



# Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases

No. 58 Autumn 2015

*Raising public awareness, scrutiny and accountability of US Visiting Forces and their Agencies in the UK and world-wide*

## Brief look at local, national and international news:

### Dear friends

In this edition.....we have decided to focus and give you a flavour of the extent of US bases around the world with some facts and articles. It is a complex issue! As Robert Parry (Investigative reporter and author of America's Stolen Narrative) says "The neocons have plunged the U.S. government into extraordinarily ill-considered wars wasting trillions of dollars, killing hundreds of thousands if not millions of people, and destabilizing large swaths of the planet including the Middle East, much of Africa and now Europe. Those costs include a swelling hatred against America and a deformed U.S. foreign policy elite that is no longer capable of formulating coherent strategies". (refer to his article: *Are Neocons an Existential Threat?* September 15, 2015 <https://consortiumnews.com/2015/09/15/are-neocons-an-existential-threat/>).

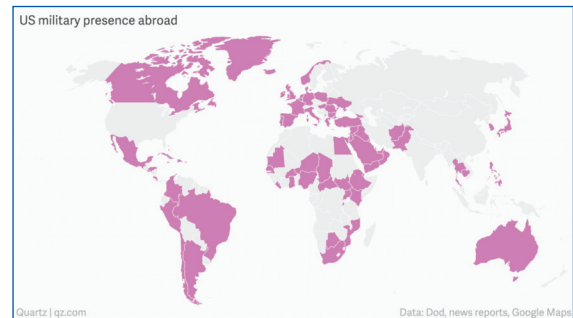
The US military empire extends to continuing developments in South East Asia with the US government seeing North Korea and China as a perceived threat. The US surrounds and goes up to the southern borders of Russia. We include a comprehensive article by David Vine which set out the extent of some of the problems concerning the worldwide US military domination of the world.

There are:

- Approximately 6,000 US bases in the US
- The US operates approximately 800 US bases outside the US (reference C. Johnson, the NATO Watch Committee, the International Network for the Abolition of Foreign Military Bases)

- Approximately 12 bases occupied and controlled by the US in England (none in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland)

(WHY 'approximately'? Because not even the Pentagon is sure of the extent of US military operations - Ed).



"There are more than 1,000 US military bases dotting the globe. To be specific, the most accurate count is 1,077. Unless it's 1,088. Or, if you count differently, 1,169. Or even 1,180. Actually, the number might even be higher. Nobody knows for sure....."

"In the grand scheme of things, the actual numbers aren't all that important. Whether the most accurate total is 900 bases, 1,000 bases or 1,100 posts in foreign lands, what's undeniable is that the US military maintains...an empire of bases so large and shadowy that no one – not even at the Pentagon – really knows its full size and scope...An honest count of US bases abroad – a true, full and comprehensive list – would be a tiny first step in the necessary process of downsizing the global mission". (Nick Turse historian, journalist, essayist and the associate editor and research director of the Nation Institute's Tomdispatch.com)

**It's impossible to produce a newsletter of 8 pages (due to cost) giving anything but a taste of the huge and complex issues involving 'all things' to do with US hegemony, US military policy and the US military industrial complex. For more information, the CAAB website is a good resource and gives some up to date news, information, videos, articles and links: [www.caab.org.uk](http://www.caab.org.uk). We are always pleased to receive constructive comments or suggestions.**

# GARRISONING THE GLOBE: HOW U.S. MILITARY BASES ABROAD UNDERMINE NATIONAL SECURITY AND HARM US ALL

by David Vine

With the U.S. military having withdrawn many of its forces from Iraq and Afghanistan, most Americans would be forgiven for being unaware that hundreds of U.S. bases and hundreds of thousands of U.S. troops still encircle the globe. Although few know it, the United States garrisons the planet unlike any country in history, and the evidence is on view from Honduras to Oman, Japan to Germany, Singapore to Djibouti.

Like most Americans, for most of my life, I rarely thought about military bases. Scholar and former CIA consultant Chalmers Johnson described me well when he wrote in 2004, "As distinct from other peoples, most Americans do not recognize -- or do not want to recognize -- that the United States dominates the world through its military power. Due to government secrecy, our citizens are often ignorant of the fact that our garrisons encircle the planet."

To the extent that Americans think about these bases at all, we generally assume they're essential to national security and global peace. Our leaders have claimed as much since most of them were established during World War II and the early days of the Cold War. As a result, we consider the situation normal and accept that U.S. military installations exist in staggering numbers in other countries, on other peoples' land. On the other hand, the idea that there would be foreign bases on U.S. soil is unthinkable.

