

Liberty

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Welcome to Team Liberty



A 492nd Fighter Squadron F-15E Strike Eagle soars over Wales on a training mission.

By Brig. Gen. John T. Brennan
48th Fighter Wing commander

Welcome to RAF Lakenheath, England, home of the 48th Fighter Wing. As a member of the Liberty Wing, you will be continuing the tradition of excellence that has made the 48th Fighter Wing the premier fighter wing in the United States Air Forces in Europe. Team Liberty is a dedicated and professional organization that uses leading edge technology to perform a leading edge mission.



Brennan

Whether this is your first assignment or your fifth, being away from home can be difficult – even if your family is with you. The mission here is very demanding. That combined with coping with unfamiliar surroundings can be stressful. To help, the Liberty Wing has many agencies ready to support you and your family, many of them are outlined in this guide.

Away from work, I encourage you to get the most out of your tour in the United Kingdom. It is easy to travel around England, and continental Europe is just a short airplane, boat or train ride away. Get out and enjoy the opportunity you have to live in a foreign country.

We hope you find this guide helpful as you transition to your new home. I encourage you to make the most of the opportunities that present themselves, and look forward to you having the best tour of your career. Welcome to Team Liberty. We are proud to have you join our family!

By Squadron Leader Mike Turner
Royal Air Force commander

Welcome to the United Kingdom and Royal Air Force Lakenheath. The bases used by the United States Air Forces in the United Kingdom have a host-nation commander as well as a U.S. wing commander.



Turner

The reasons for having a Royal Air Force commander are primarily historical, but in real terms, he acts as the landlord for the real estate. He is also your wing commander's advisor on Ministry of Defence matters as well as the 48th Fighter Wing's point of contact with the Ministry of Defence and the various authorities within the United Kingdom. Additionally, he is the wing's focal point with the general public on all matters, but particularly on noise and low-flying aircraft complaints. Last, but by no means least, he is the head of establishment for the 650 United Kingdom civilians that work so closely with you on the base.

The RAF commander's task is to ensure that everything goes smoothly in these areas so that you can all fully focus upon the successful completion of the vital mission that you have been given.

Coping with unfamiliarity adds to the stress of a demanding job. The Lakenheath team expects a lot of us all, but in return provides a great support organization. Make use of it.

The 48th Fighter Wing is a hard-working, dedicated and professional organization. Away from work you are strongly encouraged to get the most out of your tour in the United Kingdom. Make the most of the opportunities that present themselves, and go home having completed the best tour of your career. Good luck to you all.

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Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament are a few of the sites you can see during your tour to RAF Lakenheath.

Checklist for a smoother transition

❑ **Obtain installation information.** For the most up-to-date information on RAF Lakenheath, you will want to visit www.afcrossroads.com and www.dmdc.osd.mil/sites/. You can also visit your local family support center and check out RAF Lakenheath's informational video. This video is dated but will give you an idea of what it looks like here.

❑ **Explore Relocation Services.** While you are at your local FSC, you should also inquire into what relocation services they offer. There is usually a "Smooth Move" type of class and perhaps a class for children as well.

❑ **Reservations must be made for lodging.** You can do this by e-mail to liberty.lodge@lakenheath.af.mil or by contacting the lodging office at RAF Lakenheath at 7-6700 or 226-6700. Alternatively, your sponsor can make a reservation on your behalf. If you're arriving at RAF Mildenhall, you'll arrive at approximately 10:45 a.m. You may wish to reserve a room for the night before so when you arrive you can go straight to a room; otherwise, check-in time is 3 p.m.

❑ **Contact your sponsor as soon as possible.** If a sponsor hasn't been appointed to you by 90 days before your departure, you can e-mail the Lakenheath INTRO Program Manager directly at FSC2@lakenheath.af.mil.

❑ **Keep in contact with your sponsor.** Remember that sponsorship is a two-way street. You will need to provide a copy of your PCS orders to your sponsor to get a post office box. Also, let your sponsor know your port-call information. If you have a spouse or child, share their concerns with the sponsor as well.

❑ **Request a Lakenheath pen pal for your school-age child.** In a letter, simply have the child, parent or sponsor provide the following information: child's name, age, interests, questions, address and e-mail address. Mail request to Kids In Touch With Kids, 48 MSS/DPF, Unit 5200, Box 105, APO AE 09464, or e-mail FSC2@lakenheath.af.mil.

❑ **Plan care for your children.** Child care is limited here. Keep in mind that you will have inprocessing appointments, car shopping and house hunting to do. If you expect that childcare is necessary for you to settle in, it is best to make a plan and be proactive about securing care as soon as possible (see Page 19 for options).

❑ **Plan for care of your pets.** There is a mandatory six-month quarantine for all cats and dogs coming in from the continental United States (35 days for birds). This process is quite involved and expensive. Whether to ship or rehome your pet is often a tough decision for families to make so you need to research this one right away (see Page 8 for details).

❑ **Plan financially for relocating.** Make a list of expected expenditures, set goals and save now. Perhaps meet with the personal finance manager at your local Family Support Center.

❑ **Prepare for culture shock.** Even though this is an English speaking country, it is quite different here. We are in a very rural

area, and there is no 24-hour shopping! For local information visit these sites: www.suffolk.org.uk, www.norfolk.gov.uk, www.stedmundsbury.gov.uk, www.cambridge.gov.uk and www.english-heritage.org.uk.

❑ **Prepare to drive on the "other" side.** When you arrive you will need to obtain a 3rd Air Force driver's license. There is training before you take the test, but review of The Highway Code beforehand may help. To view the book, visit www.roads.detr.gov.uk/roadsafety/hc/index.htm.

❑ **Plan to ship your household goods, hold baggage and car ASAP.** It will take time for this cargo to arrive, so the sooner the better, (see Page 6 for details). However, once you arrive, the family service loan locker (7-3134) can loan you a number of useful household items to use in the meantime. Then, if you will be living off base, the furniture management office (7-7029) has temporary loaner furniture. They will also issue you items to use throughout your tour; these include: refrigerators, washers, dryers, stoves, wardrobes and transformers.

❑ **It may take up to three months for you to receive your shipment;** so planning what to pack in your hold baggage is essential. It takes 35-45 days for hold baggage to arrive. Some items you should pack in your hold baggage are: cooking utensils, plates, silverware, linens, extra personal clothing (warm clothing if it's winter time, with extra sweaters and coats), extra military clothing and a few toys, books and games if you have children, along with any necessities you'll need immediately upon your arrival. Don't forget that the family support center offers loaner items. Get your sponsor to check on anything you're unsure of.

❑ **Shipping a vehicle takes time,** so be prepared for the wait. The quicker you can ship it, the easier your transition will be. Once you've arrived at RAF Lakenheath, contact the traffic management vehicle processing center at (01842) 813 999, 00800-8726-7227 or visit www.whereismypov.com to check the status of your vehicle.

❑ **Never ship important documents.** Hand carry the following items: passports, birth certificates, marriage certificates, identification cards, driver's licenses, school records, college transcripts, medical records, insurance records (don't forget a "no claims" letter from your current auto insurance company), military records, shipping papers on household goods and automobile, car registration and proof of ownership, name of sponsor with duty and home phone numbers, supervisor's duty and home phone numbers, and squadron duty phone number.

❑ **Take care of yourself and your family.** Relocating is stressful, no matter how many times you have moved. To help combat stress, maintain or adopt healthy habits such as exercising and eating well. Also, try to be optimistic; we often expend great amounts of energy worrying. Don't forget that the children are going to experience stress as well. Talk to them and perhaps give them a few extra hugs.

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Deciding what to bring, what to leave

The United Kingdom is a full Joint Federal Travel Regulation and Joint Travel Regulation weight allowance area for accompanied members, and for unaccompanied or single Air Force members staff sergeant and above.

The first shipment to plan is your unaccompanied baggage (hold baggage). Pack with the idea your hold baggage will arrive three to six weeks after ship date. You should pack a few dishes, cutlery and cooking utensils, linens and extra clothing. Ask your sponsor what you'll really need prior to making a shipment. Many loaner items are available through family services.

If your hold baggage arrives before you do, it'll be placed in temporary storage at government expense for up to 90 days. This period begins on the arrival date of your property, provided your justification for storage meets the criteria in the Air Force Supplement to JFTR, Volume 1/JTR, Volume 2. Otherwise, you'll be required to accept immediate delivery.

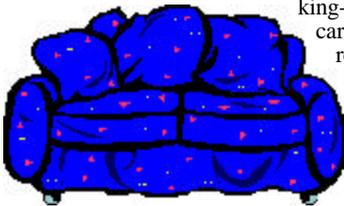
When shipping your vehicle, remember it takes time for the car to physically move from the port serving your old duty station to England, so be prepared to wait. Motorcycles and mopeds, regardless of size, are considered motor vehicles and count against your tax-free concession vehicle allowance. Unleaded gasoline is readily available, both on and off base, so you don't need to remove catalytic converters.



Once you get here, you'll need to complete a Customs and Exercise Form 941 at the pass and registration section. This form is used to process your car through British customs. Again, check with your transportation management office for all the necessary information regarding shipment of vehicles to the United Kingdom.

Things to consider

British houses are generally smaller than American homes. Bringing oversized furniture, such as an 8-foot sofa, large dresser or king-size bed, should be given careful thought. Even if you have a room large enough to accommodate your oversized furniture, narrow staircases, passageways and doors may prevent you getting it there. If you can't fit it into your house, you'll have to sell it or store it



at your own expense.

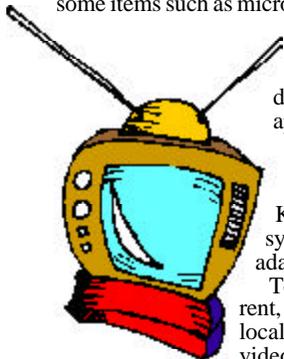
Consider carefully what electrical items you ship. Electric current in the United Kingdom is 220/240 volt, 50 hertz versus the American 110 volt, 60 hertz. Unless the appliance is dual voltage, it may not operate without a transformer to step down the voltage.

Items like electric clocks won't keep accurate time because of the difference in cycles per second (hertz). In addition, some items such as microwave ovens will

undergo more than twice the wear and tear due to the difference in hertz. Although not necessarily dangerous, it can shorten the life of the appliance.

Television sets can also provide some problems. American color sets (NTSC format) won't work in the United Kingdom with the British broadcasting system (PAL 1 format) and can't be adapted.

Televisions are readily available to buy or rent, either through the base exchange or local shops. Also, if you have an American video cassette recorder, it won't play British



recorded videotapes. However, your American television and VCR will work together, and American-format tapes may be rented or purchased on base.

On-base and leased quarters are furnished with appliances, and guaranteed-rental quarters with refrigerators and stoves. If you're going to be living on the economy, your house may not have the appropriate hookups or room for your American washer and dryer.

You should bring your draperies, particularly if they're large and heavy.

Most homes have large windows. Heavy draperies keep out drafts in winter, and keep out the light in summer when the sun may not set until 11 p.m. and rises before 4 a.m.

Bring your lawn mower and garden tools because most

houses have gardens. The British take pride in their flowers and lawns, and you'll be expected to do the same.

What clothing to bring should be another consideration. You may find it cooler in England than you're used to, both indoors and out. Average daily temperature in the summer is 60 to 70 degrees and 30 to 40 degrees in the winter. However, a rainy summer day can be as cool as a sunny winter day.

You should bring a full complement of military clothing. Both your service dress and summer uniform are optional for all-year wear. However, there are some summer days when you'll find long sleeves and sweater more suited to the weather than short sleeves.

During basewide exercises, everyone wears Battle Dress Uniforms or flight suits, so be sure to bring at least one set with you no matter what your job, more if you customarily wear BDUs on duty. And don't forget a raincoat.

Once you've decided what you're going to bring, go to TMO and complete a DD Form 1434. Be sure to list all items in your shipment and file a general description.

After you arrive on base, one of the first and most important steps will be to contact TMO Customer Service Section located in Building 426 at RAF Mildenhall by phone at 98-5243 or 98-7089 or stop by. The section is tasked with getting your property to you quickly, giving information on your inbound shipments and assisting you should you have need for claims actions.

Firearms, shotguns, you and the law

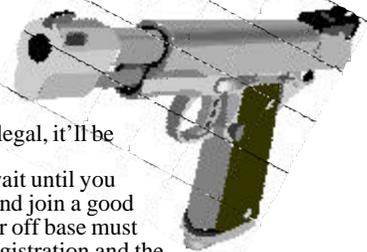
The United Kingdom has introduced tougher gun laws. We suggest anyone contemplating shipping a shotgun or firearm into the United Kingdom think twice before doing so. Certain types of weapons are illegal (specifically handguns) and others require a firearms certificate, which is much more difficult to obtain than a shotgun license.

If you intend to ship any weapon, be sure it's listed on the United Kingdom Customs Declaration, DD Form 1434.

The bottom line is the United Kingdom isn't the ideal country for weapon enthusiasts. Access to hunting grounds is limited and expensive. The firearms regulations here are in a constant process of review. If you do ship a weapon that's illegal, it'll be confiscated.

If you want to shoot here wait until you arrive to purchase a weapon and join a good club. All weapons stored on or off base must be registered with pass and registration and the British police.

An alternative may be to store the weapons at your current base or leave them with relatives.



Arriving in the United Kingdom

Airport shuttle schedule

If you come into England by one of two commercial airports, London Heathrow or London Gatwick, you will process through British customs. If your sponsor isn't able to pick you up, a government chartered coach bus is available to take you to RAF Lakenheath or RAF Mildenhall. Ensure you have one copy of your orders ready to provide to the driver; this will provide you a seat on the bus. Any other form of travel will not be a reimbursable expense. RAF Lakenheath is located approximately 100 miles from each airport.

Gatwick

Departs RAF Lakenheath long-term parking – 4:30 a.m. and 7 a.m.
Departs Building 955, RAF Lakenheath – 4:45 a.m. and 7:15 a.m.
Departs AMC Terminal, RAF Mildenhall – 5:15 a.m. and 7:45 a.m.
Departs RAF Mildenhall long-term parking – 5:30 a.m. and 8 a.m.
Arrives South Terminal, Gatwick Airport – 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
Arrives North Terminal, Gatwick Airport – 8:15 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
Departs North Terminal, Coach Road – 9:30 a.m. and noon
Departs South Terminal Bus Bay “D” – 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.
Arrives RAF Mildenhall long-term parking/AMC Terminal – 12:30 p.m. and 3 p.m.
Arrives RAF Lakenheath long-term parking/lodging – 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Heathrow

Departs RAF Lakenheath long-term parking – 4:30 a.m. and 7 a.m.
Departs Building 955, RAF Lakenheath – 4:45 a.m. and 7:15 a.m.
Departs AMC Terminal, RAF Mildenhall – 5:15 a.m. and 7:45 a.m.
Departs RAF Mildenhall long-term parking – 5:30 a.m. and 8 a.m.
Arrives Heathrow Terminal 3 – 7:30 a.m. and 10 a.m.
Departs Heathrow Terminal 3 – Arrivals – 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.
Arrives RAF Mildenhall long-term parking/AMC Terminal – noon and 2:30 p.m.
Arrives RAF Lakenheath long-term parking/lodging – 12:30 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Buses operate daily, except Dec. 25 and 26. Times are approximate due to traffic and weather conditions. Passengers must show their military ID cards and orders to ride the bus. Pets are not permitted on buses at any time.



The original copy of the Statue of Liberty was dedicated to the 48th.

Inprocessing made easy at RAF Lakenheath

Moving to a new base and a foreign country can prove to be very stressful. Inprocessing helps ensure you receive a warm welcome and assists in anyway possible. Your smooth transition is a top priority.

On the first duty day after arrival, your sponsor will bring you to your unit's command support staff. They will collect your unit personnel records and medical records. Then, they'll issue the wing inprocessing schedule. This is where your tour begins.

RAF Lakenheath has four different inprocessing schedules divided according to the status of the military member. The schedules include:

- Married members required to attend First Term Airmen Center
- Single members attending FTAC
- Single dorm residents
- All others

The schedule is completed within five days. Additionally, there

is a full week of “free time” to take care of personal business.

At the end of the inprocessing week, first duty station airmen will attend FTAC for additional intensive training designed to assist you with both personal and professional development.

The family support center offers newcomers a bi-monthly local area bus tour, which consists of a window tour of RAF Lakenheath, RAF Mildenhall and RAF Feltwell and then onto a local town. The tour allows you to experience British culture and a local pub.

