



# Army Basing Programme

## Newsletter

Edition 12 - Nov 16

### CONTENTS

- Page 1 – Programme Update
- Page 2 – Salisbury Plain
- Page 3 - SLA
- Page 3 - AFF
- Page 4 - DCYP

### PROGRAMME UPDATE

**UK** – The Army Basing Programme remains on track to return all units from Germany by 2019, so far 82% of troops based in Germany at the time of the SDSR 2010 announcement have been relocated and the final unit moves are scheduled to take place over the summer months of 2019.

Four units returned from Germany to the UK in 2016 and all moves were completed successfully (Special Edition Newsletter on 2016 unit moves [here](#)). Local authority and school visits to Germany prior to the moves provided units and families with information regarding education, childcare, health, housing and employment issues and no difficulties have been reported following each move.

Throughout the year the ABP has been managing the impacts of Better Defence Estate Strategy (BDES) with plans being adjusted as a result of early BDES disposal announcements. The work planned at Tern Hill is being reviewed, there was a pause for the procurement competition for the work planned at North Luffenham to test possible alternatives, all procurement activity for the planned combined work at Preston and Donnington has been cancelled following the announcement to dispose of Venning Barracks and Parsons Barracks at Donnington and there has been a delay to elements of procurement activity at Dreghorn. A further BDES announcement was made on 7 Nov 16 with a number of impacts at ABP sites. The announcement can be found [here](#).

An ABP led visit to BFG took place mid-October, the purpose of the visit was to brief senior personnel and unit commanders in Germany on the progress of the ABP and to update on the delivery of projects directly affecting their relocation to the UK. The briefings also provided unit commanders with information to enable them to better understand the preparation, planning and arrangements in place to ensure successful relocation and integration at their new locations. A number of questions were raised during the visit which will be addressed and made available for all. The current intention is for annual briefings to be held with the next during mid 2017.

The following week Rutland County Council visited BFG to brief the Service personnel and families from 1 Military Working Dogs (1MWD) who will be moving to North Luffenham next year. Two briefings were held with good attendance from Service personnel. No major issues arose and attendees took the opportunity to ask the SMEs in attendance a range of questions. Overall the visit was a success and should ease the process for 1 MWD moving from BFG to the UK next year.

**BFG** - Following the successful completion of Rebasing activity in 2016, a lesson identification process was conducted with the Army Basing Team, Regional Command and external partners (Leidos, Carillion Amey). The output of this process will be combined with a review of 2016 drawdown following the final hand backs in Dec 16. The 2016 rebasing moves have left a BFG population of just under 9000 military and civilian personnel with their dependants.

Alanbrooke Barracks were successfully handed back to the German Authorities on 12 Sep 16, with Princess Royal Barracks (PRB) Gütersloh being returned on 4 Nov 16. Tower Barracks in Dülmen was handed to USAREUR, via the German Authorities, on 5 Oct 16. DIO have agreed with USAREUR continued provision of facilities management for a short period for ease of hand over. Drawdown of Kiel Training Centre is underway and the site will be handed back to the German Authorities on 14 Dec 16, this being the final drawdown of 2016.

## SALISBURY PLAIN TRAINING AREA

The return of nearly 4,000 Service personnel and their families to the SPTA in 2019 requires a considerable amount of new infrastructure both behind the wire (new barracks, SLA, offices, workshops, stores, armouries etc) and new family accommodation. All internal approvals have been made for works behind the wire, which will be delivered by Aspire Defence Limited (ADL), the PFI provider for the PAC footprint. A £1Bn amendment to the current contract was signed at the end of October, work will now start in earnest following enabling works undertaken prior to contract signature. Further information can be found [here](#).