While there are no freestanding foreign bases permanently located in the United States, there are now around 800 U.S. bases in foreign countries. Seventy years after World War II and 62 years after the Korean War, there are still 174 U.S. "base sites" in Germany, 113 in Japan, and 83 in South Korea, according to the Pentagon. Hundreds more dot the planet in around 80 countries, including Aruba and Australia, Bahrain and Bulgaria, Colombia, Kenya, and Qatar, among many other places. Although few Americans realize it, the United States likely has more bases in foreign lands than any other people, nation, or empire in history.

Oddly enough, however, the mainstream media rarely report or comment on the issue. For years, during debates over the closure of the prison at the base in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, nary a pundit or politician wondered why the United States has a base on Cuban territory in the first place or questioned whether we should have one there at all. Rarely does anyone ask if we need hundreds of bases overseas or if, at an estimated annual cost of perhaps \$156 billion or more, the U.S. can afford them. Rarely does anyone wonder how we would feel if China, Russia, or Iran built even a single base anywhere near our borders, let alone in the United States.

"Without grasping the dimensions of this globe-girdling Baseworld," Chalmers Johnson insisted, "one can't begin to understand the size and nature of our imperial aspirations or the degree to which a new kind of militarism is undermining our constitutional order." Alarmed and inspired by his work and aware that relatively few have heeded his warnings, I've spent years trying to track and understand what he called our "empire of bases." While logic might seem to suggest that these bases make us safer, I've come to the opposite conclusion: in a range of ways our overseas bases have made us all less secure, harming everyone from U.S. military personnel and their families to locals living near the bases to those of us whose taxes pay for the way our government garrisons the globe.

We are now, as we've been for the last seven decades, a Base Nation that extends around the world, and it's long past time that we faced that fact.

## The Base Nation's Scale

Our 800 bases outside the 50 states and Washington, D.C., come in all sizes and shapes. Some are city-sized "Little Americas" -- places like Ramstein Air Base in Germany, Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, and the little known Navy and Air Force base on Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean. These support a remarkable infrastructure, including schools, hospitals, power plants, housing complexes, and an array of amenities often referred to as "Burger Kings and bowling alleys." Among the smallest U.S. installations globally are "lily pad" bases (also known as "cooperative security locations"), which tend to house drones, surveillance aircraft, or pre-positioned weaponry and supplies. These are increasingly found in parts of Africa and Eastern Europe that had previously lacked much of a U.S. military presence.

Other facilities scattered across the planet include ports and airfields, repair complexes, training areas, nuclear weapons installations, missile testing sites, arsenals, warehouses, barracks, military schools, listening and communications posts, and a growing array of drone bases. Military hospitals and prisons, rehab facilities, CIA paramilitary bases, and intelligence facilities (including former CIA "black site" prisons) must also be considered part of our Base Nation because of their military functions. Even U.S. military resorts and recreation areas in places like the Bavarian Alps and Seoul, South Korea, are bases of a kind. Worldwide, the military runs more than 170 golf courses.

The Pentagon's overseas presence is actually even larger. There are U.S. troops or other military personnel in about 160 foreign countries and territories, including small numbers of marines guarding embassies and larger deployments of trainers and advisors like the roughly 3,500 now working with the Iraqi Army. And don't forget the Navy's 11 aircraft carriers. Each should be considered a kind of floating base, or as the Navy tellingly refers to them, "four and a half acres of sovereign U.S. territory." Finally, above the seas, one finds a growing military presence in space.

The United States isn't, however, the only country to control military bases outside its territory. Great Britain still has about seven bases and France five in former colonies. Russia has around eight in former Soviet republics. For the first time since World War II, Japan's "Self-Defense Forces" have a foreign base in Djibouti in the Horn of Africa, alongside U.S. and French bases there. South Korea, India, Chile, Turkey, and Israel each reportedly have at least one foreign base. There are also reports that China may be seeking its first base overseas. In total, these countries probably have about 30 installations abroad, meaning that the United States has approximately 95% of the world's foreign bases.

## Forward! Forever?

Although the United States has had bases in foreign lands since shortly after it gained its independence, nothing like today's massive global deployment of military force was imaginable until World War II. In 1940, with the flash of a pen, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a "destroyers-for-bases" deal with Great Britain that instantly gave the United States 99-year leases to installations in British colonies worldwide. Base acquisition and construction accelerated rapidly once the country entered the war. By 1945, the U.S. military was building base facilities at a rate of 112 a month. By war's end, the global total topped 2,000 sites. In only five years, the United States had developed history's first truly global network of bases, vastly overshadowing that of the British Empire upon which "the sun never set."

After the war, the military returned about half the installations but maintained what historian George Stambuk termed a “permanent institution” of bases abroad. Their number spiked during the wars in Korea and Vietnam, declining after each of them. By the time the Soviet Union imploded in 1991, there were about 1,600 U.S. bases abroad, with some 300,000 U.S. troops stationed on those in Europe alone.