This inprocessing schedule should give you sufficient time to settle into the base comfortably. It is the INTRO program's goal to make sure everyone is fully acclimated to their surroundings. Your safe and successful transition to RAF Lakenheath is their top priority.

For more information on inprocessing or relocating to England, contact the base INTRO program manager at the family support center at 7-3847 or e-mail FSC2@lakenheath.af.mil.

Arrival in the United Kingdom

Pets require 6-month quarantine

Military members assigned to the United Kingdom must follow quarantine procedures mandated by the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, or DEFRA. These procedures are implemented to safeguard the nation's "rabies free" status and disease surveillance programs.

Dogs and cats

All domestic dogs and cats must spend six months in quarantine when they arrive in the United Kingdom from the United States. Birds have a 35-day, in-home quarantine. Horses can be imported into the United Kingdom without quarantine, pending appropriate veterinary health certificate documentation. Entry will not be granted until an import license is obtained from the appropriate department. Companion animals can't be accepted for flights into the United Kingdom unless a letter from the DEFRA states the animal has a valid import license number.

An import permit is required for each animal before entry into the United Kingdom. An application must be made at least eight weeks in advance. An import permit can be obtained after written confirmations are received from the kennel and carrier by writing to: DEFRA Helpline, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, 3-8 Whitehall Place, London, SW1A 2HH. People can also call +44 181 330 8174 or fax at +44 181 337 3640.

For additional information, contact veterinary services, RAF Croughton at DSN 236-8748, or write to the animal medicine chief, United Kingdom/Ireland Division (U.S. Army) at Croughton Branch, Veterinary Services, RAF Croughton, Brackley, Northants NN13 5NQ, or call +44 20 7270 8961 or fax +44 20 7270 8419.

Coordination with DEFRA three or four months prior to departure is recommended. DEFRA will issue import licenses within five working days after it receives the information. The license is valid for six months.

All quarantine facilities are privately owned. DEFRA is only responsible for ensuring that disease security and isolation requirements are met. When contacting a kennel facility, the quoted price usually includes only boarding costs. Numerous ancillary charges will be incurred during the quarantine period. Such charges include; transportation from the air terminal to the quarantine facility, rabies immunization, deworming prophylactics, heating during winter months, medication administration costs and veterinary medical therapy if the animal becomes ill during quarantine.

The estimated cost for boarding a cat is about \$2,100. The estimate for boarding a medium-size dog (40 to 60 pounds) is \$2,600 to \$4,000. Ask if the estimate includes British value added tax, which is 17.5 percent.

Use caution when dealing with any kennel and ensure everything is in writing.

Dogs (including seeing-eye dogs), cats and other mammals must be accompanied by a health certificate and an import license number issued by the DEFRA. A quarantine period of six months includes an anti-rabies vaccination given at the beginning of the quarantine period. Import licenses will only be issued for importation of dogs, cats and other mammals under the requirement that all animals must travel as cargo and be listed on the cargo manifest.

Seeing-eye dogs can't travel in the aircraft cabin with blind



Puppies and kittens must be at least eight-weeks old before traveling to the United Kingdom.

people. If seeing-eye dogs are destined to the United Kingdom, they must be manifested as cargo and travel in the cargo compartment.

Birds

In general, only budgerigars, canaries and cockatoos can be imported as family pets. The bird must be owned by the individual or family at least two months before export. A license must be obtained at least one month in advance. In addition, a U.S. Army veterinarian or British veterinarian must be notified within 24 hours after arrival to examine the bird to determine health status.

Remember, the best place to obtain the latest information is from the U.S. Consulate, overseas sponsor or the veterinary treatment facility on base. Also, the transporting airline must be contacted in advance to determine carrier regulations.

All companion animals traveling by air require a health certificate (DD Form 2209) completed by a military veterinarian or an equivalent civilian veterinary health certificate. Health certificates are generally valid for 10 days from the date of issue. Certificates may require a USDA veterinarian's signature. Vaccinations must be given to meet import regulations and must be properly documented. Be sure to carry all documents with you, including, vaccination certificates, health certificates and import certificates when required.

See **Quarantine**, Page 12

Note: Quarantine rules are changing. For the latest, log on to www.defra.gov.uk.

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Arriving in the United Kingdom

Driving on the other side of the road

Upon your arrival to RAF Lakenheath you will receive a thorough traffic safety orientation briefing by the 48th Fighter Wing Safety Office. But, as we all know, we can't possibly remember and learn everything in a classroom – especially when it comes to driving. The real “know-how” experience and test comes when you actually get out on the roads and mix with traffic. Driving in the United Kingdom is never routine.

Read The Highway Code book **before** the orientation briefing. During the briefing, **you will be tested** on the information in The Highway Code including identification of the international traffic signs. After successfully completing the test, you will be issued a U.S. Air Forces in Europe Driving Permit. The Highway Code is available online at <http://www.roads.detr.gov.uk/roadsafety/hc/index.htm> but does **not** have the road signs. We recommend that you contact either your sponsor or purchase a full copy of a book on The Highway Code, available at various U.K. shops or the RAF Lakenheath shoppette.

Speed limits

On base, the speed limit is 25 mph unless otherwise posted. Use extra caution around the schools at RAFs Lakenheath and Feltwell, where the speed limit is 15 mph. Also, use caution in built up or residential areas. Off base the speed limit is 70 mph on motorways and dual carriageways and 60 mph on all other roads, unless a lower limit is indicated. Where there are street lights, the limit is 30 mph, unless signs show otherwise.

Speed limits

Just because the posted speed limit is 60 mph does not mean it is safe to drive 60 mph. You won't see the variations of speed limits as you do in the United States. Speed limits here are posted based on the type of road traveled, rather than on engineering analysis and traffic investigation.

In other words, the same type of roads that you'll travel on in the United Kingdom at 60 mph would only be posted at 35 to 40 mph in the United States.

Road bends on U.K. roads are not marked with signs indicating the safe speed as in the states. Additionally, many of these curves are blind due to hedgerows. Bicycles/pedestrians, parked vehicles and sometimes broken tree limbs hide just out of sight.

Pedestrian crossings

Safe use of crosswalks are both a motorist and a pedestrian responsibility. Use extra caution when children are present. Bicyclists should walk their bicycles across.

Zebra crossings are the most common type used in the United Kingdom. When a pedestrian steps onto a crossing, vehicles must



Driving on the left side of the road in the United Kingdom takes some getting used to as well as driving from the right side of the car.

stop; however, do not cross the road until the vehicle has come to a stop. The zigzag lines indicate that a motorist must not park within the confines of those lines, nor overtake other vehicles in that area.

Pelican crossings are controlled by signal lights that are activated by pedestrians. Drivers need to observe the signal lights as they approach the crossing. Pedestrians press the button to cross. This causes the lights to change, the traffic to stop and a noise to be emitted so that blind persons know when to cross the road. If the crosswalk is empty, sensors in the crossing sense no one is crossing the road, and the control computer trips the safety that makes the yellow traffic light flash. You may proceed on the yellow flashing light provided no one is crossing the street.

Traffic box junctions are indicated by a yellow grid box painted on the road surface at a junction or an intersection. You must not enter the box if your desired destination road or lane from the box is not clear of traffic. You may enter the box when you want to turn right and are prevented from doing so only by oncoming traffic or by vehicles waiting to make a right turn. Fines are levied against drivers based on the number of tires found stationary within the box junction.

Restricted parking areas are indicated by double, solid single or dashed single yellow lines painted on the edge of the road surface. Know what each mean and remember that “holiday” on a sign refers to British holidays, not U.S. holidays. Also, when you park on the side of the road, do not park against the direction of the traffic flow during the hours of darkness.

Four-way flashers may only be used when the vehicle is stationary, to indicate your vehicle is creating a temporary obstruction to traffic flow. The device must not be used while the vehicle is in motion or be regarded as providing an excuse for stopping when you shouldn't.

Arriving in the United Kingdom

Do not use the horn in residential areas between 11:30 p.m. and 7 a.m. These are quiet hours. Also, only use the horn during emergency situations, while the vehicle is in motion.

The local police in England are very strict about the overall condition of your vehicle; especially the condition of the tires and tread wear depth. The minimum tread depth allowed is 1.6 millimeters. Fines are imposed per tire that is out of limits. You are responsible for ensuring your vehicle is roadworthy prior to every use on a public roadway.

Ministry of Transportation testing is required on all vehicles three years old or older, and Safety Vehicle Assessment testing is required on vehicles that are less than three years old. These tests must be done on an annual basis at an authorized MOT/SVA inspection station. Your vehicle will be given a thorough safety inspection for compliance with U.K. vehicle standards. Failure to maintain a current and valid MOT/SVA certificate will cost you money if you're stopped and charged. Also, you can't register your vehicle on base or purchase your road tax disc without your MOT/SVA certificate. (A road tax disc, displayed in the lower left hand corner of your windshield, is proof of payment of your road tax.)

The United Kingdom is prone to adverse weather, including heavy rain, fog, ice and even snow. Adjust your driving accordingly and drive very defensively. During adverse weather conditions, watch out for the other guy and expect the unexpected. Most accidents are caused by operators failing to adjust (especially speed) to the road conditions. During icy conditions, remember to clear **ALL** your windows of frost, ice or snow before driving; don't be a peep-hole driver. Anytime visibility is seriously reduced, (generally less than 100 meters) you must use your low beams (not parking lights) and fog lamps.

Use care when passing. Many accidents occur because visibility is decreased or operators fail to ensure adequate clearance. Remember, in England, you pass on the right, not the left. Develop safe overtaking habits – check your mirror(s), check your blind spot, signal and then maneuver. If you have a doubt about your clearance or your visibility is decreased, don't pass. It's better to get there a few minutes later than not at all.

Under British law, seat belts must be worn by all occupants. They are mandatory for military personnel in both government vehicles and privately owned vehicles, on or off base, on or off duty. Seat belts must be worn correctly (not tucked under the arm).

Under British law, children under 11 years old must be restrained in an appropriate child restraint. While on base, each child under age 4, or weighing less than 50 pounds, must be in an approved infant or child restraint device.

The correct insurance coverage is the responsibility of both the borrower and the owner of the vehicle. Both persons can lose their driving privileges for non-compliance. Before lending out your vehicle or borrowing a vehicle, ensure you/they are covered. If

not, and you're stopped and charged not only will you be fined **but** your USAFE Driving Permit will be revoked for a minimum of **18 months.**

If you arrive at the scene of an accident, your first concern is to alert/warn other traffic. Do this by turning on your vehicle flashers. You should then attempt to notify the police and take care of the

injured. Be aware that there is no "Good Samaritan Law" in England, so only do what you know how to do; leave the rest up to the police, medical or fire response personnel. When you're involved in an accident, on or off base, remember that you are **required to report it to the base security forces within 72 hours.**

In England, the legal blood alcohol limit is .08. Most British beers are considerably stronger than U.S. beers; this means higher alcohol content. British law is very strict and serious about drinking and driving. As an indication of this, the British police have the authority to charge you "drunk in charge" of your vehicle, even if you weren't behind the wheel of your car. Just the fact that you're intoxicated and have the keys in hand is sufficient cause for them to charge you. If you're just sleeping it off inside your vehicle and keys are on you or anywhere

inside the vehicle, the same applies. The law is strict, but rightfully so. As countermeasure programs, all base clubs on RAF Lakenheath participate in the Designated Driver Program and have a "taxi chit" program for your use. Don't wait until you've had too much to drink. Plan ahead. **Remember – don't ruin your career or your life (or someone else's) because you didn't think. Think before you drink!**

Roundabouts

These traffic circles are very common throughout England. Traffic flows clockwise so always be prepared to yield to traffic from the right. When approaching a roundabout, pay attention and read signs carefully, and know which direction you want to go. If you miss your exit or you're not sure which exit to take, there is nothing wrong with going around the roundabout more than once.

Leaving the roundabout by exit 1 (turning left): As you

approach the roundabout, turn on your left turn indicator, move to your left lane or left side of road if lanes aren't indicated, yield to traffic on the right inside the roundabout, and when clear, proceed into the roundabout staying on the outside. Exit the roundabout.

Leaving the roundabout by exit 2: Approach the roundabout with no indicator on, yield to traffic on the right which is in the roundabout, and when clear proceed into the roundabout. Just as you pass the first exit and prior to reaching your intended exit, check your mirror for traffic on your left as well as checking your blind spot, and turn on your left turn indicator. Then exit the roundabout at your intended exit, continuing to look out for other traffic.

Drunk driving alternatives

In addition to driving defensively, we ask that you have a plan and think before you drink. Please take advantage of the programs RAF Lakenheath has to help all our airmen arrive alive.

Airmen Against Drunk Driving

This program operates Thursday - Sunday, 10 p.m. - 6 a.m. If you have had too much to drink and need a lift home, call 0800 328 0178. This service is open to all ranks.

Taxi-chit program

This program is run through the Phoenix Taxi service. The program allows people a ride home with up to 7 days to pay their bill. Call them at (01638) 533060.



Vehicles must stop for pedestrians in a zebra crossing.

See Traffic, Page 12

Arrival in the United Kingdom

Traffic continued

Leaving the roundabout by an exit past the second exit: Approach roundabout with right turn indicator on, yielding to traffic coming from the right already in the roundabout, and when clear, proceed into the roundabout using the inside lane. As you pass the exit before your desired exit, cancel your right indicator, check your mirror for traffic on your left as well as check your blind spot, and turn on your left turn indicator. Then exit the roundabout at the intended exit, continuing to look out for others.

Bicyclists are required to obey all traffic rules and signs. If riding at night, the bicycle must be equipped with a front white light and a rear red light and reflector. Wear bright or reflective clothing for better visibility. Off base, constables will stop and cite offenders. Parents should especially consider their children's bicycles to ensure these requirements are met for the safety of their children. All bicyclists on base must wear an approved bicycle helmet, in accordance with Air Force Instruction 91-207.

It is strictly prohibited to wear any type of portable phones, earphones or other listening devices while operating a motor vehicle, jogging, walking or bicycling on roads and streets on DOD installations.



Traffic flows clockwise around roundabouts and yields to vehicles within the circle.

According to the British Road Traffic Act, you must exercise proper control of your vehicle at all times. Never use a hand-held mobile phone or microphone when driving. Additionally, using hands-free equipment is also likely to distract your attention from the road. It is not safe to use any telephone while you are driving – find a safe place to stop first.

Motorcycles

To register a motorcycle on RAF Lakenheath, you must have an endorsement on your stateside license, possess a Motorcycle Safety Foundation course completion card and complete the local British Road Riding Familiarization Course. Both courses are conducted by the safety office, but it is highly encouraged that personnel complete the MSF course prior to arrival. Class size is limited. For more information, call the wing safety office at 7-3737.

Quarantine continued

Shipping container

The shipping container should be large enough to allow pets to stand, sit erect, turn and lie down. Airlines require that no part of the tail or head may touch the top of the container when the pet is standing. It should be strong, free of interior protrusions and have handles or grips on the outside to keep cargo handlers from being bitten.

It should have a solid, leak-proof bottom. A grate or wire floor should separate the pet from the bottom so it doesn't have to lie in waste. If the container doesn't have a grate, plenty of absorbent material, not shredded newspaper, should be used. The container should have vents on opposite sides so air flows through both upper and lower parts of the walls with exterior rims or knobs to keep vent openings from being blocked by adjacent cargo. Ensure it's International Air Transport Association approved.

Label the container "live animal" and ensure arrows indicate the upright position. Attach labels with staples or strong glue. Ensure your name, destination, phone number and the name and address of the person receiving the pet are on the labels.

No toys can be included in the carrier during travel. A rag or clothing item may be left in the carrier. One that smells like the family home is a good idea. Check with the airline to see if they provide in-flight watering. If not, you may freeze some water in the plastic dish that comes with the carrier so the pet may drink as the ice melts.

Preparing your pet

Here are some tips to consider before shipping a pet:

- Dogs and cats must be at least eight weeks old and must have been weaned for at least five days before shipment.
- Give your pet a week before the flight to adjust to its container.

Give it about 25 percent extra food beginning a month before the trip. This will help combat stress.

Before shipping, don't feed your animal for six to 12 hours. Small amounts of water are OK. Don't give tranquilizers unless prescribed by a veterinarian.

Don't bring your pet to the airline for shipping more than four hours before departure.

Ensure your pet's nails are clipped so they don't become hooked on something.

