments, the unit has initiated several movement tranches ranging from the activation party through to the BFG close down team. It is key that the activation party cements a firm 'foothold' in Dishforth, North Yorkshire, allowing the remainder of the Regiment to move in with ease.

One such key area is the G6 functionality. Embedded within the camp infrastructure are several information technology equipment types with the DII layout proving to be the biggest and by far most challenging. This is unique to different unit types as negotiating with Atlas to move base units and re-wiring buildings can be very time consuming and should be done at the earliest opportunity.

Re-basing to a camp which is still run by its losing unit highlights the importance of working together effectively. The fruits of this cohesion allow the familiarisation of the local area and the local working practices, which can massively differentiate from life in BFG. Using the knowledge gained from working on this camp will allow passage of information such as safe driving practices; be it on camp road safety to general advice.

Work is well underway rebuilding the Single Living Accommodation to meet 6 RLC commitments. Currently scheduled to be finished by Sept 16, it will allow single living-in soldiers the opportunity to experience the brand new SLAM accommodation. The final key area for any activation party is establishing work areas for Regimental departments. The receiving of a thorough brief prior to the move from the chain of command will enable the initial stages of the move to run smooth and effectively.



Dishforth SLA