Although the military vacated about 60% of its foreign garrisons in the 1990s, the overall base infrastructure stayed relatively intact. Despite additional base closures in Europe and to a lesser extent in East Asia over the last decade and despite the absence of a superpower adversary, nearly 250,000 troops are still deployed on installations worldwide. Although there are about half as many bases as there were in 1989, the number of countries with U.S. bases has roughly doubled from 40 to 80. In recent years, President Obama’s “Pacific pivot” has meant billions of dollars in profligate spending in Asia, where the military already had hundreds of bases and tens of thousands of troops. Billions more have been sunk into building an unparalleled permanent base infrastructure in every Persian Gulf country save Iran. In Europe, the Pentagon has been spending billions more erecting expensive new bases at the same time that it has been closing others.

Since the start of the Cold War, the idea that our country should have a large collection of bases and hundreds of thousands of troops permanently stationed overseas has remained a quasi-religious dictum of foreign and national security policy. The nearly 70-year-old idea underlying this deeply held belief is known as the “forward strategy.” Originally, the strategy held that the United States should maintain large concentrations of military forces and bases as close as possible to the Soviet Union to hem in and “contain” its supposed urge to expand.

But the disappearance of another superpower to contain made remarkably little difference to the forward strategy. Chalmers Johnson first grew concerned about our empire of bases when he recognized that the structure of the “American Raj” remained largely unchanged despite the collapse of the supposed enemy.

Two decades after the Soviet Union’s demise, people across the political spectrum still unquestioningly assume that overseas bases and forward-deployed forces are essential to protect the country. George W. Bush’s administration was typical in insisting that bases abroad “maintained the peace” and were “symbols of... U.S. commitments to allies and friends.” The Obama administration has similarly declared that protecting the American people and international security “requires a global security posture.”

Support for the forward strategy has remained the consensus among politicians of both parties, national security experts, military officials, journalists, and almost everyone else in Washington’s power structure. Opposition of any sort to maintaining large numbers of overseas bases and troops has long been pilloried as peacenik idealism or the sort of isolationism that allowed Hitler to conquer Europe.

### The Costs of Garrisoning the World

As Johnson showed us, there are many reasons to question the overseas base status quo. The most obvious one is economic. Garrisons overseas are very expensive. According to the RAND Corporation, even when host countries like Japan and Germany cover some of the costs, U.S. taxpayers still pay an annual average of

\$10,000 to \$40,000 more per year to station a member of the military abroad than in the United States. The expense of transportation, the higher cost of living in some host countries, and the need to provide schools, hospitals, housing, and other support to family members of military personnel mean that the dollars add up quickly -- especially with more than half a million troops, family members, and civilian employees on bases overseas at any time.

By my very conservative calculations, maintaining installations and troops overseas cost at least \$85 billion in 2014 -- more than the discretionary budget of every government agency except the Defense Department itself. If the U.S. presence in Afghanistan and Iraq is included, that bill reaches \$156 billion or more.

While bases may be costly for taxpayers, they are extremely profitable for the country’s privateers of twenty-first-century war like DynCorp International and former Halliburton subsidiary KBR. As Chalmers Johnson noted, “Our installations abroad bring profits to civilian industries,” which win billions in contracts annually to “build and maintain our far-flung outposts.”

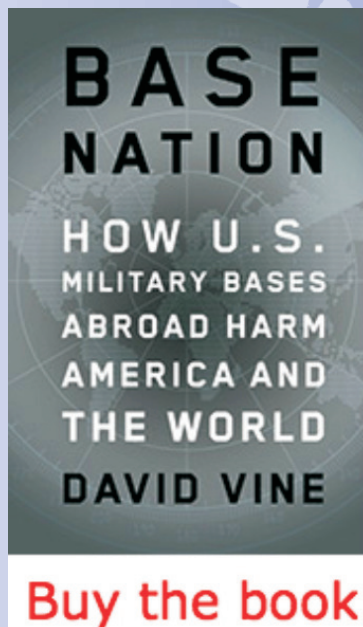
Meanwhile, many of the communities hosting bases overseas never see the economic windfalls that U.S. and local leaders regularly promise. Some areas, especially in poor rural communities, have seen short-term economic booms touched off by base construction. In the long-term, however, most bases rarely create sustainable, healthy local economies. Compared with other forms of economic activity, they represent unproductive uses of land, employ relatively few people for the expanses occupied, and contribute little to local economic growth. Research has consistently shown that when bases finally close, the economic impact is generally limited and in some cases actually positive -- that is, local communities can end up better off when they trade bases for housing, schools, shopping complexes, and other forms of economic development.

