

SCE Drawdown Newsletter

November 2011

A business case has been made to HQ Land Forces in Andover in relation to the SCE VERS scheme. Once agreement has been reached consultation with the trades unions will take place and it is anticipated that full details of the scheme will be published to allow applications to be made in January 2012

Introduction

The drawdown of British Forces Germany is being monitored closely by a small team at HQ SCE who regularly attend meetings and briefings with members of the military and civilian community charged with its overall management. This team is reinforced by Consortia School Business Managers (CSBMs) who each play a leading garrison role in what is proving to be a very complex project.

Substantial work has already been carried out to model various drawdown scenarios together with their possible effects on pupil numbers, staffing and school closures. A draft SCE Drawdown Guide – an aide memoir for school senior leadership teams – has been produced based on lessons learned during the **Osnabrück** closures and more recently the closures of **Tower School** in **Dülmen** and **St George's School** in JHQ. This guide is a living document and it will regularly be reviewed, up-dated and issued to those schools affected by drawdown and as closures are announced.

Although we are very unlikely to have any information regarding the closure of **Hohne**, **Paderborn** and **Gütersloh** until the results of the Future Army 2020 study are known in the summer of 2012, there have been several recent announcements that will result in the closure of a number of our schools in the next few years.

What do we know so far?

The Implementation Order (IO) for the disbandment of 7 Signal Regiment by 31 July 2012 was released on 27 September 2011. This announcement has a significant effect on the **Wildenrath** community and as a result the SCE Executive Board took the decision at their October meeting to close **Andrew Humphrey School** at the end of the current academic year. The remaining children will transfer to **Brüggen School** from September 2012 onwards.

8 Regiment RLC, based at **Münster**, will disband by July 2012 and 1 Medical Regiment, also based at **Münster**, will transfer to **Bergen-Hohne** in summer 2012. The recent announcement by the Minister for the Armed Forces (MIN AF) confirmed that 1 Yorks will move to **Cyprus** in summer 2013 and will not be replaced. As a consequence, the British military association with **Münster** will come to an end in the early part of 2014. The result of this latest announcement is that the SCE Executive Board have agreed that **Oxford School** will close at the end of the next academic year - July 2013. This will also have an impact on pupil and boarding numbers at **King's school**, which may in turn result in changes to provision for some families who continue to be based in **Elmot** and at **Brunsum**.



*This newsletter will be
the first of many
updates*

The latest Ministerial announcement also confirmed that 2 RRF will move from **Celle** to **Cyprus** in July 2012 and the unit due to replace it will now move from **Cyprus** to the UK. This means that **Trenchard Barracks** in **Celle** will be handed back to the Federal German authorities by early 2013. A number of married quarters (SFA) will be retained in **Celle** for personnel working in **Bergen-Hohne**, but until pupil numbers have been quantified no decision will be made on the future of Mountbatten School.

It is now known that from summer 2013 **Catterick Barracks** in **Bielefeld** will become the base for **HQ British Forces Germany** (HQ BFG) assuming the responsibilities of HQ UKSC and the Germany Support Group (GSG). There will be a number of Unit moves out of the **Gütersloh/Bielefeld** area and this is intended to free up space to accommodate HQ BFG staff moving from JHQ. These moves will almost certainly have an effect on pupil numbers in all of our schools in **Gütersloh** Garrison.

The school closures announced under Programme BORONA are not affected by any recent statements. **Ark** and **Windsor** schools at JHQ will close at the end of the next academic year in July 2013; **Brüggen** School will close in July 2015 and the **Rheindahlen Military Complex** (JHQ) will be handed back to the Federal German authorities by March 2014.

Further plans to meet the Prime Minister's stated aim of full rebasing from Germany by 2020 are continuing to be developed as part of the Defence Basing Programme.

This newsletter will be the first of many updates between now and 2020, as further closure announcements are made. We hope that you find it useful and informative.

Rest assured that all SCE staff will be informed of developments that are likely to result in changes to the school "footprint" or school closures as soon as they are agreed.

Should you have any queries in respect of the drawdown of schools, please contact a member of the SCE Drawdown Team (Steve Wallace or Tom Nielsen-Marsh) in the first instance.



steven.wallace211@mod.uk

tom.nielsen-marsh@scschools.com

Other changes to the military footprint ...

43 Close Support Squadron RLC will move from Gütersloh, Germany, to Abingdon, Oxfordshire to collocate with its parent Regiment (12 Logistic Support Regiment) by the end of January 2012.

7 Regiment Royal Logistic Corps (RLC) will move from Bielefeld in Germany to RAF Cottesmore by summer 2013.

2nd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment (2 R ANGLIAN) to move from Cyprus to RAF Cottesmore in Rutland in July 2012.

2nd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment (2 YORKS) to move from Cyprus to Elizabeth Barracks, Pirbright in July 2013.

39 Engineer Regiment (Air Support) will move from Waterbeach near Cambridge to Kinloss in the summer of 2012,

HQ 12 (Air Support) Engineer Group will move from Waterbeach to RAF Wittering in the summer of 2013.