The Programme also requires over 1,000 new SFA, of which over 900 will be built (at Bulford (227), Larkhill (444) and Ludgershall (246)) and 100 will be purchased at Tidworth. The ABP has appointed a preferred bidder for this work and is now working on a Main Gate Business Case for approval and contract award in Summer 2017. The 322 SFA being built at the Ashdown Estate in Tidworth is ahead of programme and continuing at pace with construction due to complete in Mar 17. Although managed under the Army Basing Programme the SFA are not purely an Army Basing requirement and are required to rationalise MOD housing across the Salisbury Plain area. The first 39 homes will be handed over to DIO before Christmas this year.



A view of the Ashdown estate at Tidworth under construction.

All relevant planning permissions have been obtained from Wiltshire Council and, earlier this year, the ABP agreed a Section 106 payment of over £21M with the local authority. The ABP payment will specifically cover education, sustainable transport, highways, healthcare provision, open space provision, sports/leisure and community facilities, waste management and environmental. The majority of this payment, over £19M, will make provision for education - as follows:

The MOD will make a contribution to the provision of Early Years, Primary and Secondary School places and transfer two parcels of land to Wiltshire Council for school building. The local authority will use this money to provide the following additional school infrastructure:

- 150 places at Bulford Kiwi, which was completed in Jun 16, to accommodate the move of 5 RIFLES to Bulford, and the extension was formally opened on 10 Oct 16.
- The transfer and expansion of St Michael's Primary School from Figheldean to Larkhill, adjacent to the new SFA development, which will be available from summer 2018 and will have capacity for 420 pupils.
- The provision of 60 Early Years places to be incorporated into the above school, which will also be available by summer 2018.
- The extension of Avon Valley College to provide some 270 additional places.
- The extension of Wellington Academy to provide some 105 additional places. The MOD is also providing two hectares of land to extend Wellington Academy.
- The provision of a new primary school at Ludgershall alongside the SFA development, which will provide 210 places and will be available by summer 2019.
- The provision of 30 Early Years places to be incorporated in the above new school, which will also be available from summer 2019.

In summary the ABP is providing funding for 90 additional early years places, 750 primary school places and 375 secondary school places.

**Environmental** – The Army Basing Programme (Salisbury Plain) was nominated for an MOD Sanctuary Environmental Project Award. While not securing an award this year the Award Board members were greatly impressed by the huge range of partners involved in the Project, demonstrating exceptional commitment and dedication of resources which has really enhanced MOD's reputation in this area. Of particular note by the Board was the techniques and methodologies developed which have proven best practice for wider application in Defence and the consequential and significant £6M saving to the taxpayer was highly commended by the Award Board. Well done to all involved.

## SINGLE LIVING ACCOMMODATION

Work has completed on the delivery of SLA at four sites under the ABP. In total over £36M has been invested to provide 469 new and refurbished bed spaces for Service personnel at Baker Barracks, Thorney Island; Duke of Gloucester Barracks, South Cerney; Dishforth and Keogh Barracks, Aldershot.



*Completed SLA at Dishforth*

Works at Keogh Barracks, Aldershot were delivered by Rollalong with the works at the other three sites delivered under the now expired Single Living Accommodation Modernisation contract by Debut LendLease.



*The two new SLA blocks at Thorney Island were officially opened on 18 Oct 16 by Lt Col Gary Jones RA, Thorney Island Station Commander and Mark Duddy, ABP Programme Director*

This provision of SLA enabled unit moves from Germany and within the UK over the summer period and is also part of a wider package of works at these sites. In total the ABP is investing around £63M across the four sites.

Following the completion of SLA at Dishforth Lieutenant Colonel Tim Crossland RLC, Commanding Officer, 6 Regiment Royal Logistic Corps said: "As the final RLC unit out of Germany and the first one back in to the North of England for nearly a decade, I am absolutely delighted with our new home at Dishforth. The three new accommodation blocks are superb. They provide excellent and affordable accommodation for our soldiers

and help enhance operational effectiveness. The Rebasing team as a whole have been extremely positive, professional and helpful."