Pets should wear a loose-fitting collar and a temporary identification tag with the phone number of a person to be contacted in case of emergency.

Other things to consider

You can generally claim the pet if you wish to carry it from airline to airline during changes while traveling, but not after it reaches the United Kingdom.

If you have a pug-nosed dog, such as a Pekinese, think twice about shipping it by airline due to possible exposure to noxious fumes from other cargo on the plane, such as fresh flowers packed in dry ice. This type of animal has difficulty getting enough oxygen under normal conditions and may experience difficulties in flight.

Also, the United Kingdom has placed a ban on the ownership of certain breeds of dogs bred for fighting. The ban covers the following breeds: Pit Bull Terrier, Japanese Tosa, Dogo Argentino and Fila Brasileiro. It also encompasses cross breeds of these types of dogs.

Under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, such breeds may be seized and destroyed and the owner prosecuted, even though an import license may have been issued by DEFRA. For more information, call the Home Office at +44 171 273 2316.

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Arrival in the United Kingdom

On base, off base or dormitories

Housing options for everyone

The housing management office helps newly arrived military members and civilians from RAF Lakenheath, RAF Mildenhall and RAF Feltwell locate rental units in the local community. A rental agreement is provided for the use of tenants and landlords and the referral office will mediate should a dispute arise. They can be reached at 7-2437 and 7-1722. Off base housing is available within a 30-mile radius of the base. At present about 4,600 families reside in the community.

Upon arrival members are scheduled to attend both housing and finance briefings. It is recommended that these briefings be attended before making any commitment to a home. Available housing rental units are listed by the housing management office, both as a detailed listing card including a photograph and as a brief listing sheet available as a handout. A housing representative inspects each house to ensure the house has adequate heat; carpet, drapes and the rental terms are suitable. The housing agent also spends considerable time, briefing property owners on their responsibilities as a landlord and the requirements of the housing referral program. A landlord who advertises a property through the housing management office supplies carpets, smoke-detection devices and carbon dioxide detectors where required.

In addition, the agent will ensure a fixed heating system is installed at the property. The office has developed a relationship with the landlords and agents of the properties it advertises. This relationship is used to assist in the event of any disputes. Appliances such as refrigerator, washer, dryer and stoves are available from the furnishings management office at 7-7029 or 7-7030.



Most dormitory residents live in one-plus-one rooms where two rooms share one kitchen.

Dormitories

Current and future inventory

The Liberty Wing currently has nine dormitories in its inventory. Of these, three are room-bath-room (two-plus-two) configuration and six are in the new one-plus-one configuration.

It's anticipated all airmen assigned to the Liberty Wing will be assigned private rooms by the end of fiscal 2002. All airmen first class and senior airmen currently have private rooms.

Eligibility

All single senior airmen and below are required to live in dormitories. However, senior airmen and airmen first class are authorized their own rooms, while airmen and below are assigned two to a room. Due to the lack of excess dormitory space, priority 3 (unmarried staff sergeants to chief master sergeants) and priority 4 (unaccompanied enlisted members) **will not** live in dormitories.



This detached house is one of the newer family housing units, which opened in 2000.

Government housing

RAF Lakenheath military family housing consists of single-story and two-story units. RAF Lakenheath has 16 separate housing areas located both on base and in the surrounding communities.

Waiting lists

The government housing areas range from across the street to 36 miles away. The waiting list for distant housing is much shorter than for those adjacent to the base. The waiting times are approximate and change on a monthly basis.

Junior NCO – two bedroom	Available
Junior NCO – three bedroom	20 – 23 months
Junior NCO – four bedroom	24 – 38 months
Senior NCO – three bedroom	14 – 27 months
Senior NCO – four bedroom	12 – 25 months
Company grade officer – two bedroom	Available
Company grade officer – three bedroom ..	6 – 30 months
Company grade officer – four bedroom	3 – 24 months
Field grade officer – three bedroom	3 – 6 months
Field grade officer – four bedroom	6 – 12 months

Arrival in the United Kingdom



Local realtors, called estate agents, post advertisements of homes for sale in their windows.

Buying a House

The first step for any member buying a house is to establish the amount of finance available to them. A basic guide to the process involved in buying a home in the United Kingdom is available from the housing office.

Financial terms available are constantly changing and a member must consult a financial adviser, some of which work within the offices of local realtors, called estate agents, or contact a bank or building society.

After establishing buying power, a member can identify a home they wish to buy. Most estate agents will guide a buyer through the purchase process and help with getting a solicitor, or lawyer, to carry out the necessary legal work.

Rental information

Listings of approved available rental listings are posted at 9 a.m. each day at both the RAF Lakenheath and RAF Mildenhall housing offices. Listings are fully detailed including a property photograph, rental terms, contacts and property features such as room numbers and sizes, heating types and more.

All homes advertised by the housing office have fixed adequate heating systems by United Kingdom standards, such as gas, oil, electric or coal.

More than 80 percent of families locate community housing within 30 days of arrival. It's important to review the bulletin board and computer listing immediately.

Phones in the housing office can be used for contacting the landlord or agent to verify the property is still available and to make an appointment to view the house.

Your sponsor should be able to assist you if you need transportation. Additionally, the housing office offers a free courtesy driver service to view housing in the community. Drivers can be arranged via the RAF Lakenheath and RAF Mildenhall offices.

The housing office provides a tenancy documentation package, which includes a lease for housing rental. Tenancy packages can be obtained from the RAF Lakenheath office outer lobby 24 hours a day.

The lease includes a military clause that enables members to terminate their lease without penalty for a military reason by giving the landlord 30-days written notice. Members using a different lease should ensure it contains the military clause.

Rental Market

Housing within the area of the base is primarily detached (single house), semi-detached (duplex) and terraced (in rows). Apartment blocks and complexes are virtually nonexistent. Housing on the economy may not be what you're used to in the United States. British houses are generally smaller. Most larger houses are two stories with steep staircases. The hallways and doorways are narrower. Most fitted kitchens in U.K. homes are not designed to accommodate U.S.-specific appliances, and many homes don't have built-in closets.

Rental Costs

The current average rental prices for homes are: two-bedroom home – £400; three-bedroom home – £512; and four-bedroom home – £764. All rents are per calendar month and are paid in advance by the tenant. Rents shown are the average of all homes currently being advertised at the housing office.

Members who rent a home are required to pay a security deposit. This deposit is returned to the member when they leave, provided the property is returned to the landlord in good order, normal wear and tear accepted. A security deposit should equal but not exceed one month's rent for properties listed at housing office.

Utilities are normally paid by the tenant, including water and are due on a quarterly basis. Utility companies may require payments be made by direct debit through a bank if members can't provide a credit rating.

Telephone services are no longer a monopoly in the United Kingdom, so companies other than British Telecom now offer service to homes.

Most members will find an existing telephone installed at the home provided by British Telecom. If no service exists, a fee for installation is required. The cost of telephone calls varies depending on distance and time of day. Unlike the States, local calls are not free.

Exceptional family members

Most government housing is two stories and not fitted for handicapped family members. There is a limited number of two-, three- and four-bedroom, single-story houses at RAFs Lakenheath and Shepherds Grove for junior NCOs. There are also four-bedroom housing units for other grades with downstairs bedroom and bath. Waiting-list progression would be normal, but a request supported by documentation of the disability may be submitted for a single-story unit only. Expect this to lengthen the waiting time for government quarters. Once the house is assigned, ramps, hold bars and other equipment would be installed at government expense.

In rental homes, it would be difficult to fit a wheelchair through most doorways. Landlords are generally hesitant to invest money to alter any rental unit to make it wheelchair accessible. Every attempt is made by the housing office to find an appropriate dwelling, but success is not guaranteed.

Once Exceptional Family Member Program clearance has been granted, it is up to the family to decide whether a move to the United Kingdom is appropriate for their special-needs family. The above information is not meant to discourage anyone from accepting an assignment to RAF Lakenheath, but to give a realistic picture so an informed decision can be made.

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Finding childcare at RAF Lakenheath

Child Development Center

The CDC provides structured care for children 6 weeks through 5 years old and offers well-balanced, child-oriented meals. Permanent long-term care is accomplished by placing your name on the waiting list. The waiting list is broken down into four categories.

☐ Category One is for single military.

☐ Category Two is dual military.

☐ Category Three is married with a working or full time student spouse.

☐ Category Four is married with unemployed spouse.

A person may place their child on the waiting list from anywhere in the world. This is accomplished by filling out a Department of Defense Form 2606, Request for Care Record. Once this form is completed, it can be faxed with a copy of your orders to 226-5539. Requests are placed on the waiting list as they arrive according to time and date.

Preschool enrichment program

This program is designed for children who will be between 3 and 5 years old by Oct. 31. The program holds morning or afternoon sessions. Acceptance is on a first-come, first-served registration basis. This program is offered during the school year only. Summer preschool programs are not offered. For more information or to register, call 7-3829

New Child Development Center

A new CDC is expected to open in the summer of 2002. The new facility will have a capacity of approximately 175 to 200 children. This facility will be greatly welcomed to the community since there is currently a waiting list for care.

Hourly Care Center

The hourly care center is located across from the child development center and just behind the base theater. Reservations are made on a first-come first-served basis. The reservation books open up each Monday at 8:15 a.m. for the following week. The only exceptions to this rule are for doctor, dentist or PCS reservations, which can be made up to one month in advance. Two full days and one half day may be scheduled for outbound packout dates.

This is the only HCC in Europe, the slots are few, and they go fast. Booking your reservation in advance is essential. Children can go to the HCC after their first birthday through the age of 6, or on

completion of kindergarten. The facility has five slots for ages 1 to 2 years, six slots for 2 to 3 years and 12 slots for 3 to 6 years. The center is open weekdays from 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. but is closed all

U.S. holidays and U.S. Air Forces in Europe down days. On the first Friday of every month, the HCC is closed during the normal duty day and open from 3:15 to 11 p.m. for night care. It is also closed for two weeks during the Christmas holiday season.

When PCSing inbound, you can call the manager at 226-5538. To make an advanced reservation, you must supply a copy of your orders, a completed Air Force Form 1181 and the child's immunization records. Each child attending the center needs a complete immunization history and a current TB-Tine test.

Ensure you make it clear as to what hours, days and times you will need care for your child. If you fax your information to the center, follow up with a call to the manager to verify your intentions and confirmation for the reservations. At that time, the manager will also inform you of the rates and fees for no-shows or late charges.



Children jump in the bouncy castle at the youth center during one of their special events.

Family Child Care

The FCC program has approximately 20 to 30 home day-care providers. The numbers and availability vary from month to month. The FCC coordinators can be reached at 226-2994 or 226-3718.

The opening list for FCC comes out the fifth of each month. It is available from the FCC, HCC, CDC, every first sergeant, family support center and various other locations throughout the base. It is important to note that most FCC providers participate in the PCS Childcare Program.

Upon arrival to RAF Lakenheath, visit the family support center to receive a childcare voucher worth 20 free hours of care during your first 60 days on station. After getting the vouchers, you will contact a provider who has an opening to arrange the care for your child or children. The Air Force Aid Society will be billed directly for the care. On the openings list, a plus sign (+) indicates a provider who participates in the PCS Childcare Program.

The FCC program is always looking for new providers. If you are a stay-at-home parent with small children, live in base housing on or off base, and want to earn tax-free income, you are eligible to be a FCC provider. The program supplies you with all the training and necessary equipment. You can become licensed in as little as one month. Contact the FCC office to find out when the next class will be held.

Arrival in the United Kingdom

Furniture management office eases transition to Liberty Wing

The furniture management office offers authorized individuals furniture to use during their tour at RAF Lakenheath. The amount is based on the number of command-sponsored dependents that are reflected on PCS orders and amendments. Increases in family size need to be supported with appropriate documentation (Birth or Marriage Certificates, Air Force Form 2095, Assignment/Personnel Action Orders or Amendments); authorization will be adjusted accordingly.

One copy of orders is required, and the active-duty member or spouse can sign for the items. However, a landlord/tenant agreement must be provided for rental property.

Note that single or unaccompanied members who are sharing a house or apartment are not issued like items, except for bedroom furniture.

The furniture management office is located at RAF Feltwell in Building 73. The office is open Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. For more information, call 7-7029 or fax 7-7206.

Permanent issue

All members authorized support are entitled to the following items on a permanent basis for the duration of their tour:

- One refrigerator
- One electric range
- One washer and dryer
- Two wardrobes per family living in economy housing
- One wardrobe per individual living in economy housing
- One kitchen cabinet if living in economy housing

- Two transformers per accompanied account for housing with no 110 voltage, or 110 voltage on the ground floor only
- One transformer per unaccompanied account for housing with no 110 voltage, or 110 voltage on the ground floor only

Loaner kit

A loaner kit consisting of basic essential furniture is also available for all authorized members for up to 90 days after arrival.

This is to get you by until your incoming household goods are delivered. It's also authorized for up to 90 days before your departure from England. The following items are authorized in quantities shown:

Bedroom

- One complete double bed per two individuals
- One complete single bed per individual
- One chest of drawers per two individuals
- One crib per infant less than 35 inches long

Dining room

- One dining table
- Dining chairs as needed
- One high chair per child

Living room

- One coffee table
- Two easy chairs per accompanied account
- One easy chair per unaccompanied account
- Two end tables
- One sofa

Youth center and school-age care

The school-age care program offers a wide variety of childcare options. The youth center also offers specialty classes for a minimal fee. The school-age care program has a waiting list that works exactly as the CDC waiting list. Fax your DD Form 2606 to 226-6155. For more information on programs offered at the youth center, call 226-3180 or e-mail youth.programs@lakenheath.af.mil.

The center also offers an open recreation portion to the program, that occurs from 3 to 7 p.m. weekdays. During summer vacation, specialty trips are scheduled for the open recreation students. The trips are to local places of interest such as zoos and theme parks. A small fee is charged for transportation, and children must pay any entrance fees.

During open recreation, the students must be 9 years old or older and they will sign themselves in and out of the facility. An annual fee for the program is \$24.

The youth center offers many extracurricular sports throughout the year. T-ball, basketball, many martial arts courses and more are available. The center is always looking for volunteer coaches, chaperones or instructors.

The facility includes a computer room, gameroom, snackbar, TV area, basketball court and climbing wall. It offers instructional classes for ages 2 to 8 in activities ranging from martial arts to ballet.

Other Childcare Options

Securing childcare is one of the most stressful aspects of PCSing, particularly for single and dual-military families, but really for anyone with children. You will have inprocessing appointments, house hunting and perhaps car shopping to do. With this information, you can be proactive in securing care.

Give Parents a Break

Another option available is the Give Parents a Break Program. Within your first 30 days on station, you are eligible to receive free childcare coupons for Saturday evening care. This care is given at the child development center or youth center depending on the age of the child. Visit the family support center in Building 949 to apply.

Babysitter list

Yet another childcare option is to obtain an American Red Cross-trained babysitter list. This is particularly useful if you PCS during the summer months when children are out of school, but you may find it useful for a date night or perhaps to take care of business on the weekends.

Local childminders

There are also a number of childminders and daycares on the economy. Information can be obtained through local councils which you can become familiar with upon your arrival.

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Lakenheath American Middle School

Lakenheath Middle School, located at RAF Feltwell, enrolls about 836 students. Here, pupils start to receive computer instruction. Students in grades seven and eight may participate in band, chorus, industrial arts, art, home economics and telecommunication programs. The school also has many extracurricular activities.



Lakenheath American Middle School

Lakenheath High School

At Lakenheath High School, students must complete 22 core units for graduation, 16 of which are required courses including four

units of language arts, three units of social studies, two or three units each of both mathematics and science (students must have a total of five units of mathematics and science), one unit each of career education, fine arts and physical education, one half unit each of computer science and health, and six units of elective courses.

About 600 students are enrolled at the high school and there are 50 faculty members, including two guidance counselors and a librarian. A junior Air Force ROTC unit also operates in the high school.

Interscholastic sports include football, wrestling, basketball, track and field, girls' volleyball, cross country, tennis and girls' softball. Other extracurricular activities include a photo club, Model United Nations and cheerleading.



Lakenheath High School

Attending schools in the local community

Many parents see a few years in a British school as an excellent experience for their children. Placement may usually be found in local schools, although not always at the school nearest home.

If your assignment in Britain is likely to last less than a year after your child's admission, British schools usually decline the request. This policy was established because it's been found that many children need at least two terms before they settle properly and are ready to begin constructive learning. A move from the British to the American system after six months can be detrimental to a child's progress. Parents may be asked to make a long-term commitment to a particular school. This saves disruption to the child and school. If your child does need to leave on short notice, you must ensure that the school officials know what's happening. One element of funding in British schools is based upon the number of pupils. If there is a large intake at any one time or several children leave together, it can significantly impact the school's finances.