Meanwhile for the United States, investing taxpayer dollars in the construction and maintenance of overseas bases means forgoing investments in areas like education, transportation, housing, and healthcare, despite the fact that these industries are more of a boon to overall economic productivity and create more jobs compared to equivalent military spending. Think about what \$85 billion per year would mean in terms of rebuilding the country’s crumbling civilian infrastructure.

### The Human Toll

Beyond the financial costs are the human ones. The families of military personnel are among those who suffer from the spread of overseas bases given the strain of distant deployments, family separations, and frequent moves. Overseas bases also contribute to the shocking rates of sexual assault in the military: an estimated 30% of servicewomen are victimized during their time in the military and a disproportionate number of these crimes happen at bases abroad. Outside the base gates, in places like South Korea, one often finds exploitative prostitution industries geared to U.S. military personnel.

Worldwide, bases have caused widespread environmental damage because of toxic leaks, accidents, and in some cases the deliberate dumping of hazardous materials. GI crime has long angered locals. In Okinawa and elsewhere, U.S. troops have repeatedly committed horrific acts of rape against local women. From Greenland to the tropical island of Diego Garcia, the military has displaced local



peoples from their lands to build its bases.

In contrast to frequently invoked rhetoric about spreading democracy, the military has shown a preference for establishing bases in undemocratic and often despotic states like Qatar and Bahrain. In Iraq, Afghanistan, and Saudi Arabia, U.S. bases have created fertile breeding grounds for radicalism and anti-Americanism. The presence of bases near Muslim holy sites in Saudi Arabia was a major recruiting tool for al-Qaeda and part of Osama bin Laden's professed motivation for the September 11, 2001, attacks.

Although this kind of perpetual turmoil is little noticed at home, bases abroad have all too often generate grievances, protest, and antagonistic relationships. Although few here recognize it, our bases are a major part of the image the United States presents to the world -- and they often show us in an extremely unflattering light.

### Creating a New Cold War, Base by Base

It is also not at all clear that bases enhance national security and global peace in any way. In the absence of a superpower enemy, the argument that bases many thousands of miles from U.S. shores are necessary to defend the United States -- or even its allies -- is a hard argument to make. On the contrary, the global collection of bases has generally enabled the launching of military interventions, drone strikes, and wars of choice that have resulted in repeated disasters, costing millions of lives and untold destruction from Vietnam to Iraq.

By making it easier to wage foreign wars, bases overseas have ensured that military action is an ever more attractive option -- often the only imaginable option -- for U.S. policymakers. As the anthropologist Catherine Lutz has said, when all you have in your foreign policy toolbox is a hammer, everything starts to look like a nail. Ultimately, bases abroad have frequently made war more likely rather than less.

Proponents of the long-outdated forward strategy will reply that overseas bases "deter" enemies and help keep the global peace. As supporters of the status quo, they have been proclaiming such security benefits as self-evident truths for decades. Few have provided anything of substance to support their claims. While there is some evidence that military forces can indeed deter imminent threats, little if any research suggests that overseas bases are an effective form of long-term deterrence. Studies by both the Bush administration and the RAND Corporation -- not exactly left-wing peaceniks -- indicate that advances in transportation technology have largely erased the advantage of stationing troops abroad. In the case of a legitimate defensive war or peacekeeping operation, the military could generally deploy troops just as quickly from domestic bases as from most bases abroad. Rapid sealfit and airlift capabilities coupled with agreements allowing the use of bases in allied nations and, potentially, pre-positioned supplies are a dramatically less expensive and less inflammatory alternative to maintaining permanent bases overseas.

It is also questionable whether such bases actually increase the security of host nations. The presence of U.S. bases can turn a country into an explicit target for foreign powers or militants -- just as U.S. installations have endangered Americans overseas.

Similarly, rather than stabilizing dangerous regions, foreign bases frequently heighten military tensions and discourage diplomatic solutions to conflicts. Placing U.S. bases near the borders of countries like China, Russia, and Iran, for example, increases threats to their security and encourages them to respond by boosting their own military spending and activity. Imagine how U.S. leaders would respond if China were to build even a single small base in Mexico, Canada, or the Caribbean. Notably, the

most dangerous moment during the Cold War -- the 1962 Cuban missile crisis -- revolved around the construction of Soviet nuclear missile facilities in Cuba, roughly 90 miles from the U.S. border.

The creation and maintenance of so many U.S. bases overseas likewise encourages other nations to build their own foreign bases in what could rapidly become an escalating "base race." Bases near the borders of China and Russia, in particular, threaten to fuel new cold wars. U.S. officials may insist that building yet more bases in East Asia is a defensive act meant to ensure peace in the Pacific, but tell that to the Chinese. That country's leaders are undoubtedly not "reassured" by the creation of yet more bases encircling their borders. Contrary to the claim that such installations increase global security, they tend to ratchet up regional tensions, increasing the risk of future military confrontation.

