

Fact Sheet 11: Changing the Defence Estate

The impact of the SDSR on our bases

The changes we are making will have a significant impact on our requirement for bases. We will rationalise the estate to meet the needs of the new force structure:

- **Royal Navy:** changes to the surface fleet will reduce the demands on the estate. There will be a continuing requirement to sustain Devonport and Portsmouth, although we will rationalise our holdings;
- **Army:** rationalisation of the command structures and the reductions in, for example, tanks and heavy artillery, may eliminate the requirement for some locations and will reduce the infrastructure required at others;
- **RAF:** not bringing into service the Nimrod MRA4, withdrawal of the Harrier and the reduction in size of the Tornado fleet will mean that Kinloss and two other bases will no longer be required as RAF operating bases.



The newly reopened Woolwich Barracks in London

Optimising our defence footprint

We have not made decisions on the future use of any bases. Our current estate is widely dispersed in a manner which owes more to history than to its efficient use. We will therefore use the opportunity of the force structure changes to develop a more coherent and cost-effective solution. This will include, for example, looking at the re-use of former RAF bases by the Army.



The Defence Training Estate (DTE) provides a safe and sustainable training estate and facilities to meet the requirements of Defence

Germany

In particular, we aim to accelerate the re-basing of British forces from Germany, ending the legacy UK Armed Forces presence.

There are currently 20,000 personnel in Germany, many accompanied by families, and the basing arrangements impose significant disruption to personnel, opportunity costs in terms of wider Army coherence, and financial costs on the Department (for example, through health, education and allowances).

We aim to return half our personnel in Germany to the UK by 2015 and the remainder by 2020. It is likely that some of the estate vacated as a result of the changes announced in the Strategic Defence and Security Review will be used for these returning units or retained for other purposes.



New Single Living Accommodation such as this SLAM development at Pirbright is improving the quality of life for military personnel

Timing

Our final decisions on the Defence Estate that we will need in 2020 will be taken on the basis of detailed and wide-ranging assessment.

We plan to be as open as we can be, to make decisions as quickly as possible to minimise uncertainty, and to be sensitive to economic, social and family pressures.