## AFF

It was standing room only at the AFF Germany Roadshow, held in September at Baker Barracks, Paderborn. A host of subject matter experts from BFG, Westfalen Garrison and AFF were on hand to answer questions and speak to families. Topics raised at the Roadshow included the timescale for the drawdown of BFG and the move back to the UK. A key theme was the provision of children's education in BFG during drawdown and continuity for those moving back to the UK at key stages of education. Families also had questions about the availability and standard of housing on Salisbury Plain. Many actions were taken away by the chain of command, such as looking into the policy of carpet replacement in the SFA in Germany. Questions were also submitted ahead of the Roadshow. A full overview of the Q&As will be published via AFF and BFG communications. AFF would like to thank all those who supported the event and attended on the day.

AFF is holding an Employment Fair at Catterick Leisure Centre on 15 Nov 16, 1000-1400hrs. A large variety of organisations will be coming along to offer families advice on job-hunting, training, employment and business start-up opportunities. Army spouses who run their own businesses will have stands, so it's a great opportunity to make an early start on the Christmas shopping too! More at [www.aff.org.uk/employmentfair](http://www.aff.org.uk/employmentfair)

We are currently planning our events for 2017. If you have any questions on AFF's work, contact Julie Lowe, UK & Overseas Director, at [ukoverseasdirector@aff.org.uk](mailto:ukoverseasdirector@aff.org.uk)



*AFF Germany Roadshow*

Directorate Children and Young People (DCYP) continue to work collaboratively with Local Authorities and schools making arrangements for the next wave of moves taking place in 2017 and beyond.

Following on from previous successes, most recently with 5 RIFLES, partnering work with Wiltshire County Council is paving the way to ensure sufficient school places are created in those areas across Salisbury Plain that will benefit from personnel moving from Germany. This partnering work takes place between DCYP, schools and local authorities throughout the UK. Also at the higher level DCYP work closely with the Department for Education, (DfE), and its equivalents to ensure that information on school spaces is shared widely.

DCYP, ABP and the local authorities learn and share best practice from each move that takes place. Feedback ensures that the processes which worked well will be replicated for those families yet to move. Actions such as visits from schools in receiving areas, to the MOD schools, in order to establish links and to enable as smooth a transition to UK as possible have been a huge success. These visits allow the schools to talk to each other and ease the transition of the children to the new schools. The schools are also able to speak to parents to explain what happens pre and post move.

The MOD and its partners are all working hard to ensure transition back to, or within, the UK is as smooth as possible for our children.

This summer saw the closure of Blankenhagen School in Germany. Headteacher Ben Turner was determined to keep a sense of business as usual for as long as possible, which helped the children with their own moves.

Towards the end of term, there was a special celebration when the children were joined by Britain's Got Talent winner Richard Jones who spent the day in school, sharing tricks with the children and listening to their stories; he later remarked on what a special place Blankenhagen was. Parents and visitors, one of whom was the first Headteacher, Mr Martin Peacock, were invited to a wonderful, emotional performance in the afternoon celebrating Blankenhagen's history.



*First and last Headteachers – Mr Martin Peacock (l) and Mr Ben Turner.*

**Kiwi School, Bulford** - DCYP were invited to attend the opening of a new Key Stage 2 building at Kiwi Primary School located on Bulford Camp. The school pupil numbers have increased significantly over the last couple of years as a result of military families returning from overseas, the school is currently over 90% Service children.

The new impressive Key Stage 2 building is light and spacious as well as ecologically friendly, there are solar panels on the roof and there is a rainwater collection system which is used to flush the toilets within the building. The children were very excited to show the rainwater monitor on display in the entrance area which records how much rain has been collected and also how much of mains water is required to top up the system if necessary which since the beginning of term has been zero.

The day was very well attended by representatives from the LEA, other local schools, the military community as well as families of the school children themselves. The Headteacher, Susan Rayburn welcomed the children and families from 5 RIFLES who had just moved back from Paderborn and introduced the VIP guest Richard Jones, winner of Britain's Got Talent and a serving soldier himself, who performed some magic tricks which thrilled the children (and the adults as well!).



*Richard Jones and attendees at the official opening of Kiwi School extension.*