Compulsory school in Britain takes place between the ages of 5 and 16, although some

provision is made for children under 5, and many pupils remain at school beyond the minimum leaving age.

British schools observe British holidays only. There are three school terms per year. The first term usually runs from the second week in September to the week before Christmas. School resumes the first week in January until Easter.

The summer term begins a week later and goes until mid-July. There is a one-week break for half term in October and February.

Further details, including a list of schools in the western area of Suffolk, can be obtained by the area education office at: Shire Hall, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, UK IP33 1RX. Reference copies are also on file in town libraries. An information brochure about an individual school may be obtained from the school concerned.

There is no statutory requirement to provide education for children under 5. A few nursery classes are attached to primary schools in the local area, but demand is high. There are however, several private nursery schools and informal preschool play groups.

Enrolling in a British school is quite simple. Make an appoint-



Most children who attend local British schools are required to wear school uniforms to class.

ment with the head teacher to discuss the requirements of the school, and use this opportunity to ask questions.

Some differences you may see include: terms tend to start and finish later; school uniforms

may be required; there are sometimes no separate changing areas for boys and girls in elementary schools; and transportation to and from school is not automatically provided.

Adult education opportunities

Education center

The education center provides a wide range of services to military members, civilian employees and family members in the RAF Lakenheath community. The center is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Thursday and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fridays. For more information, call 7-3851.

Individual counseling is available on an appointment basis to assist with career development, curriculum planning, test interpretation, financial aid or other educational concerns. Also, the staff provides general information and assistance on the following programs: veterans education benefits, Air Force Tuition Assistance, Spouse Tuition Assistance, Air Force Institute for Advanced Distributive Learning (formerly ECI) courses, distance learning courses and external degree programs from stateside institutions, the Air Force Institute of Technology, nonresident officer and enlisted Professional Military Education, Community College of the Air Force associate degree programs and U.S. Air Force commissioning programs.

Testing services range from the GED (high school equivalency) to many professional certifications. Testing sessions are

normally conducted Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. and on Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m. Tests are given on an appointment basis. Testing is also offered on Mondays and Fridays for PME and distance learning.

Four American colleges and universities conduct classes on RAF Lakenheath, offering programs varying from vocational/technical subjects to traditional academic disciplines. Academic-term lengths differ from school to school, but most of the undergraduate institutions conduct five two-month semesters per year.

Undergraduate institutions

The Community College of the Air Force provides enlisted airmen the opportunity to earn college credit for military training, as well as a recognized associate degree based on the individual's Air Force specialty.

City Colleges of Chicago offers a liberal arts, associate-degree program through the video-course format, providing an alternative to the traditional classroom setting.

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University offers certificate, associate and bachelor's degree programs in several aeronautical and aviation specialties. Also available are aviation maintenance technology and

independent-study courses.

The University of Maryland offers a variety of vocational and technical courses leading to certificates and associate degrees in areas such as fire protection, early childhood development, legal assistance and law enforcement. They also offer general education courses in math, science, foreign language and fine/liberal arts. Several certificate and associate degree programs are available, as well as bachelor's degrees in business and management, computer studies, English, history, government and politics, psychology and sociology. Special topic courses are available, often on a weekend format. For more information, call 7-3851.

Graduate institutions

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University offers a master's degree in aeronautical science.

The University of Maryland offers master's programs in counseling, personnel services and administrative management (either public or business administration).

The University of Oklahoma offers master's degrees in human relations, international relations and teacher education.

Job hunting tips for spouses

Be aware that the job search in an overseas assignment is different from a job search in the States.

Since the base is situated in a rural area there is not as much industry as in more populated areas.

This area does not have the same salary scale as in the States. Also, this area is about 35 percent lower paid than in the London area.

If you would like to work off base, you are allowed to per the Status of Forces Agreement – but you will have to pay British income tax. If your annual salary is £4,000 or less, there is no tax; £4,001 to £29,400 annually, you will pay 32 percent (10 percent in national health insurance and 22 percent in income tax); and more than £29,401 is taxed at 50 percent (10 percent national health insurance and 40 percent income tax). Taxes are not refundable.

To get a job, you must have a national insurance number (similar to our social security number) – but you must have a job offer in writing before applying for the number. You can work on this during the application process.

Off-base job resumes, called CVs, will need to be on A4 size paper, which is the British standard.

The job market tends to be competitive here. Even though you can work on the economy, many want to work on base.

Preparing for a U.K. job search

Meet with the family support center's career focus coordinator to obtain information on government service, non-appropriated funds and contract positions.

Update your civilian resume and have a government application, Optional Form 612, completed and saved on disk.

Learn and understand about having spouse preference – Be carefully not to lose it by not knowing about it.

Have copies of your college transcripts for possible use by the civilian personnel office.

When you arrive

Go to the family support center right away. They will explain all the opportunities available on and off base and how to apply for each different category.

Since most government jobs on base are advertised on Monday and close on Friday, it is best to wait until you arrive to apply for any on-base jobs.

Be diligent, but patient with your job search.

Seriously consider furthering your education. This will enhance your marketability and should make you qualified for better jobs.

Liberty

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Plan for hidden expenses

British Pounds Sterling

The U.K. monetary unit is the Pound Sterling, and like dollars, is available in both paper and coin. The dollar-to-pound exchange rate varies daily with international events.

Paper money comes in 5-, 10-, 20- and 50-pound notes. There is no 1-pound note. Unlike in the States, paper currencies increase in size with the value of the note.

As the dollar is divided into 100 cents, the pound is divided into 100 pence. There are two copper coins, 1 and 2 pence; and four silver coins, 5, 10, 20 and 50 pence; plus one- and two pound coins.

Moving expenses

Besides the typical living expenses of housing, food and utilities, living in England has some hidden expenses. It helps to do some financial planning before you move and make sure you have some cash set aside to cover these costs.

You'll need about \$2,000 to \$3,000 in reserve to prevent any financial difficulty. You are entitled to a temporary lodging allowance, but you won't file your first claim until 10 days after arrival. Since the payment is included in the first available paycheck, it's possible that it could take up to 30 days before first payment.

Fortunately, all TLA-related expenses can be charged to the government travel card. This can substantially reduce the amount of cash you'll require. Following are some initial expenses to expect.

Daily expenses

A hotel room on the economy with two double beds costs between £40 and £80 per night. Billeting rooms in visiting officers' or airmen's quarters are \$24.50 per night. Family units are \$41 in the temporary lodging facility at RAF Lakenheath. There are some TLFs available off base. The cost of these can range up to £150 per night.

Setting up a household

First month's rent and security deposit range from £500 to £1,600; appliance hookups, if required, are £30 to £50; transformers to convert electricity from 220 volts to 110 volts range from \$25 to \$350 depending on wattage. Initial telephone hookup or transfer is £25 to £100.

Members are entitled to an overseas housing advance to help cover the first month's rent and security deposit. In addition, upon renting an off-base house, members will receive a move-in housing allowance to help defray costs. All members receive this in addition to the dislocation allowance. Call the housing office at 7-1840 for more information.

Currency exchange

Money can be changed from pounds to dollars and vice versa at the community bank, credit union or clubs on base. In addition, some base concessions and activities will accept either currency. Currency can also be exchanged at off-base banks.

Credit cards can be used to withdraw pounds from both on- and off-base automatic teller machines along with bank debit cards linked to stateside banks using the daily international exchange rate. Using credit cards can save money over using a Bureau de Change, which normally charges the international rate plus a fee. Major credit cards are readily accepted at all on-base facilities. Visa and MasterCard are accepted at many establishments off base.

Point-of-sale systems are also available at the commissary, base exchange and many service facilities, allowing use of debit cards.

Annual road tax

Payment of a road tax is an annual requirement to drive on British roads, similar to the car registration costs in the States.

Road tax is £160 annually for vehicles 1201 CCs, and £105 for 1200 CCs and below. Six months of road tax is £88 and £57.75, respectively. If you buy a British car, you must pay the tax before you can drive the car off the lot. Road tax for motorcycles and three-wheeled vehicles varies with engine size. Keep in mind that it's illegal to drive a car in Britain unless it is insured and the road tax paid. You can also pay on a monthly basis at any local British Post Office.

Car insurance

Insurance can cost up to \$2,500 a year for people younger than 25 insuring an American car. It is more expensive with those who have had tickets or claims on their previous policies. One way to reduce insurance costs is to bring a "Letter of No Claims" with you. Ask your previous insurance company (or companies) for this letter. Insuring a British car is generally cheaper than an American car.

Value added tax

Similar to sales taxes in the States, the United Kingdom has value added tax, commonly referred to as VAT. VAT is currently 17.5 percent and is included in the price of most consumer items and services.

U.S. forces in the United Kingdom now have the opportunity to make VAT-free purchases, according to an agreement reached between Her Majesty's Customs and Excise office and the visiting forces. The program applies to purchases of £100 or more, but does not include cars, motorcycles, real estate, houses or utilities.

Before qualifying for the VAT-free purchase, members have to take the following steps:

- ☐ Identify (but don't buy) the item for purchase. The purchase must be more than £100, VAT included.
- ☐ Determine if the supplier is willing to participate in the program. A letter explaining the program is available in the base VAT office.
- ☐ Obtain a cost quote addressed to the "SVS Fund." The quote must contain the name, address, phone number of the supplier, the item, the cost excluding VAT and the date of the quote.
- ☐ Take the quote to the base VAT office and purchase a government check made payable to the vendor. The VAT office can only accept Pound Sterling cash or a certified bank check as payment for the government issued check. A processing fee of £7 or \$10 will be charged.
- ☐ An original and one copy of the U.S. Forces VAT-Free certificate will be issued and must be taken along with the check to the vendor to purchase the goods.
- ☐ The vendor must sign the certificate, and the customer is required to return a copy to the VAT office. Failure to return the copy could result in the customer being denied any future VAT exempt purchases.
- ☐ The 48th Services Squadron administers the program for individuals with both a valid ID and ration card. Both documents must be presented at the VAT Office when applying for a VAT certificate.

The VAT Office is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday to Friday and is located in Building 958, behind Electric Avenue. Call 7-3166 for details.

Television license

Televisions are licensed annually. A black-and-white TV license costs £36.50 while a color TV license is £109. Only one license is required per household and covers all sets in that household. American-only reception TVs (NTSC) do not require a license, but you won't be able to watch British television shows. You can also buy monthly licenses at any British Post Office. The television license covers the cost of British Broadcasting Corporation programming, which is broadcast without advertisement. Failure to buy a license risks a £1,000 fine.

Keeping informed, in touch and up-to-date

Post office

The Air Force post office provides full postal service, including parcel post, postal insurance and money orders.

Letter mail from the United States can take up to 10 days to arrive, but four to seven days is average. Very large packages mailed from the States may come via ship and take several weeks.

The British mail system is very efficient and has first- and second-class letters. Delivery is six days a week. First-class mail usually arrives the next day, with second-class mail taking a bit longer outside the immediate area.

A small branch British post office is located on base and handles all normal post transactions.

Many British post office shops are similar to a general store, selling stationery and sundries. They will also take payments for most utilities and for television licenses and road tax.

To receive mail at the base through the British postal system, it must be addressed with:

Rank and full name
Box XXXX
RAF Lakenheath
Brandon
Suffolk IP27 9PN

It may take an extra day to reach your box, but the address won't change, no matter how many times you move during your stay at RAF Lakenheath.

News and information

The *Jet 48* is the base's weekly magazine edited by the Public Affairs office. It's distributed on Fridays to the base exchange, post office, dining hall, clubs and other high-traffic areas. Deadline for submissions is noon Wednesday for the following week's edition.

For more information, visit Public Affairs in Building 1085 or call the editor at 7-5640.

Local happenings

The base community relation adviser can assist with information on local activities off base both in the area and throughout the United Kingdom. For more information, call 7-3145.



This is a classic post box where letters can cards may be sent from.

Your hometown paper

The Stars and Stripes newspaper is published seven days a week with U.S. national news and sports, world news, comics, features and military news. It can be purchased at several locations and home delivery is available in some housing areas.

American TV available

Because of the availability of English language news broadcasts and telecasts, there are no Armed Forces Radio and Television Service stations in the United Kingdom.

Limited stateside programming is available through cable or satellite transmission, but broadcast seasons are delayed several months.

American Forces Network broadcasts are available in dormitories, most family housing areas and several base facilities via cable. Private hookups in dorm rooms and housing areas are available for a fee.

British TV and radio

The government-operated British Broadcasting Corp. broadcasts five radio and two TV channels of advertisement-free programming.

In addition, there are two commercial television networks and a multitude of independent radio stations. Satellite and cable television, with more than 25 channels, are also available by subscription.

Broadcast frequencies are not as restricted as in the States. Therefore, radio stations can be found on a wider band. Many of the stations cannot be heard on the standard U.S. receiver.

A useful feature on British television sets is Teletext and Ceefax. These are an additional source of information, including holidays, sports, weather and flight arrivals. To use this feature, you will need a multi-system television with text capability.

Newspapers carry radio and TV schedules and weekly viewing guides can be purchased at newsagents or are included in weekend editions of newspapers.

British newspapers

You have a variety of local and national newspapers to choose from. News coverage includes international and local events, with most papers producing a weekly "What's On" section. For more information about local newspapers, contact the community relations adviser at 7-3145.

Local

Bury Free Press
Newmarket/Mildenhall Journal
Thetford-Watton Times

Regional

East Anglian Daily Times
Eastern Daily Press

Cambridge Evening News

National

The Times
Independent
Telegraph
Guardian
European

Don't be seen as an 'ugly American'

Living in an overseas location means many things will be different. Always remember that different doesn't necessarily mean one way is better than the other. Often people have a tendency to think that because they do something in a certain way, it must be the best way. When Americans verbalize these feelings, they need to be careful that they do not appear to be criticizing. Criticism, however constructive, can sometimes lead to hurt feelings and a stereotyped view of another nation's people.

Always remember you are a guest, and that you represent your nation, so you must be polite and even diplomatic at times. In the United Kingdom, it is best not to make critical remarks about the government, political system, traditions, social-political system, social institutions, the Royal Family, national or local leaders, the state of the economy or its foreign or domestic policies.

Once you get to really know the British, you will of course have a better idea of what is or is not appropriate. You will also find meeting British people to be culturally enriching. A smile and friendly greeting are the quickest means of making friends anywhere in the world. Another useful way to meet neighbors in Britain is simply to compliment their gardens (yards), as many Britons take pride in their gardening.

Both Americans and British often joke about the "British reserve." The American culture, and especially the frequently moving American military members, are often a bit more easy-going and open in relations, and thus Americans sometimes wonder about the more cautious British behavior. Just realize their reserve doesn't mean that the locals don't like you – you just have to give them a little longer to get used to you.



The American military and the United Kingdom enjoy a great reservoir of goodwill from both World War I and World War II. This relationship has been enhanced through the years, as both American and British people have worked together to nurture a lasting friendship between the two peoples.

If you use good manners in your encounters with the British people and are aware of their customs, traditions and lifestyles, you may be able to appreciate the differences and similarities of the two nations.

The following topics may help you understand sensitivities better:

Military criticism

U.S. and British forces have a joint commitment in support of NATO and are partners in that commitment. Avoid criticism of the British forces and any suggestion of a dominant U.S. military.

Weapons

Although more British law enforcement authorities are more armed than several years ago, they carry their weapons discreetly. In general, though, the British have decided to not have an armed police force.

Nationalistic pride

Be sensitive to Irish, Scottish and Welsh national pride and avoid saying Anglo-American when you mean Scottish-American or English when you mean British.



Fuel

Concern over the rising cost and shortage of fossil fuels is common in Britain as it is in the United States. One difference, however, is that fuel is considerably more expensive here than it is back home. Try not to mention that we buy fuel at lower prices than the British public.

Black-marketing

If you've checked tobacco and liquor prices on the economy, you'll be aware that our duty-free privileges in these areas are a significant benefit. Because of the high British taxes on items, you may be approached to make purchases in the base exchange or Class Six store for British citizens. Don't.

It is illegal to give, sell or trade any items bought at the base exchange, Class Six store or commissary to unauthorized people, and the penalties for black-marketing are severe. Of course, you can still entertain British friends and offer normal hospitality, providing the goods are consumed by your guests while they are in your home.