In this way, just as the war on terror has become a global conflict that only seems to spread terror, the creation of new U.S. bases to protect against imagined future Chinese or Russian threats runs the risk of becoming a self-fulfilling prophecy. These bases may ultimately help create the very threat they are supposedly designed to protect against. In other words, far from making the world a safer place, U.S. bases can actually make war more likely and the country less secure.

### Behind the Wire

In his farewell address to the nation upon leaving the White House in 1961, President Dwight D. Eisenhower famously warned the nation about the insidious economic, political, and even spiritual effects of what he dubbed "the military-industrial-congressional complex," the vast interlocking national security state born out of World War II. As Chalmers Johnson's work reminded us in this new century, our 70-year-old collection of bases is evidence of how, despite Ike's warning, the United States has entered a permanent state of war with an economy, a government, and a global system of power enmeshed in preparations for future conflicts. (*We have written to TomDispatch to correct the information as there are approximately 12 US bases in England*).

David Vine, writes regularly for <http://www.tomdispatch.com/contact/> and is associate professor of anthropology at American University in Washington, D.C. His book, *Base Nation: How U.S. Military Bases Abroad Harm America and the World*, has just been published as part of the American Empire Project (Metropolitan Books). He has written for the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Guardian, and Mother Jones, among other publications. For more information and additional articles, visit [www.basenation.us](http://www.basenation.us) and [www.davidvine.net](http://www.davidvine.net)

Also: Nick Turse's *Tomorrow's Battlefield: U.S. Proxy Wars and Secret Ops in Africa*, and Tom Engelhardt's latest book, *Shadow Government: Surveillance, Secret Wars, and a Global Security State in a Single-Superpower World*.

## MEANWHILE IN SOUTH EAST ASIA....

Bruce Gagnon (Coordinator of the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space -- GN [www.space4peace.org](http://www.space4peace.org)) went to Gangjeon village (Jeju Island off the tip of South Korea) where the Koreans are building a naval base for the US navy. There has been a massive protest against the building Navy for more than 10 years. CAAB has supported their struggle for many years. We are inspired by their bravery, persistence and refusal to give up.

I was invited to come to Jeju City today to appear on live radio show for 20 minutes at 6:00 pm. As we were preparing to leave Gangjeong village we looked into the sky as a formation of Navy Blue Angel war planes came

screaming over the village. For the next 15 or so minutes they went back and forth directly over Gangjeong doing various stunts. One of the stunts brought the planes very low in an ear splitting maneuver.

The Navy was sending a message to Gangjeong village. The message was loud and clear. "We own you now. Your village will become a war base. There is nothing you can do. We will project power against China from Jeju Island. You'd better get used to the idea." This is the way the US military empire thinks and the way they treat people who stand in their way.

Just before we went on the air for the radio interview we learned that the Navy was demanding that Gangjeong villagers pay \$20 million (USD) in fines for disruption of construction operations on the base now nearing completion. Some activists believe that the Ministry of Defense in Seoul is actually controlled by the Samsung corporation which is the lead contractor for the Navy base construction operation. Just as in the US, where Lockheed Martin, Boeing, Raytheon and General Dynamics control our government, the Park administration inside the Blue House in Seoul is actually the pawn of corporate interests.

By demanding this outrageous amount of funds from a small fishing and farming community the South Korean puppet government is saying that democracy does not actually exist anymore. In a true democratic nation people who protest oppressive government policies are not fined and driven into poverty - especially an entire village. What was the crime of Gangjeong? They wanted to protect the environment, sacred Gureombi rock, the offshore endangered soft coral forests, the water, the sea life and more. The villagers wanted to protect their way of life - their 500-year old culture.

I've learned that only South Korea and Japan have this kind of punishing policy that obviously smacks of fascism. The government of South Korea is controlled by corporations and Washington. How can they claim in Seoul to be a democracy and then turn around and treat citizens this way? How can the government claim they need a Navy base to defend the people and then attack the people who use non-violent protest to challenge the destruction of their village?

This will have to go to court but the courts are ultimately under the control of the same corrupt corporate state. When the Navy demands that the village must pay \$20 million in fines that means every man, woman and child owes that debt. It means they would be naked without any land after the court would take all they owned. This is nothing more than an illegal and immoral attempt to finish off Gangjeong village. Every living and breathing human being on this planet should be outraged at this crime against the human rights of the people in Gangjeon village.

