I wish them well in their campaign. They regularly campaign on Tuesdays outside Menwith Hill to draw attention to the unaccountability of this American base on British soil ...

Please come to the weekly demonstration on Tuesday evening (6 – 7.30 pm). We are now into the fifteenth year (and it’s time they went!). Join this important campaign.

Also CAAB organizes each year:

- 4 July - the annual Independence FROM America demonstration outside the main entrance to Menwith Hill.
- First week in October – KEEP SPACE FOR PEACE – a call for an international week of protest by the Global Network Against Weapons and Power in Space – GN www.space4peace.org

WHO SAID WHAT ABOUT CAAB – (adjournment debate on the US Missile Defence system in the House of Lords by Sue Miller [Baroness Miller of Chilthorne] - 10 Jan 2008: Column 969) … Before I close, I also want to pay tribute to the Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases. It operates in Yorkshire near Menwith Hill. It has been the eyes and ears of the public for what is happening there; it first revealed in 1997 that Menwith Hill was to be designated as the European ground relay station. It has continued to raise this issue ever since. Its members have suffered an awful lot of personal aggravation, and I ask the Minister to look into some of the history of this. They have been arrested but not charged, and charged but the charges have been dropped; they would have welcomed those charges being pursued so that they could have had their day in court. In one case, violence was used against a member, and no satisfactory explanation has ever been given for that. However, it has been incredibly important that people on the ground have been there to see what is happening with planning permissions and some of the issues raised by the noble Lord, Lord Judd.

Dear friends

We thought it might be helpful to produce this Special Edition by CAAB with brief and basic information about Menwith Hill specifically, US bases generally and the work of CAAB. The information we give (which is just a taste!) is all carefully researched and confirmed. Information is gathered by CAAB from a number of sources: regular Parliamentary Questions, asking questions, monitoring Planning offices, articles, research, ‘moles’, academics, media, friends of CAAB etc. etc. If anyone would like the references please let us know. We have deliberately adopted the American spelling of some words.

For more detailed information and analysis we recommend Lifting the Lid on Menwith Hill – the Strategic Roles and Economic Impact of the US Spy Base in Yorkshire by Dr Steve Schofield (March 2012).

SHORT BRIEFING ON THE AMERICAN BASE AT NSA/NRO MENWITH HILL AND INFORMATION ON US BASES

We are a small group of people with many supporters. We are grounded in non-violent ways of working. We rely entirely on voluntary contributions. We are grounded in non-violent ways of working. We are grounded in non-violent ways of working. We are grounded in non-violent ways of working. We aim to bring public scrutiny and awareness as to the presence, roles and functions of the US Visiting Forces here and worldwide. We work in many different ways. What we have achieved and how we work can be found on either the CAAB leaflet and/or the website.
I am withholding the number of GCHQ employees in accordance with Government practice not to reveal numbers of personnel working in intelligence at specific locations. I am also withholding the numbers for both the Ministry of Defence Police, and the Ministry of Defence Guard Agency for the purpose of the proper enforcement of law, and in the interests of national defence. [9 Mar 2009: Column 177W]

The US Elementary and High School closed at the end of the Summer term 2015. The chapel has closed, 66 houses have been demolished and the original Police post and Erskine House (admin) will be demolished. However permission was given by Harrogate Borough Council last year for another radome to be constructed.

### WHAT DOES MENWITH HILL DO?

Menwith Hill is the largest intelligence-gathering, interception and surveillance base outside the US. It has many roles which are generally for US interests only (diplomatic, military and economic) – being the hub of the ECHELON system. However, in May 2013 an unknown and very important whistle blower called Edward Snowden disclosed thousands of top-secret documents which revealed the extent of the intelligence gathering and surveillance on us all by the NSA/CIA (with the help of GCHQ). Menwith Hill is mentioned several times in the documents.

The base is unaccountable, secretive and out of control of the UK government. After Edward Snowden revealed thousands of documents there have been many articles and press about the lack of scrutiny by Parliament of US bases in general and in particular the NSA especially at NSA/NRO Menwith Hill. Ostensibly the Intelligence Security Committee (ISC) kept an eye on Menwith Hill. However the ISC were not told everything and they had restricted access to the Operations Area. The Home Affairs Select Committee said of the oversight by the ISC in their report on the security services in the UK: “We believe that the current oversight is not fit for purpose for several reasons”. The US authorities decide how much to reveal. MPs can visit but this is usually on a social basis. They were not party to the inner workings of Menwith Hill. The base is run by the US authorities.

Although all US bases are referred to as ‘RAF’ this is far from the truth. US bases are occupied and controlled by the US authorities.

The US Commander has been a military person (only once a civilian). Natalie Lang has arrived. She is not a military person but a civilian. She is known as the Chief of Station.

Menwith Hill became an ‘RAF’ base in 1995 – ostensibly in line with other ‘RAF’ bases and to coincide with the repealed Military Land byelaws. CAAB was involved in successfully overturning the first set of byelaws. The second set of MLBs are also invalid however some notices continue to be displayed.

Geoff Dickson, who arrived last year, is the RAF Commander and RAF Liaison Officer (RAFLO) and a reservist who commands the RAF/MOD Police. The person in full control of Menwith Hill is the USAF Base Commander.

There are no leases on US bases. However there was a ‘security of tenure agreement’ at Menwith Hill – renewed every 21 years. CAAB has some interesting historical secret letters and documents which give the history of the renewal each year (sometimes given by a secretary). These were disclosed in a High Court case involving CAAB in 1993.

### THE ROLE AND PRESENCE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE POLICE (MDP)

The MDP is a British police force working on UK bases and some US bases. The force is very different to the Home Office police force. One difference being that unlike the Home Officer police force, the MDP are not accountable to an elected body. On US bases security is overseen by the US personnel. The MDP are paid for and under the operational control of the US authorities when working on US bases. However permission was given by Harrogate Borough Council last year for another radome to be constructed.

The chapel has closed, 66 houses have been demolished and the original Police post and Erskine House (admin) will be demolished. However permission was given by Harrogate Borough Council last year for another radome to be constructed.

The Acronym Institute for Disarmament Research and Advocacy working on disarmament, arms control: www.acronym.org.uk

Global Security: Reliable news and security information – directed by John Pike: www.globalsecurity.org

Secret Bases: www.secret-bases.co.uk/secret4.htm (contains comprehensive information on US bases and UK bases – not always referenced)

Global Network Against Weapons Power in Space: Comprehensive website containing, among other things, information about space technology/ Missile Defence: www.space4peace.org

Union of Concerned Scientists: Based in the US – leading science-based non-profit organisation working for a healthy environment and a safer world: www.ucsusa.org

YCND: Useful information on a range of issues to do with national disarmament/ power, etc: www.ycnd.org.uk

Drone Wars UK: Comprehensive information and analysis by Chris Cole (founder) and others on UK/US Drones: www.dronewarsuk.wordpress.com