High cost of living

You should remember that despite currency fluctuations, re-computations of allowances and other factors that affects our pay, we are better off economically than the average British worker and should avoid complaining about the high cost of living.

Feedback

Feedback is good, and the British are happy to receive it. Personal comment or customer comment cards are ways of doing this. If you are not happy with a purchase or service, the Citizens' Advice Bureau or Trading Standards Department can help. The Citizen's Advice Bureau is a voluntary organization and is normally available on a part-time basis. Trading Standards is a government agency run by county council officials.

'Ugly Americans'

We've all seen "ugly Americans." You can find them in the States as well as overseas. They're loud, uncouth and critical of everyone and everything that's not exactly what they think it should be. To them, nothing's as good as where they came from.

Don't be one of them. Even if you're not here by choice, and even if some British ways of doing things may occasionally get you down, remember you're a foreigner and a guest in this country.

Don't assume the American way is best. Remember Britain was here long before our country was discovered and many British people are equally convinced their ways are best.

Northern Ireland

You should be aware of the sensitivity of the Northern Ireland problem and avoid comment on either side of this emotional conflict. As a foreigner and guest, it is not your place to offer criticism or suggestions, no matter how well meaning your intent.

Political activities

In view of activity by anti-nuclear and disarmament movements, you should be aware that as members of visiting forces, you must remain neutral and avoid comment on political matters of the United Kingdom.

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Living in Great Britain

The United Kingdom is made up of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (or Ulster). Southern Ireland (or Eire) has had its own government since 1922. Great Britain consists of England, Scotland and Wales. People from each of the three countries are very proud of their origins, so if you are unsure, it's best to use the term "British" rather than "English," "Scottish" or "Welsh."

The climate is generally mild and temperate. Prevailing winds are southwesterly and daily weather is subject to frequent changes but to few extremes of temperatures. Temperatures rarely go above 90 degrees Fahrenheit or below 14 degrees Fahrenheit. Rainfall averages more than 60 inches in the mountainous areas of the West and North but less than 30 inches over Central and Eastern parts. Rain is fairly well distributed throughout the year, but on average, March to June are the driest months and September to January are the wettest. May, June and July have the longest hours of daylight and the shortest days occur in November, December and January.

Scotland

Scotland lies to the north of England, and has a population of just over 5 million. The area is roughly the size of South Carolina. Scotland, famous for its glens and lochs (lakes) in the Highlands, is great for salmon fishing, wildlife and sightseeing. The surrounding islands offer peace and a chance to step out of the frantic pace of daily life.

The people are very friendly, especially to Americans. The scenery is very different from that around RAF Lakenheath.



Thatched-roof houses can be found throughout the country.

Scotland is comprised of the northern portion of the island of Great Britain and many surrounding islands, including the Orkneys, Shetlands and Hebrides. It is bounded by England to the south, the Atlantic Ocean to the north and west, and the North Sea to the east.

It has 2,300 miles of deeply indented coastline. Scotland may be divided into three main geographical regions: the Southern Uplands, the Central Lowlands, and the Highlands of the North is the location of Great Britain's highest peak, Ben Nevis.

Edinburgh is the capital, and Glasgow is the largest city and chief port. The principal rivers are the Clyde, Forth, Dee, Tay and Tweed. In 1707, Scotland was united with England and Wales as the United Kingdom of Great Britain. They share one parliament, but Scotland retains its own systems of law (based on Roman law) and education.

The Church of Scotland, which is Presbyterian, is legally established. English is the predominant language, although some 60,000 Scots also speak Gaelic; few speak only Gaelic.

Edinburgh is about seven hours from Lakenheath. The city is divided into two sections: the Old Town, on the slope of Castle Rock which dates from the 11th century; and the New Town which spread to the north in the late 18th

Community Relations Adviser

A Ministry of Defence British national is assigned to RAF Lakenheath. One of her roles is to answer queries about living in the United Kingdom. She can answer queries on issues such as British utilities, educating your child in a British school and volunteer opportunities in the local community. If she doesn't know the answer, then she can refer you to the expert who can.

The Community Relations Adviser interacts with representatives from the local area on a daily basis – from local civic leaders to members of the public, attending numerous meetings in her capacity as CRA. This gives her a real feel for how community relations are between the base and its neighbors.

In addition, the CRA is available to brief on topics such as British customs, courtesies and culture. She will come out to your workplace if this is more convenient. Currently the position is filled by Linda Laws. She is located in Building 1085 and can be reached at 7-3145.

Edinburgh is a government, finance and tourist center. Most industry, which includes brewing and distilling, publishing and paper milling, is situated near the city's port, Leith. Edinburgh grew up around its 11th-century castle and became Scotland's capital in 1437. It blossomed as a cultural center in the 18th and 19th centuries, with such figures as David Hume, Robert Burns and Sir Walter Scott. It remains a cultural and educational hub and has an annual international arts festival.

Wales

Wales, to the west of England, has a population of about 2.8 million. The area is about the size of New Jersey. Wales is a country of hills and mountains, the highest of which are in Snowdonia. Mount Snowdon is the tallest peak at 3,560 feet. Wales is a principality, and it was in Caernarfon Castle in 1969 where Prince Charles was invested with the title of Prince of Wales by his mother, the Queen, when he was 20 years old.

Wales is bordered by the Irish Sea to the north, the Bristol Channel to the south, England to the east, and Cardigan Bay and St. George's Channel to the west. Physically, it is dominated by the Cambrian Mountains, which rise to 3,500 ft (1,085 in) at Mount Snowdon.

Principal cities are Cardiff, the capital and largest city, and Swansea. Rivers include the Severn, Wye, Teifi and Dee. The great coalfields and major industries are concentrated in the south, as is most of the population. About one quarter of the population speaks Welsh. Wales united politically with England in 1536.

England

England is about the size of Alabama, and has a population of about 60 million. It is the largest country in the United Kingdom. London, its capital city, is one of the largest and busiest cities in the world. The northern part of England is more rugged than the flatter southeast. Industrial England is mainly in the north and Midlands.

Public holidays

Most banks, shops, museums and historic places are closed on Christmas and other public holidays. Public transport is also reduced.

- Jan. 1, New Year's Day
- GoodFriday
- Easter Monday
- May Day, first Monday in May
- Last Monday in May, spring bank holiday
- Last Monday in August, summer holiday
- Christmas Day
- Boxing Day, Dec. 26.

Ireland

Ireland – especially Southern Ireland – is like stepping back in time. The softly spoke people are always ready to extend a warm welcome. The soft green terrain, steep wooded valleys, waterfalls and swift mountain streams are beautiful.

East Anglia

RAF Lakenheath is located in rural East Anglia. It is an area of low population, having no major towns or cities in the immediate vicinity of the base. Major roads are conveniently situated to allow easy access to Cambridge and London. In the immediate area are the villages of Lakenheath, Eriswell, Feltwell and the towns of Brandon and Mildenhall. Within a 30-minute drive are the towns of Bury St. Edmunds and Newmarket.

During the middle ages, East Anglia was one of the wealthiest areas of England. Sheep raising, wool and manufactured cloth were



Lakenheath Village

the basis of a very profitable trade with Europe, and the remaining churches, castles and abbey ruins attest to the wealth that accumulated. But in the 1500s, the wool trade declined and at the same time, England was turning her attention away from Europe. As the nation concentrated on colonizing America and other places around the world, East Anglia remained predominantly rural.

RAF Lakenheath is also located in Breckland, which is characterized by its sandy and shallow topsoil – hence the peculiarly shaped Scots Pine trees which only this type of soil can sustain.

RAF Lakenheath is also located in Breckland, which is characterized by its sandy and shallow topsoil – hence the peculiarly shaped Scots Pine trees which only this type of soil can sustain.

To all our U.S. Air Force visitors:

Welcome to the United Kingdom and RAF Lakenheath. We hope you will enjoy your stay while assigned to this lovely country. As a resident of Suffolk, Norfolk and Cambridgeshire counties, you can rest assured you are living in a particularly safe part of the country. Our experience does show however, that nowhere is completely crime free. The types of crimes prevalent in this area are thefts from motor vehicles and domestic burglaries committed against soft targets. Both of these offenses can be combated by following simple common sense and crime prevention measures available from any police station.

Additionally, you can take measures to prevent motor vehicle crime by following some of these rules: (1) Keep your vehicle in a garage if you have one; (2) When off base remove anything from sight which identifies you as an American (e.g. 3rd Air Force Form 26, pink card, uniform, equipment, etc); (3) When driving in residential areas, don't play loud music, this will attract criminals; (4) Ensure your vehicle is locked and all valuable items are locked out of site; (5) if you notice individuals behaving suspiciously, call 999.

We encourage you to be security conscious and be aware of your surroundings. Have a great stay in the United Kingdom and at RAF Lakenheath.

Ministry of Defence Police

Probably one of the finest buildings in Lakenheath is its church, dedicated to St. Mary. The story of English architecture from the Norman conquest is revealed in different aspects – the church's font is possibly the best early

American bases in the

Base	Service
RAF Alconbury/RAF Molesworth	Joint service
RAF Feltwell	Air Force
RAF Menwith Hill	Joint service
RAF Mildenhall	Air Force
Naval Activity, U.K. London	Navy



Red post boxes and telephone booths are a familiar sight.

English font in the country. The hammer-beam roof is spanned by angels with unfolded wings, and the benches in the nave, the main body of the church, date from the 15th century.

Located about five miles south of the base, Mildenhall, population 10,100 is the administrative center of the Forest Heath District. While the marketplace, main street, and ancient church are the center of the old town, a new shopping precinct, new housing estates, community center, library, swimming pool and a sports and adult education center have recently been added. The town is set around the 16th century market cross and church. The original church was built in the 12th and 13th centuries, but was rebuilt in the 15th century. The town museum houses a replica of the Mildenhall Treasure, the original of which is held in the British Museum.

The market town of Brandon, population 6,600, is five miles northeast of the base on the south bank of the Little Ouse river. The town has a lively shopping center, convenient public car parks, a library and a community center. The layout of Brandon is typical of

in the United Kingdom

Service Distance from Lakenheath

Joint service	40 miles
Air Force	10 miles
Joint service	Four hours
Air Force	Fivemiles
Navy	85 miles

many English towns and villages, where the High Street, or main street, is the main thoroughfare. The shops are typical of those you'll find in any small town. To the north of Brandon is Thetford Forest Park, which offers recreation facilities. People can cycle, walk, orienteer and

take advantage of guided events in the forest.

Thetford, population 19,500, is about 12 miles northeast of the base, and is located at the convergence of the rivers Thet and Little Ouse. Thetford boasts a modern shopping area, a town guildhall, and a well-equipped sports complex.

Newmarket, population 16,100, is 16 miles south of the base and is a renowned center for the racing, training, breeding and sale of horses. While two world-famous race tracks are located south of town, the area is slowly turning to new business and housing. On the outskirts of Newmarket is the Studlands Park, a joint British/American subdivision with 397 housing units leased by the base for military housing.

Bury St. Edmunds, population 31,200, is about 16 miles southeast of the base and is the site of ruins of a huge abbey built to house a shrine to sainted King Edmund. In the Middle Ages, the abbey controlled most of the land and wealth in west Suffolk, but it was almost destroyed by King Henry VIII in 1538 when many religious centers in England were pillaged for the riches, which were transferred to the crown. The Magna Carta was drafted in 1215 in Bury St. Edmunds. King John was later forced by the barons to sign the document, leading to the sharing of powers by the king and becoming the basis of shared power that is at the founding of the British government. Today, Bury is a good place to shop, with a market place, and an old section of town packed with tiny shops right out of Charles Dickens's time.

Probably the best known city in the area, Cambridge, population 91,000, is about 35 miles southwest of the base. The city features 29 colleges and attracts students from around the world, giving this place an international flavor.

English Heritage

English Heritage was created more than 10 years ago to protect England's wealth of historical

buildings and monument. Paying an annual due allows you to become a member of English Heritage, and gives you free entry to all member properties and free admission to many events throughout the year.

National Trust

The National Trust organization has been around for more than 100 years. Its principal aim is provide permanent protection for countryside, coastline and historic buildings.

Paying an annual due allows you to become a National Trust member, with free admittance to all participating institutions or sites.

Tourist information centers

Tourist information centers are in most towns in Britain and offer literature including guides, maps and accommodation details. People who plan can receive information to their homes, if the centers get

enough notice.

Public transport

British Rail operates 14,000 trains a day, serving more than 2,000 stations throughout Britain. The main London railway stations for the local region are Kings Cross and Liverpool Street. The closest train station to the base is in Brandon, but this station is un-staffed, and the trains are not so frequent as from Ely or Cambridge.

A fast intercity network of trains links all the major cities with frequent services during the main part of the day. All intercity trains have both standard, which is economy or second class, and first-class accommodation. First class offers wider seating and more spacious accommodation. First-class carriages are marked with the appropriate symbol. All major intercity stations have easy-to-read indicator boards above the entrances to help people find appropriate platforms and trains. The indicators change by the minute. For more information, call British Rail at (0845) 7484950. Britain's long-distance coach network, National Express, reaches all major towns and cities. Service details are available by calling 540 298 1395.

Pubs



Most villages have old churches like this one.

For centuries, pubs have provided food, refreshment and shelter for weary travelers. Today, they're very often the center of village life and are an ideal place to meet the local inhabitants and find out what's going on in the area. Many also serve excellent food. Pubs are strictly controlled by law and are licensed for alcohol sales only between certain hours. Pubs are allowed to be open between 11 a.m. and 10:30 p.m. Children 14 and over may be admitted legally to the bar to consume non-alcoholic drinks.

Customers must be 18 or

over to buy or consume alcohol in a bar.

Tipping

There are no hard-and-fast rules about tipping, and the following is intended as a guide only. Most hotels include a service charge, usually between 10 and 12.5 percent. When a service charge is not included, it is customary to divide 10 to 15 percent of the bill. For porters, the amount depends on the size of the baggage and distance carried. For taxis, 10 to 15 percent is usually acceptable.

Shops, banks and post offices

In general, shops open at 9 a.m. and close at 5:30 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays. The laws governing Sunday trading are undergoing change, and you may find some shops open Sundays. In country towns and quieter suburbs, smaller shops may close for an hour at lunch time, between 1 and 2 p.m. Many country towns traditionally had an early closing day, but this has largely died out. You may, however, find the odd shop closed one afternoon a week. Many cities have "late" nights once a week when shops stay open until 7:30 or 8 p.m. Banks are open 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. weekdays. Post offices are open 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. weekdays and until 12:30 p.m. Saturdays, but always are close form from 1 to 2 p.m. weekdays for lunch.



Village high streets have a uniquely British look.

Touring in the United Kingdom

Great Britain is full of things to do and see. Besides the many historic sites, there are also more modern attractions. Here is a sampling of some of the things Britain offers people.

London

London offers many things for the visitor, including theaters, restaurants, walks in the area and various festivals.

Hadrian's Wall

Hadrian's Wall stretches 73 miles across northern England. It is more than 2,000 years old and was built by the Romans to separate the "civilized" world from the northern tribes beyond. The wall has several interesting points along its length, including a bathhouse, a Roman fort and the remains of Chesters Bridge, which carried the wall across the river Tyne.

Alnwick Castle, an 11th century castle, is also in the area, as well as Lindisfarne, the island where St. Aidan founded a monastery. The castle is open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Easter through September. The site on the island is open from 10 a.m.

Cathedrals

There are many famous and interesting cathedrals in the local area. St. Edmundsbury Cathedral is in Bury St. Edmunds. Unlike most English cathedrals, St. Edmundsbury's is spacious and full of light. It is also not as large as many others and has many colorful paintings. The Ely Cathedral is considered one of the grandest of England's surviving Norman churches. It was built between 1083 and 1130. The most famous feature of the cathedral is the Octagon which replaced the central tower after it collapsed in 1322.

The Canterbury Cathedral is the administrative center of the Church of England. The cathedral has been the seat of an archbishopric since it was founded in 597, the year that St. Augustine – the first archbishop – was sent from Rome to convert the Anglo-Saxons to Christianity.

There has been a cathedral where St. Paul's Cathedral now stands for 1,400 years. The first Saxon Cathedral was built in 1090 and was rebuilt following a fire in 1136. The Great Fire of London in 1666 reduced the cathedral to ruins. Sir Christopher Wren, one of England's most distinguished architects, was commissioned to build St. Paul's in 1668. One of the popular areas for visitors to explore is the whispering gallery, which can be reached from a long set of winding stairs.