After the US directed April 3 massacre on Jeju Island soon after WW II was over a new program was put into place called the 'Involvement System'. This meant that anyone who was labeled a communist by the US run puppet government could get no job and would have no future. It also meant that any family member would suffer the same fate. This demand for \$20 million by the Navy is an attempt to reinstate this 'Involvement System' once again. The only way out for a person is to commit suicide.

I am told that the South Korean regime is using this same punitive program to go after striking auto workers on the mainland and other activists around the nation. The decision has been made to kill democracy in South Korea. We are seeing the same method of operation in Japan today as the right-wing government kills their peaceful constitution against popular will. We see the same system

in Okinawa as the people demand US bases there be closed. We see the same system underway inside Ukraine where Washington has installed a puppet government.

For those out there sitting on the fence this is the time to wake up and see the writing on the wall. Democracy is being drowned globally by corporate capitalism. Who will be next?

... AND US BASES ENCIRCLING RUSSIA...



<http://www.globalresearch.ca/encircling-russia-with-us-military-bases-moscow-catches-cia-spy-red-handed/5335283>

## LOCAL NEWS:

USAF Croughton (near Oxford) is due to be expanded and it is said that this important base will become as large and significant as NSA Menwith Hill (near Harrogate North Yorkshire)

Congress Probing Pentagon 'Manipulation' of U.K. Base Plan: Congress is investigating the U.S. military to evaluate charges that it manipulated studies to justify building an intelligence center in the United Kingdom.

Over the weekend I obtained a letter to Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter, sent by Chairman Jason Chaffetz of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to request documents, communications and analyses used in making the decision to build the new intelligence center at the British airfield at Croughton, outside of London. Chaffetz wanted to know why the military did not more rigorously analyze housing the new center at Lajes, a base in the Portuguese Azores Islands. Chaffetz said on Sunday that he has been in touch with Pentagon whistleblowers who have said the cost estimates provided to Congress to justify construction of the new base in the United Kingdom were based on incomplete and distorted information, which may have made the Croughton option seem cheaper than it would be and made Lajes seem more expensive. "The manipulation of the information is highly suspicious," he told me. "We're going to probe this until we get to the truth."

Earlier this year, the Pentagon sent its European Infrastructure Consolidation plan to Congress, proposing to build the new base for about 1,000 intelligence analysts attached to European and Africa Command and to a related NATO intelligence center. The plan caught the attention of Representative Devin Nunes, the Republican chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, and other lawmakers who consider the Lajes airfield strategically important and thought the intelligence center would be a good fit there.

The controversy was first reported last month by the Wall Street Journal, but House Republicans have been fighting to save Lajes since 2013. Back then six members of Congress, led by Nunes, urged then-Secretary Leon Panetta not to reduce the capabilities of Lajes Air Base,

arguing that the base in the Atlantic Ocean was a unique strategic asset to counter rising terrorist threats in North Africa.

Nunes has taken an interest in Lajes since 2003, his freshman year in the House. He served as Congress's liaison to Portugal on the eve of the 2003 invasion of Iraq, and he began visiting the airfield the same year.

He told me this weekend that the Defense Department initially had not considered Lajes as an alternative in the base studies for consolidating that intelligence work. "You have the nicest base that you have in all of the Department of Defense, with cheaper annual costs on the cost of living, the housing allowance, not to mention the size and scope of the base," he told me. "It was built to house 2,000 airmen. With Croughton you would have to build or rent this housing out."

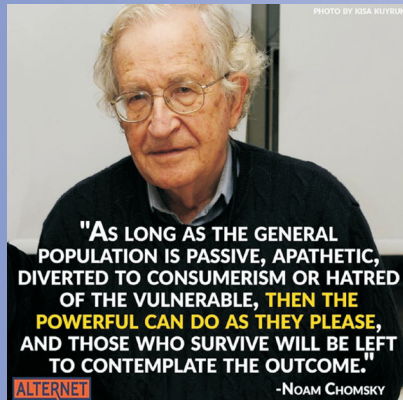
More recently, the Pentagon has shared its own estimates with Congress and the media that say putting the intelligence base at Lajes would cost \$1 billion more over time than the Croughton proposal would.

Nunes said that that estimate is "laughable," and that his proposal to put the intelligence center at Lajes would end up saving hundreds of millions of dollars, by avoiding new construction at Croughton and by avoiding the cost of winding down the airfield at Lajes.

The Pentagon nonetheless says Lajes Air Base is not a viable option. "The bottom line here is that this is a decision about operational needs and responsible use of taxpayer dollars," Pentagon spokesman Mark Wright told me. "Our previous personnel numbers at Lajes exceeded our operational requirements. With the increase in range of modern aircraft, the frequency and volume of flights requiring the capabilities provided by Lajes Field have changed. Lajes

has supported only an average of two U.S. military aircraft arrivals each day in the last couple of years."

