

# SCE Drawdown Newsletter

July 2012

## Future Army 2020 Study

### Future Army 2020 Study

In July 2011 the Chief of the General Staff (CGS) – General Sir David Richards - established a 'compartmentalised' Army 2020 design team to conduct an analysis of the future Army from first principles.

#### So where are we?

Lt General Nick Carter, a former British military commander in Afghanistan, was tasked with the job of predicting the likely size and make up of the British Army in the next decade. The Army 2020 Study was established to determine the future design of the Army to face an unpredictable future. The programme will result in the largest structural change to the Army since the end of National Service and, as was announced on 5 July by the Secretary of State for Defence, an integrated regular and reserve force of 112,000 personnel (of which 82,000 will be Regular and 30,000 will be trained Reserves) is to be established.

#### So what do we know for sure?

The key elements of the new structure are the Reaction and Adaptable Forces. The Reaction Forces will comprise three Armoured Infantry Brigades and 16 Air Assault Brigade, trained and equipped to undertake the full spectrum of intervention tasks. The Adaptable Forces consist of a pool of Regular and Reserve forces capable of undertaking a variety of roles including: overseas engagement and capacity building; follow-on forces for future medium scale enduring stabilization operations; our standing commitments and Homeland resilience.

The reduction in the size of the Regular Army announced in the Strategic Defence and Security Review has meant that adjustments have had to be made to the Army's structure to ensure that it maintains the right balance of capabilities to allow it to fulfill its role within a Joint and multinational environment in the future.

#### So the key messages are

- 17 major units will be closed – this information is widely available on the internet and has been published in Sixth Sense.
- Implementation of the Army 2020 outcomes/new structures will be gradual over a 5 year period
- No units will be removed (closed) or amalgamated before August 2013
- Details of basing will not be available until end of 2012 beginning of 2013

#### So what does this mean for schools in Germany?

The information above is strategic and, from an SCE perspective, there are still no firm dates for school drawdown in Germany. The clear message is that the how and when will not be known for some time as the Army balances the intentions of the SDSR (complete withdrawal from Germany by 2020); Army 2020 changes listed above; the ongoing high operational tempo in Afghanistan; and MOD budget considerations. What follows is thus subject to change as Army HQ and the wider MOD work through the how and when of SDSR and re-basing.

As a principle and where possible, the Army has accepted that families with children in secondary education should be given 2 years notice of any changes to allow informed education decisions to be taken, and a minimum 2 years notice period has been allowed for in Army 2020 announcements. Looking in turn at each of the Army 2020 measures that affect BFG-based units and the impact on SCE schools the following information is known. The 2 RRF move from Celle (Trenchard Bks) - previously announced as a Preliminary Move - reflects the closure of Celle Station and Mountbatten School in Celle, which will close on 13 July 2012. An additional classroom will be provided at **Slim School** to allow for the influx of pupils following the move of 1 Med Regt from Munster and the relocation of a few families from Celle Station.

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*During the coming months rumours will inevitably fuel uncertainty, however the SCE Executive Board will ensure, through the Drawdown team and the Head of Communications that everyone will be kept informed of all drawdown decisions. If you have any concerns or require clarification please contact Steve Wallace, Tom Nielsen-Marsh or Lisa Horsford [info@scschools.com](mailto:info@scschools.com)*

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9th/12<sup>th</sup> Royal Lancers in Hohne (Haig Bks) will amalgamate with The Queen's Royal Lancers (not before Oct 14), and it is expected that the amalgamated unit will be based in the UK. This will reduce the number of families in Hohne, but on current estimates this will not substantially affect **Montgomery, Slim and Gloucester schools**.

3 MERCIAN in Fallingbostal (Lumsden Bks) will disband (not before Oct 2014), and on current projections there will be a reduction in pupil numbers that will affect both **Heide** and **Shackleton** schools in Fallingbostal and **Gloucester School** in Hohne.

28 Engineer Regiment in Hameln is scheduled to disband (not before Oct 2015), and Hameln Station will consequently close in the same timeframe. This closure will affect both **Weser** and **Prince Rupert Schools** which will close in the same timeframe at which time alternative arrangements will be made for non-Hameln pupils from Detmold and Herford.

Separate to the measures listed above but occurring in parallel, Programme BORONA and SDSR rebasing to meet the Prime Minister's aim of complete withdrawal from Germany by 2020 will continue.

The Rheindahlen Military Complex (RMC) will close by Mar 2014. Both **Ark** and **Windsor** schools will close at the end of the summer term in 2013 and HQ BFG, HQ SCE and other RMC-based Units will move to Bielefeld. Primary schooling for personnel relocating to the Gütersloh / Bielefeld area will continue to be provided in Bielefeld, Herford, or Gütersloh depending on the Married Quarters area in which they live; Secondary schooling will continue to be provided at King's School Gütersloh for the foreseeable future. Separate arrangements have been made for current Windsor School termly boarders and secondary aged pupils remaining in Elmpt to 2015, and parents of students affected have been informed of the choices of education available

The Wildenrath married quarters estate will be handed back to the Federal Authorities by the end of September 2012, **Andrew Humphrey School** closes on the last day of the Summer Term - 20 July 2012. All assets that SCE wishes to retain will be removed during the week commencing 23 July 12 before handing the school to the Garrison on 27 Jul 2012 to complete the clearance and handover to the Federal Authorities.

Pupils scheduled to move to **Brüggen School** in September 2012 will spend the last week of the Summer Term there. Arrangements for the final week of term for the remaining children are in hand and the Headteacher will continue to keep all staff, parents and pupils fully informed.

In the summer of 2013, 1 YORKS, currently based in Münster, will move to Cyprus. Following the decision to close Münster Station in early 2014, SCE's Executive Board has confirmed that **Oxford School** will close in summer 2013. York Barracks will close in the autumn of 2012, and the FS1 settings and the FS2 annex based in York Barracks will merge into one location in Oxford Barracks.

Programme BORONA will also close Javelin Bks Elmpt as 16 Signal Regiment is rebased to the UK in 2015. In the same timeframe 1 MI Bn will also rebase from Elmpt. This will allow the closure of Javelin Bks and **Brüggen School** in the summer of 2015.

#### **SDSR & Rebasing**

Following the Army 2020 announcement, wider SDSR rebasing work continues to make use of UK estate opportunities. Courses of Action are being developed and a decision on how the Army would like to be based in UK will be made around the end of 2012; it will then be for the Defence Infrastructure Organization to determine how, and more importantly for Germany, when the desired UK basing can be achieved. Only when this exercise has been completed will we be able to determine how drawdown from Germany will proceed, and from that how SCE will continue to provide a 1<sup>st</sup> class education for our young people.

#### **SCE VERS Scheme**

SCE's own early release scheme has been invaluable in the management of school closures, and will remain so into the future. SCE VERS offers have been made to all applicants from schools closing in 2012 and 2013. A handful of secondary "knock on" offers have or will be made in order to place teachers from Windsor School who wish to remain with SCE after the closure of their school. Due to the level of turnover in the primary sector, the SCE VERS panel decided not to make any primary knock on offers in 2012 or 2013.

A total of 54 offers have been made thus far: 21 for departures in 2012 and 33 for departures in 2013. Applications from HQ SCE staff (other than Defence Admin Grades, who are eligible for MOD VERS instead) will be considered in Sep 12.

There will be further opportunities to apply for SCE VERS when other school closures are confirmed. However, there are as yet no known closure dates beyond 31 Aug 13.