Stonehenge

Stonehenge is described by English Heritage as the greatest mystery of the prehistoric world.



Piccadilly Circus is the brightest corner in London.

Some of the surrounding structures were started as long ago as 3000 B.C., 1,000 years before the pyramids were built in Egypt. Although the great sarsen stones that make up the central feature of the monument are the best known, they form only a part of an extensive prehistoric landscape that is filled with the remains of ceremonial and domestic structures. Some of them are older than the great monument itself, including Old Sarum and the Avebury Stone Circles.

Stonehenge is open to visitors for most of the year except Dec. 24 to 26. General-public access is not allowed into the inner circle.

Old Sarum was originally built by Iron Age people around 500 B.C., but successive settlers and conquerors have also occupied Old Sarum. The Normans made it into one of their major strongholds with a castle and cathedral. Old Sarum faded away in the 13th century when New Sarum came into being. Today, this is known as Salisbury. Old Sarum is located two miles north of Salisbury, Wiltshire, off the A345. The Avebury Stone Circles surround the village of Avebury, seven miles west of Marlborough in Wiltshire. The circles were constructed 4,000 years ago and consisted originally of more than 180 stones.



Stonehenge is visited by thousands of tourists each year.

Liberty

Wing

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Liberty

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Base facilities and services

American Red Cross

The American Red Cross supports and supplements activities of the military affecting the health, welfare and morale of service-members and their families. Services offered include:

Emergency communications –The Red Cross provides emergency communications services to active-duty military members, their spouses, and both their immediate family members and grandparents.

Emergency financial assistance –The Red Cross, in partnership with the military aid societies, provides access to interest-free loans and grants to military and their families when an urgent personal or family crisis arises.

Information and referral service – Counseling services are available to provide military families with information and referral services to various agencies, including legal aid, medical or psychiatric care, housing, and family and child welfare.

Disaster services –Service-members who have disaster-related needs may be assisted by the Red Cross with a disaster grant. Disaster education courses, briefings and orientations are provided to individuals who have an interest in the program.

Volunteer services –During 2001, 375 volunteers provided more than 40,000 hours of service to the RAF Lakenheath community, helping the hospital, Department of Defense Dependents Schools system, Red Cross office, post office, youth programs and various other locations.

Health and safety services – During 2001, about 1,000 individuals were enrolled in CPR, first aid, water safety, lifeguard training, baby-sitting and healthy pregnancy/healthy baby courses.

Call the American Red Cross office at 7-1855, or after hours, call (01638) 542121.

Breckland Pines Golf Course

The Breckland Pines Golf Course is a 9-hole heathland type course with 18 different tee positions. The pro shop sells a range of golf equipment and clothing. A snack bar and driving range are also available. Call 7-2223 for more information.

Community centers

RAF Lakenheath –The RAF Lakenheath Community Center features multipurpose rooms, a game room, a TV lounge and a “Just Cappuccinos” coffee concessionaire. Ample space is available for

activities ranging from music lessons to Tae Kwon Do.

The center supports special interest groups, such as the amateur drama group, Beanie Baby club, chess club and more. It sponsors various base, regional and command-level events.

Features include a telephone service for local and international calls on a repayment basis. Calls may be made at any time, day or night, and are placed on a first-come, first-served basis. A fax machine is available at comparable rates. There is a small fee for incoming faxes. British postage stamps are available for purchase, as well as balloon or gift delivery. Call the center at 7-2221 for more information.

RAF Feltwell –The RAF Feltwell Community Center offers recreational activities for adults and children. Programs include children’s programs, aerobics, flea markets and more. The center consists of a game room, dance studio, instruction room and lounge.

Services include faxing, photocopying and holding parties. American videotapes and games are available for rent, as well as balloon and gift sales. Contact the center at 7-7022 for information.

Eagles’ Landing

Eagles’ Landing, RAF Lakenheath’s officers club, includes a lounge, ballroom, dining room, small conference room, party rooms and the Eagle’s Pub. Squadron-sponsored parties, spouses club functions and Anglo-American activities are all part of the club function. Their telephone number is 7-2535.

Family support center

The RAF Lakenheath Family Support Center offers specialized workshops, seminars and classes. Topics include parenting concerns, career planning, financial planning and many more. Many support groups are also offered. Call 7-3847 for more information.

Air Force Aid Society –The Air Force Aid Society is in the center. This service provides emergency financial assistance to active-duty Air Force members, retirees and their families. Additionally, the AFAS supports a number of base programs such as spouse tuition assistance, Car Care Because We Care (for deployed spouses), Give Parents a Break, respite care, volunteer child care, and the H. H. Arnold Educational Grant program for the sons and daughters of active-duty and retired members. If there is a need, call 7-3847.

Career focus program – The overall goal of the career focus program is to enhance the marketability and employability of family members at RAF Lakenheath. Achieving this goal means addressing these program objectives: assisting in career planning; helping family members learn job-search skills; increasing opportunities for paid and volunteer employment; increasing opportunities for vocational and educational development; and increasing access to employment information.

Family life education – Family life education includes programs that are designed to assist Air Force members and their



The Breckland Pines Golf Course features nine holes, a driving range and pro shop.

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families cope with changes in their lives. Here are some of the programs available through the family support center:

- Common Sense Parenting
- PREP (Marriage Enrichment)
- Enhancing Self-Esteem
- Time Management
- Assertiveness Training
- Single Parents Lunch Bunch
- Military 101
- Divorce Care
- Couple's Communication
- Special Delivery
- English as a Second Language
- Conflict Resolution
- Stress Management
- Life Skills for Teens
- Money and Marriage
- Kids and Divorce

Family readiness program – The family readiness program provides the 48th Fighter Wing with information and resources on family readiness issues. It provides assistance to family members before, during and after times of mobilization, deployments, separation or evacuation. The family readiness coordinator promotes preparedness for these situations through family education and development of assistance programs such as pre-deployment, deployment and reunion seminars, spouse support groups, Give Parents a Break and Car Care Because We Care programs. In addition, the coordinator helps families maintain contact during separations through morale calls, videophones and e-mail.

Family services – Family services is located within the family support center, Building 949, and is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays. Their programs are designed to serve the needs of active duty personnel and their families, however, if resources are available, government service workers and civilian contractors may also participate.

Family services loans base videos about most Air Force installations, but many of these are dated. For the most up-to-date information on your gaining installations visit www.afcrossroads.com or www.dmdc.osd.mil/sites/. Family services offers a Loan Locker, which is stocked with household items, including dishes, pots and pan, linens, irons and ironing boards, port-a-cribs and more. A copy of PCS orders is required. They also coordinate the base's Coupon Connection Program and Newborn Layette Program. For detailed information, call 7-3134.

Information and referral

– This program's core function is to link individuals and families with the right resource to meet their needs. Whether you are new to the United Kingdom and/or the Air Force, you may have questions about living overseas or about different base agencies. The FSC has a database of on- and off-base resources available to active duty and family members. Their goal is to make this assignment an experience you enjoy.

Personal financial

management – This program is designed to aid individuals in financial matters such as

budgeting, debt reduction, basic investment planning, mutual funds, home buying and retirement planning. We have a debt payment program called Power Pay. This program realigns the way current bills are paid, which can save you thousands of dollars. Quit seeing red by getting out of the red.

Relocation assistance program – The goal of this program is to increase knowledge and skills needed by military, DOD civilians and their families to accomplish a successful move.

For outbound personnel, this is done through various seminars such as PCS with Ease, Pet Scoop and Kids on the Move.

For inbound personnel, the relocation team liaisons with the INTRO program manager to provide a variety of "Welcome Package" type information. In further support of spouses, the relocation team and the base community relations adviser co-host a Newcomer's Spouse's Tea. During the tea spouses are provided with tailored base and social agency information, as well as the opportunity to socialize with other newly arrived spouses. Lastly, all personnel and their family members who want to learn about British courtesies and customs will soon have the option of attending our "Welcome to Britain" class.

Transition assistance program – The transition assistance program provides the tools and training to retiring or separating Air Force members, DOD civilians and their family members to help them make a successful transition from the military. It provides individualized transition counseling to help clients explore and assess their employment strengths. The bottom line is to provide the customer with as many transition options as possible. The program also teaches subjects outside the normal transition time parameters (i.e. resume writing, skills assessment, etc.) so that potential separatees or retirees can anticipate future needs.

Volunteer resource

program – The volunteer resource program maintains a job bank of volunteer positions on and off base. Through their work volunteers can gain new skills, obtain experience and help the overall morale and well-being of the community.

Fitness and sports center

The fitness and sports center is open daily and offers several facilities including courts for racquetball, volleyball, basketball and badminton. Outdoor facilities include a full-size athletic field encircled by an all-weather running track, three softball fields and four tennis courts.

All base personnel may participate in martial arts or aerobics programs for all levels. The weight-training program is tailored to each person's needs and abilities, using Cybex/Nautilus/Universal machines and free weights. A comprehensive intramural and varsity



There are many ways to compete and keep fit at the fitness and sports center.

Living in Great Britain

athletic program is operated year-round, along with special events such as fun runs, tournaments and Wing Sports Day.

The center is equipped with men's and women's locker rooms, each with shower facilities and a sauna. For more information, call 7-3607.



People take their annual cycle ergometry test at the HAWC.

Health and Wellness Center

Located in the Fitness and Sports Center, Building 900, the HAWC's mission is to optimize mission readiness and community health of the base population. The HAWC provides many walk-in services, educational literature, classes and programs to assist individuals with their health and fitness goals.

In addition, specialized HAWC staff – such as exercise physiologists and nutritionists – can provide the expertise to assist anyone to make the necessary changes to keep active and fit and lead a healthy lifestyle. To learn more, call 7-2710 or 7-9388.

Information, Tickets and Travel

The Information, Tickets and Travel office offers day trips to local points of interest throughout the United Kingdom. Continental tours are also available to places like Austria, Holland, Belgium, France or Sweden.

Tickets are available for airline, ferry, train, bus, theater, concerts, major sporting events and hotel accommodations. Arrangements for special private groups may be made for events, such as theater, dinner, pubs and medieval banquets.

Information concerning boat hire, car hire, airports and tourism is available at the office. For more information, call 7-3245.

Liberty Club

The Liberty Club, RAF Lakenheath's enlisted club, offers dining and entertainment to club members. It features a ballroom with live entertainment, a contemporary cuisine dining room and a casino game room. In addition, the club has the Freedom Café, a quick-service restaurant. Food purchases may be charged to club cards. The enlisted spouses club meets regularly at the Liberty Club. A Top-3 Lounge is also located in the club. Their telephone number is 7-3869.

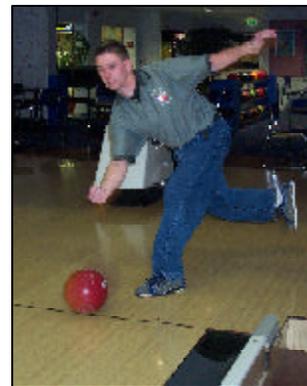
Liberty Lanes

Liberty Lanes, next to the shoppette, features 24 computerized scoring lanes. Leagues and bowling

associations are available. For more information, call 7-2108.

Library

Educational, job-related, enriching or recreational books for all ages, and books in foreign languages are available at the base library. Other print materials include magazines, newspapers, pamphlets and maps. Books on cassette, videotapes and compact discs are available for check out and magazine and newspaper articles on microfiche may be viewed. The library also has a newly dedicated "Cyber Zone" with 24 Internet stations. Their telephone number is 7-3713.



Leagues play at the Liberty Lanes every night of the week.



RAF Lakenheath has the United Kingdom's only military roller rink.

Skating rink

The United Kingdom's only military roller rink is located in Building 900, the fitness center. The rink features open and family skating throughout the weekend. Skate rental and a snack bar are also available. Private skating parties for any occasion may also be booked, call 7-1627 or 7-3820.

Swimming pool

RAF Lakenheath has the only indoor heated swimming pool in USAFE. Classes for children and adults are held regularly. Lap swim sessions are open to anyone. Masters coached sessions are also available for those wishing to improve their technique. These are free for active duty military. There are also a number of open swims for families, and a children's fun hour each week. Lifeguards on duty ensure safety. Lockers, showers and dressing rooms are available. For details, call 7-2815.



RAF Lakenheath has the only indoor heated swimming pool in the U.S. Air Forces in Europe.

Liberty

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Shopping on base

Base Exchange

The base exchange is open daily and offers both stateside and foreign merchandise for active-duty military identification card holders and their dependents.

Bookmark

The Bookmark at RAF Mildenhall carries a variety of current magazines and paperback books, a large children's section, baseball cards and top-10 books. It is open weekdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

BXtra

The BXtra/Four Seasons at RAF Mildenhall is open daily. They offer a good selection of plants and gardening supplies, power tools, hardware, exercise and recreation equipment, and Toyland has toys and games for all ages. They also have a service department and cashier's cage.



The commissary serves fresh-baked goods daily.

Commissary

The commissary, with the second largest sales in the European Region, is open to authorized people every day and serves more than 50,000 customers each month. The store offers an average of 8,500 items. The commissary also offers produce and meat departments, a deli, sandwich cart, in-store bakery and a well-stocked grab-n-go section at the front of the store. The commissary is open Monday to Saturday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Several 15-minute limit parking spaces are available for quick shopping trips. For more information and latest news visit the store on its Web site at www.commissaries.com.

Electric Avenue

Electric Avenue has one of the largest selections of American-format videotapes for rent on base. The assortment is continually updated and several copies of new releases are available.

Game systems and cartridges can also be rented. They also sell compact discs and cassettes, and have a special-order service. Other services include passport pictures and full-service and one-hour photo processing. They are located next to Donutland. Call 7-2067 for more information.

Food

The base has Burger King, Popeye's Chicken, The Great Little Pizza Place, Kebabland and Donutland. The base exchange American Eatery features Frank's Franks, Baskin Robbins, Robin Hood and Anthony's Pizza. A wide range of food is available. Baskin Robbins serves ice cream and cakes. The Liberty Lanes offers grilled sandwiches and burgers, as well as breakfast items. In summer 2002, Taco Bell opens at RAF Lakenheath.

At RAF Mildenhall, there is Pizza Cove, Baskin Robbins, Burger King, Taco Bell Express, Robin Hood and Anthony's Pizza.

Military clothing sales store

The military clothing sales store offers a complete line of Air Force uniforms for men and women, plus a selection of military and novelty gift items. The store is open weekdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Pineview Theater

The Pineview Theater shows recent releases from the States. Movie schedules are printed in the *Jet 48* or call the movie hotline at 7-2139.

Service stations

The service stations at RAF Lakenheath, RAF Mildenhall and RAF Feltwell dispense different types of fuel tax free to authorized servicemembers and their dependents. To purchase gas at these discounted rates requires a certificate of eligibility – which is available from unit orderly rooms – and a valid identification card. Leaded fuel is being phased out of usage in the United Kingdom.

Shoppettes

The shoppette at RAF Lakenheath is open 24 hours a day and offers convenience items including food, stationary, Class Six, mini-Bookmark, toiletries and video rental. RAF Mildenhall's shoppette offers similar items.

Banking services

Community bank – Nations Bank manages RAF Lakenheath's community bank and offers full banking services for active-duty members, their families, DOD civilian employees and retirees. Contact the RAF Lakenheath branch at 7-3750. The community bank is open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., except Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon.

The community bank offers a full range of services including: U.S. dollar and British sterling checking accounts, savings accounts, money orders, traveler's cheques and cashier's checks, personal loans and foreign currency sales and exchanges. In addition, the bank can establish automatic monthly bill payments directly from your account.