Other senior military officers have made this case directly to Congress in recent weeks. In May, the two generals in charge of European and Africa Command,



David Rodriguez and Philip Breedlove, wrote a classified letter to Nunes and the chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, Mac Thornberry, urging them to support the proposed plan to build the intelligence center at Croughton. (Eli Lake 20 July 2015). We have had no more news of this – Ed).

## AND...WHAT HAPPENED AT THE INDEPENDENCE FROM AMERICA DEMONSTRATION ON 4TH JULY 2015 AT NSA/NRO MENWITH HILL NEAR HARROGATE?

The annual Independence from America demonstration at Menwith Hill in 2015 was remarkable in several respects. Sunshine, a play area for children, a small number of good humoured police and the presence of other peace



groups all helped. Good vegetarian food provided by the 1 – 12 Café Collective was enjoyed and the CAAB stall did good business selling the last of the special "Over the Hill" Menwith mugs along with several copies of Margaret Nunnerley's book "Surveillance, Secrecy and Sovereignty".

But it was more than that. Two Members of Parliament (Fabian Hamilton and Richard Burgon) spoke clearly and drew our attention to the bigger political picture in which the mass collection of surveillance data plays a significant and de-stabilising part. Two ex-military service men provided an insight into the damage being done to young men and women who join the armed services in the expectation of a better life and become severely traumatized by what they experience.

Two powerful messages were shared by Lindis Percy as she read communications from John Pilger and Noam Chomsky.

### **Messages from Noam Chomsky and John Pilger to Independence FROM America demonstration**

I would like to express my strongest support for the demonstrations on 4 July at Menwith Hill. Anyone who is familiar with recent history should be aware of the dangers to the world posed by the vast and unique system of US military bases worldwide. The world deserves independence from this scourge, and your contribution to ending it is most welcome.

NOAM CHOMSKY

....AND FROM JOHN PILGER

Menwith Hill exemplifies all that is dangerous and Orwellian and wrong about the rapacious great power that occupies so much of the British Isles. Menwith Hill is a trigger to nuclear war. It is where the United States spies on the rest of humanity as part of its historic campaign of intimidation and violence against countries and individuals: from the current encirclement of Russia to the drone murders in North Asia and the Middle East.

The infamous NSA operates from Menwith Hill - which, as Edward Snowden revealed, spies illegally on American citizens, and not some of them, but all of them. The Echelon spy-on-everything system operates from Menwith Hill, like Big Brother in the sky. That a sovereign people like the British should allow this on their soil is an enduring humiliation.

But our humiliation is nothing compared with the American wars that beckon -- against the Russians, the Chinese, Iran and anyone else who challenges Big Brother. And during a nuclear war Menwith Hill will be a frontline, and a target. For that reason alone, it must be closed -- not sometime in the uncertain future, but now."

JOHN PILGER

We heard from Sukant Chandan who drew parallels from history of how those with the power to do so have oppressed and exploited other people. Music flowed from



## STOP PRESS:

Since writing this report Martin Schweiger has suffered a serious heart incident and on 24 September he underwent emergency surgery while on holiday in France with his wife Liz. The latest news (27 September) from Jason their son, is when he visited his father in Amien hospital. Martin was in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). The surgery had gone well and the he needed time to recover. Martin was likely to remain in the ICU for another few days. He will need at least another week before he can come back to the UK. "But he said that Martin was on the mend".

The many friends of Martins' are thinking about him, Liz and their family and hope and pray that he is restored to good health soon. Martin, who is the CAAB



choirs, individual singers and artists. Gary Kaye drew on more than two decades of playing and singing songs that reflected his understanding of social and political issues. The East Lanes Clarion Community Choir performed some great music drawing on the peace heritage, telling us why Yorkshire based peace campaigns should welcome like minded friends from across the Pennines.

Also from across the Pennines came Tayo Aluko, a gifted baritone, whose moving performance draws on the inspiration given to him by Paul Robeson.

Tayo Aluko started off by reading parts of the famous speech made in 1852 by Frederick Douglass – **What to the American Slave is Your Fourth of July?** and went on to recite some poetry and sing some anti-war songs. You can read Tayo Aluko's latest newsletter here: <http://madmimi.com/p/3e6776>

The formal event was taken to a lively finale by the brass instruments of Les Vegas and the International boys of Rhythm with their irrepressible vocalist Sara Allkins. It was such a privilege to hear the speakers, performers and musicians who contributed so much to the experience of participating in the event and in restating why campaigning for peace is so important.

But it was more than all that. There was a sense of growing unity amongst those present that however difficult peace campaigning may be it is essential and it is worthwhile. Maybe the take away message was that "one day we shall overcome".