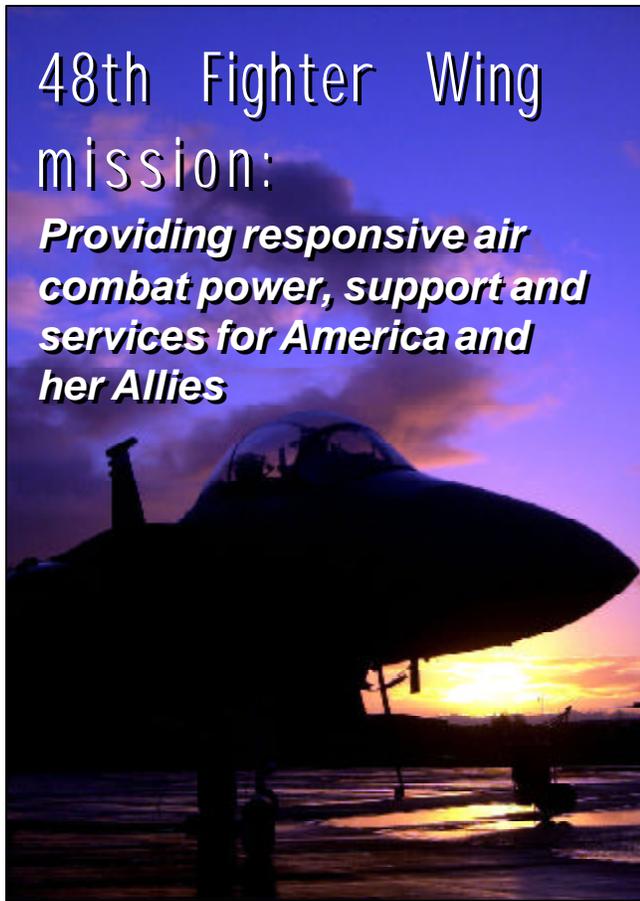
The community bank maintains six ATMs for patron usage, which are on either side of the bank, at the post office, the shoppette, on the flightline and at RAF Feltwell. All ATMs have 24-hour access and allow bank patrons to withdraw either dollars or pounds from their savings or checking accounts, or pounds from their sterling account. In addition, each ATM is linked to systems such as Plus and Cirrus, allowing access to stateside bank accounts.

Credit union – Keesler Federal Credit Union operates four offices in the United Kingdom. Call the RAF Lakenheath office at 7-2115. The credit union offers a full range of services, from savings and checking accounts to individual retirement accounts.

Keesler maintains two ATMs located at the base exchange and the commissary with 24-hour access for patrons. Members may withdraw dollars or pounds from their checking or savings accounts. Each ATM is linked to systems such as Plus and Cirrus, allowing access to stateside bank accounts.

The credit union is open weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon.

48th Fighter Wing mission



Wing staff agencies

Inspector general

The inspector general's office is in the 48th Fighter Wing Headquarters, Building 1085, and can be contacted at 7-5124. The 24-hour fraud, waste and abuse hotline number is 7-2742. The e-mail address is 48fw.ig@lakenheath.af.mil.

The inspector general is responsible to the commander and higher headquarters for the functions of the Air Force complaints and fraud, waste and abuse programs. The IG provides assistance and information; receives complaints and fraud, waste and abuse disclosures; investigates issues; provides findings of investigations; and ensures corrective action is taken when appropriate. Anyone can contact the inspector general. If a policy directive or instruction has another means of appeal or grievance, you must exhaust those procedures before filing an IG complaint.

Chapel

The chaplains at RAF Lakenheath are dedicated to providing the best spiritual care possible. They give "accountable ministry for people who count." Knowing that the Liberty Wing is a lead Air Expeditionary Force wing, that the operations tempo is high, and that we can be called at a moment's notice to deploy anywhere in the world, the chaplains stand ready to respond.

Not only must they be ready to serve at remote locations, but they also prepare families and friends who remain behind to be spiritual leaders to the rest of the community.

The chapel offers a comprehensive Catholic and Protestant programs. Chapel activities include women's and men's groups, youth activities, choirs, religious education classes for all age groups, and spiritual retreats. Social and fellowship activities are also conducted throughout the year.

Call the base chapel at 7-3711, for information concerning denominational services and churches and other faith groups in our surrounding communities.

Jewish programs are conducted at the RAF Mildenhall chapel. A Muslim prayer group meets daily at the RAF Lakenheath chapel.

During normal duty hours, call 7-3711. After duty hours, a chaplain can be reached for emergencies by calling the command post at 7-4800.

Manpower and Organization

The 48th Fighter Wing Manpower and Organization office facilitates the most efficient and innovative use of the wing's resources – especially manpower, to accomplish the wing's mission. Manpower and Organization provides consultation services, determines and validates manpower requirements, manages the IDEA and productivity programs, develops manpower plans for deployments, assists with organizational changes and facilitates process improvement.

Safety

The wing safety office helps people have a safe tour in the United Kingdom, both on and off duty. The office staff asks people to always wear seat belts, use indicators where appropriate, drive defensively and not drink and drive. Their office is in Building 1088, and their telephone number is 7-3737.

Staff judge advocate

Active-duty members, retired members, DOD civilians, and their family members are eligible for free legal assistance. The assistance available covers a range of issues, including domestic relations, taxes, wills and consumer affairs, among others.

Legal assistance is available on a walk-in basis Tuesdays from 9 to 10 a.m., and Thursdays from 3 to 4 p.m. Wills are handled by appointment only on Wednesdays from 9 to 10:30 a.m. The legal office also offers powers of attorney and free notary services on a walk-in basis Mondays through Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Claims services are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays. Legal and claims services are provided Fridays from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tax services are provided throughout the year. Please call for hours as these change according to the time of year.

For more information or to schedule an appointment call 7-3553.

48th Comptroller Squadron

The 48th Comptroller Squadron has approximately 50 people who provide financial support for wing agencies and each Liberty Wing member. The Financial Services Office or finance office, handles all military pay, travel pay, vendor pay and any other pay-affecting transactions.

It also handles unique special pay and allowances for overseas locations thereby directly impacting personal finances. The squadron's Financial Analysis flight plans and executes the wing's \$230 million budget. The comptroller also serves as the banking liaison officer and the base control point for the government travel card.

Military Equal Opportunity

The Military Equal Opportunity office offers assistance to active-duty members, family members, and retirees with allegations of

48th Fighter Wing mission

unlawful discrimination based on race, religion, sex, color or national origin, and sexual harassment. The MEO staff provides equal opportunity and treatment or human relations education and counseling as well as a variety of other services. MEO is located in Building 948 and can be reached at 7-3278 or 7-3229. It is open Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Public affairs

The 48th Fighter Wing Public Affairs office is responsible for producing RAF Lakenheath's base magazine – the "Jet 48" – and administering the wing's media and community relations programs. Members are responsible for official news releases, media query response, base tours, commander's Action Line program, base guide, speakers' bureau, commander's channel and more. Call 7-2151 for more information about PA programs.

Plans and programs

The 48th Fighter Wing Plans and Programs Directorate, or XP, is the overall planning, programming and coordinators for all deployments, contingency operations and war plans for the Liberty Wing. Consisting of 24 personnel with various Air Force specialties, XP works directly for the wing commander. XP is comprised of four functional sections, each responsible for very different yet equally important peacetime and combat operations for the wing.

The first functional area of XP is deployment operations, or XPL. This section proudly serves the 48th FW as the single point of contact for all deployment operations. The second section, deliberate plans, or XPX, consists of many different programs and functions. Third, the expeditionary air operations section, or XPE, is the single point of contact between the 48th FW and outside agencies regarding all Air Expeditionary Force issues. Finally, the contingency plans section, or XPC, provides the Liberty Wing expertise on plans used during the wing's major inspections. XPC also manages

the Battle Staff providing premier command and control during exercises and real-world contingencies.

All sections of XP work together to provide the Liberty Wing with effective planning and programming to ensure the wing is always prepared to meet the mission.

Command post

The 48th Fighter Wing Command Post, or Wing Operations Center, is the nerve center of RAF Lakenheath and provides command and control support to the wing commander and Liberty Wing team. The WOC operates an Emergency Action and Maintenance Operations cell 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and plays an important role during exercises, contingencies and other emergency situations. Contact the WOC at 7-4800 or commercial at (01638)524800.

48th Operations Group

The 48th Operations Group consists of 1,300 people in four squadrons. They provide combat-ready aircraft and aircrew in support of U.S. and NATO missions.

The aircrew and aircraft of the operations group are in the 492nd, 493rd and 494th fighter squadrons. These three squadrons operate 72 primary assigned aircraft and are responsible for conducting air operations as tasked. Aircrew gain and maintain proficiency in employing precision-guided munitions, air-to-air ordnance, and conventional and strike weapons. Last fiscal year, the group flew more than 20,000 hours in training and combat missions.

48th Operations Support Squadron

The 48th Operations Support Squadron provides essential support functions for flying and maintenance operations of three



RAF Lakenheath deploys as the only lead Air Expeditionary Force wing assigned to the U.S. Air Forces in Europe.

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A 492nd Fighter Squadron aircrew tests the speed break during pre-flight checks.

F-15 fighter squadrons. The 230 people in the squadron are organized into six flights: airfield operations, current operations, intelligence, maintenance, weapons, and tactics and weather. The squadron furnishes air traffic services and weather support for local and transient aircraft; constructs and coordinates plans for combat operations and peacetime training; and provides management oversight for aircraft maintenance and aircrew training activities. In addition, the squadron provides orderly room support to the 48th Operations Group staff.

492nd Fighter Squadron

The 492nd Fighter Squadron “Madhatters” employ the F-15E “Strike Eagle.” The squadron has more than 350 operations, maintenance and administrative personnel from 15 job specialty codes. The maintenance members inspect, repair and load the aircraft to support higher headquarters taskings and aircrew training requirements. Operations members employ the aircraft in peacetime training missions and in support of NATO, USAFE and joint combat operations worldwide. The Strike Eagle is capable of delivering air-to-ground munitions including strike, conventional, electro-optical and laser-guided precision munitions, and radar and infrared air-to-air missiles worldwide.

493rd Fighter Squadron

The 493rd Fighter Squadron “Grim Reapers” have a strictly air-to-air mission with 24 primary assigned aircraft, 40 pilots and 350 maintenance and support personnel. The squadron vision is “guaranteed dominant air superiority for the most lethal composite strike team ‘The Team’ leaders choose for the toughest missions anytime, anyplace!” Their mission is to rapidly mobilize, generate and deploy combat-ready aircraft and people to perform air superiority and air defense missions in support of United States and NATO combat and peacetime operations throughout the world. As the only F-15C squadron in USAFE, the 493rd will be regularly called upon to support continuing contingency operations as well as any crisis deployments throughout the command.

494th Fighter Squadron

The 494th Fighter Squadron “Panthers” are responsible for the maintenance and operation of 24 primary assigned F-15E “Strike Eagle” aircraft and more than 400 equipment items and special tools. The squadron executes strategic attack, interdiction, and counter-air

missions in support of USAFE, U.S. European Command and NATO. There are 250 maintenance members assigned with 10 Air Force specialty codes maintaining the weapon systems and 80 aircrew trained to use air-to-air missiles and laser-guided, electro-optical, and conventional munitions anywhere in the world.

48th Logistics Group

48th Supply Squadron

The 48th Supply Squadron provides supply support to the men and women who maintain and operate 48 F-15E Strike Eagles and 24 F-15C Eagles – the Air Force’s premier fighter aircraft. The squadron serves more than 26 squadrons, comprising of 525 unit organizations and 16 tenant units, as well as supporting contingency operations throughout the U.S. Air Forces in Europe. The squadron procures, stocks and/or delivers more than 31,700 line items valued at \$695 million. Additionally, it manages 172 custodial equipment and special-purpose recoverables authorized maintenance accounts valued at more than \$329 million, and sells \$38.5 million in aviation and ground fuels annually.

48th Logistics Support Squadron

The 48th Logistics Support Squadron has 74 military and civilian professionals who provide staff and technical assistance to the logistics and operations groups. Its many and varied responsibilities include providing aircraft maintenance and ancillary training for the wing’s 2,800 aircraft technicians and staff. The squadron also schedules the maintenance of the wing’s fleet of 196 engines and maintains their historical records. Other responsibilities include the control and upkeep of 228 logistic facilities valued at \$324 million, and manning management for the largest logistics group in the U.S. Air Forces in Europe comprising 1,805 personnel. Certainly not least, they provide resource management for the group’s extensive \$123 million budget.

48th Component Repair Squadron

The 48th Component Repair Squadron is a 480-strong quality team of maintenance professionals providing both on- and off-equipment maintenance, repair, and calibration thereby delivering 72 safe, combat-ready F-15C/D/E aircraft to three fighter squadrons. The propulsion flight manages and maintains 196 aircraft engines. The avionics flight maintains all airborne communications, navigation and weapons delivery systems. The accessories maintenance flight maintains all aircraft fuel, pneumatic, electrical, environmental control and aircrew egress systems. The test, measurement and diagnostic equipment flight is the largest “blue suit” calibration laboratory in the Air Force. As the only Type IIA lab in the U.S. Air Forces in Europe, it serves as the focal point for matters related to the USAF Metrology and Calibration Program for much of European Command



Low-Altitude Navigation and Targeting Infrared for Night pods are repaired at the 48th Component Repair Squadron.

48th Fighter Wing mission

48th Equipment Maintenance Squadron

The 48th Equipment Maintenance Squadron is responsible for providing intermediate level and flightline maintenance for one F-15C and two F-15E squadrons supporting the 48th Fighter Wing, the U.S. Air Forces in Europe and NATO. They have 656 people, 164 facilities and 138 vehicles.

48th Contracting Squadron

The 48th Contracting Squadron is one of the few 48th Fighter Wing organizations that support units and personnel other than those within the Liberty Wing. Besides the 48th Fighter Wing, the squadron's 55 personnel provide base-level contracting support for the 100th Air Refueling Wing, 3rd Air Force Headquarters, 627th Air Mobility Support Squadron, 352nd Special Operations Group, Department of Defense Dependents Schools in the United Kingdom, Defense Commissary Agency in the United Kingdom and 11 geographically separated units in the United Kingdom and Norway. The squadron directly supports more than 22,000 Department of Defense personnel by procuring more than \$64 million in services and equipment annually. Besides local contracting support, members from the squadron are continually called upon to provide contracting support for military and humanitarian operations and exercises in Africa, Europe and Southwest Asia. They deploy with teams from 48th Fighter Wing, 100th Air Refueling Wing, 352nd Special Operations Group, 3rd Air Force staff, the U.S. Air Forces in Europe and the U.S. European Command.

48th Transportation Squadron

The 48th Transportation Squadron has 172 highly motivated and trained professionals who provide total transportation support to 48th Fighter Wing, the U.S. Air Forces in Europe, the U.S. European Command and NATO. The squadron requisitions, maintains, operates and manages a fleet of more than 750 vehicles valued at approximately \$42 million. The squadron also provides surface/air and passenger movement services, develops war plan annexes and executes a \$1.1 million budget.

48th Support Group

The more than 1,500 people assigned to the 48th Support Group provide the command and control connectivity and secure environment essential for 48th Fighter Wing to execute combat mission at RAF Lakenheath and as Air Expeditionary Force lead wing. The group consists of five squadrons that work closely together on issues that affect almost every facet of the lives of more than 15,000 members of the greater Lakenheath military community. Together they provide force protection; communications; civil engineering; and family, educational and recreational services. Additionally, the group works closely with the Royal Air Force commander and local British community.



The military personnel flight issues ID cards during normal business hours.

48th Mission Support Squadron

The 48th Mission Support Squadron provides a multitude of services to wing members, their families and retirees. The 48th MSS provides adult education, training, family support, career-related and human resource needs, supervisory training for newly selected staff sergeants and orientation training for our first-term airmen. The squadron also meets the administrative needs of 14 wing staff agencies, Air Force News broadcasting detachment members and provides service to numerous Air Force Institute of Technology students in the United Kingdom.

48th Civil Engineer Squadron

The 48th Civil Engineer Squadron is a 558-person unit that maintains, improves and operates 694 facilities and 2,442 housing units for wing personnel and various associate organizations here and at RAF Feltwell. The squadron provides fire protection, disaster preparedness, environmental protection and explosive ordnance disposal for the base and also equips and trains 158 squadron personnel assigned to 18 mobility teams.

48th Communications Squadron

There are more than 250 people in the 48th Communications Squadron. Their vision is "a committed team, dedicated to continuous improvement of communications and information operating capabilities for the 48th Fighter Wing ... every time, anywhere." Their mission is, "We are Liberty communicators providing superior in-garrison and deployed communications and information services to support the 48th Fighter Wing."

48th Security Forces Squadron

The 48th Security Forces Squadron has more than 450 members. They provide critical force protection for 15,000 military and family members as well as protecting more than \$5 billion in resources. They have a demanding AEF lead-wing mobility and



Members of the 48th Security Forces Squadron take part in a local exercise.

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48th Fighter Wing mission

wartime commitment supporting peacekeeping, peacemaking and humanitarian missions within the U.S. Air Forces in Europe area of responsibility. They coordinate operations with base assigned and off-base host nation police agencies. In addition, they operate the United Kingdom's only joint U.S. Forces correctional facility. Their vision is, "We are committed to providing the best force protection in the U.S. Air Force to both home and deployed resources, anytime or anyplace."