**Thank you to everyone who contributed to the day and helped.**

Plan now to join the Independence from America Demonstration at Menwith Hill on Sunday 4th July 2016. Martin Schweiger - CAAB Facilitator

Facilitator, activist, Quaker and practising doctor has been committed to CAAB for many years and has worked tirelessly for CAAB. He has come to the weekly Tuesday evening demonstration at NSA/NRO Menwith Hill for years – often straight from his medical work.

## PROTESTER KNOCKED DOWN BY AMERICAN DRIVER DURING TUESDAY PM WEEKLY DEMONSTRATION:

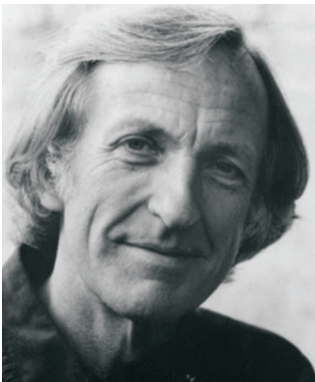
On Tuesday 11 August 2015 during the regular weekly evening protest at NSA/NRO Menwith Hill, Barbara Penny from Harrogate was deliberately knocked down by a car coming out of the base, sustaining a chipped bone in her ankle and a large bump on the back of her head. Lindis Percy was also present with Barbara and was very fortunate to escape serious injury or worse.

Barbara was taken by ambulance to Harrogate and District General hospital where she was treated before being discharged home later that night. She was re-admitted to hospital because of various complications and was finally discharged after 2 weeks. The driver of the car was not arrested but was breathalysed at the scene by North Yorkshire police. He did not give a statement and was allowed to go on holiday. He has since given a statement. From the start CAAB was very concerned that the investigations were being undertaken by the Ministry of Defence police (they are paid for and under the operational control of the US authorities - among other reasons of concern). A civil legal claim was immediately started for

her injuries sustained, compensation and loss of earnings. Our concerns were realised when Barbara's personal injury solicitor was told by the Ministry of Defence police that he must contact the American Head of Security for the name and details of the driver. He was an American civilian.

We made representations to Mike Walker (Superintendent North Yorkshire police who is ultimately responsible for the policing of the Tuesday pm demonstration) and asked him to oversee the investigation – which he did. A file has been sent to the CPS. CAAB will be meeting Mike Walker (Superintendent NYP) to discuss what happened and to see if there are other measures needed during the demonstration. There have been no significant incidents as to the way the demonstration is conducted (by the protesters or police) for 18 months.

Because of the General Election we were unable to submit any Parliamentary Questions. Normal service has been resumed and Fabian Hamilton who was re-elected as Member of Parliament for Leeds North East has kindly agreed to continue asking PQs on behalf of CAAB.



Official truths are often powerful illusions.

— John Pilger —

AZ QUOTES

**MONEY MATTERS:** There are several ways of supporting CAAB financially (CAAB website) It is now possible to donate to CAAB by using the Paypal account which has been set up to make it much easier to donate money for the work of CAAB.

CAAB Account No: 50095311 Sort Code: 089229 The Cooperative Bank , 1 Balloon Street, Manchester M60 4EP

**Donate by Post:** Please send a cheque, payable to "CAAB", to

CAAB Honorary Treasurer, Judith Rushby, 31 Blossomgate, Ripon, HG4 2AJ

**Donate Using BACS:** BACS payments are also welcome to our account with the Co-operative Bank:

**Sort Code:**

089229.

**Account Number:**

5009531100

## WHO'S WHO AT CAAB?

**Hon Treasurer:** Judith Rushy, 31 Blossomgate Ripon, HG4 2AJ. (Bank signatories Judith Rusby and Martin Schweiger)

**Joint Coordinators:** Lindis Percy and Brigid-Mary Oates

**Webmaster:** Ray Middleton

**Mailing list organiser:** Melanie Ndzinga

**Fundraiser:** Christine Dean

**Graphic Designer:** Paul Wood

**Designer of CAAB Merchandise:** Sarah McEvoy

**CAAB Facilitator:** Martin Schweiger

**Monitoring Planning Applications:** Steve Hill

**Photographer:** Steve Schofield ([sdschofield.wordpress.com](http://sdschofield.wordpress.com))

**Twitter Page Manager:** Ian Bell

**Contact:** Email: [mail@caab.corner.org.uk](mailto:mail@caab.corner.org.uk)

CAAB is on Facebook and Twitter: @C\_A\_A\_B



This newsletter is printed on 100% recycled paper by: Enid Taylor Ltd, The Printing House, 8 Cold Bath Road, Harrogate, HG2 0NA. Tel: 01423 567764 · Fax: 01423 567765 E-mail: [info@enidtaylor.co.uk](mailto:info@enidtaylor.co.uk)