48th Services Squadron

The 48th Services Squadron supports more than 35 programs. The squadron has more than 600 employees supporting 27 facilities including the Liberty Club, Liberty Lanes, three skills development centers, a library, Electric Avenue and three community centers. The squadron maintains the only Air Force golf course in the United Kingdom as well as the only U.S. military skating rink. It also has the only Air Force indoor swimming pool in Europe.

48th Medical Group

The 48th Medical Group has more than 700 military and civilian members and has the largest Air Force medical facility in Europe. It's also the busiest, providing more than 180,000 visits to in- and outpatients annually. The 35-bed facility can expand to nearly 300 beds to accommodate disaster and wartime requirements.

The group plays a key role as the military referral center for the United Kingdom and beyond. Its focus is to provide customers with local service whenever possible. The group also offers several surgical procedures performed nowhere else in the U.S. Air Forces in Europe.

The medical group provides care for nearly 27,000 beneficiaries locally, and another 10,000 throughout Britain.

48th Medical Operations Squadron

The 48th Medical Operations Squadron represents the largest squadron within the group with almost 400 people assigned. They're responsible for access to care for all personnel assigned except for flying squadrons and their families. With a wide variety of specialties represented among the seven flights, the squadron keeps pace with the agencies it supports.

An average month includes 15,000 outpatient visits, 1,400 emergency room visits, 267 surgical procedures, 150 hospital admissions and 44 baby deliveries.

Other special programs under medical operations include the family advocacy First Steps program, which provides information to new parents. There's also the Air Force Education and Developmental Intervention Services, a joint program for Department of Defense Dependents Schools, which provides therapeutic intervention and medically-related services for children with disabilities.

48th Aerospace Medicine Squadron

The 48th Aerospace Medicine Squadron is not only home of flight medicine, but also encompasses optometry, bioenvironmental engineering, public health, health promotions and immunizations. Given the squadron's diversity, it isn't unusual for its people to be deployed to as many as six locations at once throughout Europe, Africa or Asia.

The immunization clinic is open from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays. Routine, mobility and travel immunizations are provided every day. Skin tests for tuberculosis are not placed on Thursdays and must be read two to three days following placement. Patients do not require



The pediatrics clinic serves patients from throughout the bases in the United Kingdom.

an appointment but must present their yellow shot record at the time of vaccination. Yellow Fever vaccinations are given on Fridays only from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.

48th Dental Squadron

The 48th Dental Squadron offers both general dentistry and special dental treatment for active-duty and family members. Exams are given every 12 months and not necessarily during the sponsor's birth month. Initial exam appointments can be made by calling the dental appointment line at 7-8795.

Although routine dental care for family members is available overseas, extensive treatment and some specialty care is limited. Full use of the TRICARE Active Duty Family Member Dental Plan entitlements before arrival in Great Britain is strongly encouraged.

Family members in dental class III, extensive treatment or potential emergency, will delay the assignment until the condition is corrected. Sponsors are advised to consult their local TRICARE office for advice regarding continued enrollment in the family member dental plan.

Orthodontic care is provided as a continuation of care for active-duty personnel and family members who transfer to our community with braces placed *prior* to notification of assignment. Because of the large number of patients in this category, the opportunity to initiate new orthodontic care is extremely limited.

Emergency dental care to relieve severe pain, infection or trauma

48th Fighter Wing mission

is available to all beneficiaries. During normal duty hours, patients should call the dental appointment line to make a same-day appointment as noted above. After duty hours, patients should report to the emergency room.

48th Medical Support Squadron

The 48th Medical Support Squadron provides a wide range of patient services (laboratory, radiology, pharmacy, pathology and nutritional medicine) and patient and staff behind-the-scenes activities such as TRICARE, finance, supply, housekeeping, facility management, systems, education and training, commanders' support staff and many more.

TRICARE

The two preferred enrollment options are TRICARE Prime for active duty and their family members and TRICARE Plus for retirees and their family members. An alternative option is TRICARE Standard. A military primary-care manager will serve as the medical manager for all your health care needs. Your PCM will always be your point of contact when you need medical care, except in emergency situations.

If your PCM cannot meet your specific health care needs, he or she will coordinate a specialty appointment with the appropriate health care provider. The specialist will notify your PCM of his or her findings so that he or she can continue your care.

It is important for you to understand and decide which TRICARE program is right for you. For more information on TRICARE Europe, contact the TRICARE Service Center at 7-8688. For health beneficiary services, call 7-8694 or 7-8705.

Making an appointment

Most clinics see patients between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Access to most clinics can be gained by calling central appointments at 7-8010 weekdays from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. The toll-free number is (800) 137857. Acute appointments take priority. After these appointments are filled, and if your medical condition is acute, the appointments clerk will take down your information and pass it along to your PCM team's nurse who will give you a telephone consult to determine the best course of action.

The following clinics maintain their own appointment books and

may require a consult to receive an appointment: audiology; ear, nose and throat; family advocacy; general surgery; internal medicine; occupational therapy; physical therapy and radiology.

Members on flying status

Military members on flying status and their family members can call the Lakenheath flight medicine clinic at 7-8823 or the Mildenhall flight medicine clinic at 98-2143 for appointments. Children must be at least 2 years old to be seen by flight medicine.

Emergency services

The emergency room is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week for cases that need immediate attention. Emergencies and more acutely ill patients are given priority.

Dial-a-nurse

TRICARE offers a free consultation service to help determine whether a trip to the emergency room is necessary. All beneficiaries may call (800) 896409 to speak with a registered nurse.

Pharmacy hours and refill policy

Pharmacy hours are Monday to Thursday 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Friday 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. All refills must be telephoned in the day before. Call 7-8091 or toll free at (800) 919121. Refills may be sent to other locations. Select from the menu when calling in a refill. Prescriptions phoned in by 10 p.m. will be ready for pick up by 8 a.m. Individuals with unique medication needs should call in their refills one week before running out. Military members who mobilize within a short period can call 7-8346 for service. Refills must be collected within five working days.

Associate units

18th Intelligence Squadron, Det. 4

The 18th Intelligence Squadron, Detachment 4, provides direct electronic, technical and specialized support to the Air Force Space Command deep-space surveillance mission from RAF Feltwell. Detachment members provide mission operations and communications support to the command for exercise, contingency and real-world support.

Area Defense Counsel

The area defense counsel is an independent tenant unit providing active duty members with legal advice concerning military offenses. These services include, but are not limited to: advising members of their rights concerning courts-martial, Articles 15, administrative discharges, mental health evaluations and letters of reprimand.

Contact with the area defense counsel is confidential and may not be discussed with anyone without permission. For more information, call 7-3608.

Air Force OSI Det. 512

Air Force Office of Special Investigations, Det. 512, is a unit of the 51st Field Investigations Squadron. The detachment provides special investigative services for the protection of Air Force and Department of Defense resources at RAF Lakenheath, RAF Feltwell and RAF Menwith Hill, in addition to on-call assistance for more than 25 countries in the United Kingdom, Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic. Investigative services include criminal, fraud and counterintelligence investigations, forensic analysis of evidence, antiterrorism investigations, protection of visiting dignitaries, security clearance investigations and the use of advanced technical investigative means. Call 7-1852 for more information.

372nd Training Squadron, Det. 16

The 372nd Training Squadron, Detachment 16, is an associate organization responsible for providing formal aircraft maintenance training to the logistics and operations group aircraft maintenance members based at RAF Lakenheath. Instructors provide training for most F-15 aircraft maintenance specialties, aerospace ground equipment and munitions. The unit trains more than 1,100 maintenance technicians annually, supporting the missions of RAF Lakenheath, other U.S. Air Forces in Europe organizations, and any worldwide training requirements necessary. The detachment also operates at RAF Mildenhall where they provide aircraft maintenance training to the 100th Air Refueling Wing and associate units.



Each flight surgeon sees about 25 patients per day.

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Romans, Celts, burials and bombs

A 10,000 year journey to Lakenheath's history

RAF Lakenheath has been an air base for more than 50 years. But the area's affiliation with military units predates even the earliest aircraft. Iron Age and Celtic warriors watered their horses at the base's pond. Roman legionnaires were garrisoned nearby and evidence of a Roman villa has been found beneath what is now RAF Lakenheath High School. RAF Lakenheath's history continues even farther back, almost rendering the term "Roman" a contemporary word.

Primordial seas that once covered England laid down layers of chalk several hundred feet thick over most of East Anglia. As the waters retreated, glacial activity pushed sands southward. The glacial retreat left East Anglia with several fresh-water ponds fed by underground springs bubbling up through fissures in the chalk layers, as well as a layer of soil capable of nurturing vegetation.

One of those springs still exists on RAF Lakenheath today and has been a fresh-water source for at least 8,000 years. Evidence of occupation near Caudle Head Mere (a Saxon term), more commonly known as Peacekeeper Park, can be found as early as the Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age) period. Flint tools dating back nearly 8,000 years have been found throughout RAF Lakenheath, indicating that early man found the area not only habitable, but capable of supporting domestic animals.

Neolithic, Bronze Age populations

As Neolithic (New Stone Age) and Bronze Age populations flourished around Lakenheath, farms and domestic animal populations likewise increased as attested by the numbers of animal bones found in sites throughout the base. The Neolithic flint mine at Grimes Graves, located about 12 miles from the base, proved to be a valuable commodity for the local area. Axes, spear and arrowheads, and other tools were fashioned from the flint mined in the area and were used extensively throughout East Anglia. The number of Bronze Age tumuli, or burial mounds, surrounding RAF Lakenheath also suggest a large Bronze Age population throughout the county.

During the Iron Age, the Iceni (pronounced Ikeenee), a Celtic (pronounced Keltik) tribe included the greater Lakenheath area as part of its territory. The Celts were a very hardy people and were renown as fierce warriors. Their art work, particularly in stone and precious metals, is some of the most beautiful found anywhere in the world, examples of which have been found on RAF Lakenheath during recent excavations.

The Iceni settled in East Anglia during the Iron Age and remained in the area throughout the Roman occupation. Incidentally, the Iceni were led by a flamboyant and rather charismatic queen named Boudicea who, when pressed by Roman taxation, rallied other Celtic tribes against the early Romans in A.D. 61 and ransacked several large settlements including Colchester and Londinium (London) before being defeated by Roman legions near Salisbury.

Sites found

Several Iron Age (500 - 300 B.C.) and Romano-Celtic (300 B.C. - A.D. 400) sites have been found on RAF Lakenheath, evidence that the area was still largely habitable in spite of overgrazing caused by large groups of domestic herds. Roman pottery and bronze have also been found throughout the base, suggesting that Lakenheath



An Anglo-Saxon horse and rider are uncovered during an archeological excavation at RAF Lakenheath.

may have been a strategic point for legionnaires in the area. The old Brandon turnpike, which originally ran through the middle of Hangar 7, was a Roman thoroughfare and connected several forts south with a number of Roman settlements in the north. Roof tiles from the Roman period have been found near RAF Lakenheath High School, suggesting that a Roman villa existed on the high ground overlooking the mere.

The Roman legions departed Britain during the mid-fifth century in order to protect the crumbling empire. Other settlers, largely tribes known as the Jutes, Angles, Goths and Saxons, gradually migrated into East Anglia from northern Europe. Like the Celts and Romans before them, the Anglo-Saxons found the drier climates of East Anglia favorable to those of northern Europe and established several settlements between Bury St. Edmunds and Thetford. The fresh waters of Caudle Head Mere attracted a large population of settlers. Large amounts of Anglo-Saxon pottery and artifacts have been found on RAF Lakenheath, particularly near the pond itself. Recent excavations have found something rather extraordinary.

In 1958, workmen digging trenches for a new hospital discovered what appeared to be bone fragments, beads and other items. Analysis indicated the beads and other artifacts were Anglo-Saxon,

Liberty Wing Lakenheath's history

probably fifth to seventh centuries AD. A subsequent excavation resulted in the discovery of a Saxon cemetery that yielded 33 skeletons and great amounts of grave goods including more beads, bronze brooches, iron shields, daggers, and spears.

Between 1958 and 1997, Suffolk County archaeologists paid close attention to the area surrounding the hospital and found other Saxon skeletons as newer facilities were constructed on the south-west side of the base. But the best was yet to come.

During the morning hours of July 9, 1997, a tractor dug its first bucketful of dirt on softball field No. 1 (across the street from the base library) in preparation for a new airmen's dormitory. Typical of any construction activity on RAF Lakenheath, two Suffolk County archaeologists monitored the tractor's activities and soon noticed bone fragments.

A hasty survey of the hole indicated a possible Saxon grave and construction was temporarily halted. As archaeologists surveyed the area, they identified perhaps a dozen graves from the same period and began excavating the site.

The find proved to be phenomenal as two full-time crews from the Suffolk Archaeological Unit unearthed more than 170 Anglo-Saxon graves, giving RAF Lakenheath the distinction as being one of Britain's largest excavated Anglo-Saxon cemeteries.

Dating from the fifth to seventh centuries, the cemetery was probably a burial site for a large Saxon settlement near the pond or possibly in the Anglo housing area. Further, the settlement would have resembled the one reconstructed at West Stow. Regardless, the cemetery will tell archaeologists and historians a great deal of information about the Anglo-Saxons in the Lakenheath and Eriswell area.

Anglo-Saxon culture

Today, in spite of subsequent invasions by the Vikings, Danes, and Normans, East Anglia still bears numerous signs of Anglo-Saxon culture in the forms of words, town names, and church architecture. The base, which takes its name from nearby Lakenheath village, was derived from the Saxon word Lokenhyte, which means the "landing place of Laka's People." Finally, British and Americans alike share the same language left by the Angles - *Anglisch*.

Between the fifth and ninth centuries, the Danes and Vikings invaded parts of England and left a significant imprint on Saxon culture. The Vikings established a fortress in Thetford and made their way around the sandy areas of Lakenheath. While no Viking or Danish sites have been excavated on RAF Lakenheath, their presence cannot be discounted. The Normans, however, left a huge imprint throughout East Anglia. The Normans, who invaded Britain from France in 1066, quickly established temporary and later permanent settlements in Thetford, Bury St. Edmunds, and other strategic locations. They also brought with them a furry, large-eared legacy still seen around the base today.

Rabbits

Rabbits accompanied the Normans across the English Channel, primarily as a source of food for the occupational armies. As the Norman forces settled in the area between Bury St. Edmunds and Thetford, the rabbits found the sandy soil ideal for making burrows. The sand, blown in from the coastal areas, covered areas left largely barren from overgrazing. The results were large, open areas with sparse vegetation. These areas were soon home to large warrens.

From the 12th century onward, the Normans frequently harvested these rabbits and eventually constructed earthworks around the warrens to prevent poaching. Some of these earthworks can be seen

near the Wangford Gate today. In 1253, the Bishop of Ely granted a Charter of Free Warren to Lakenheath, allowing the landowner to harvest rabbits as he pleased. Shortly thereafter, during the early 14th century, warren lodges were constructed to oversee the warrens and their respective rabbit populations.



This archeologist excavates an Anglo-Saxon child's grave from a recent base construction site.

The lodges, essentially fortified fortress-like cottages, protected the warren keeper and served as a safe haven for the rabbit pelts, which later proved to be quite valuable during the Tudor monarchy. Two cottages were built on or near RAF Lakenheath. One existed on the site of the old air control tower, its aging fruit trees the only evidence of its existence. The other, built a few yards northeast of the

current Brandon Road, monitored the eastern part of the warren.

Rabbit felt was used extensively in the hat-making industry until the early 20th century. During the 19th century, hatmakers used mercury as a binding element for the pelt. Since the liquid metal is absorbed through the skin into the bloodstream, it settled in the nervous system, resulting in nerve disorders. It's thought that the term "Mad as a Hatter" was first coined in either Brandon or Thetford.

Flint in the area

Flint mining within the area also proved to be an important industry. Since cottages and shops were constructed with native materials, flint napping (the term for shaping flints) proved to be a valuable trade for many Breckland residents. A shortage of gun flints during the Napoleonic period also gave the economy a boost in the 18th and 19th centuries. Many of the "throwaways," or flawed pieces, can be found in fields on and around RAF Lakenheath.

Other valuables

Chalk also proved to be a valuable commodity. Chunks of the white material were cut from the ground and used as building material. Known as "clunch," these white blocks can still be seen in buildings and fences around Lakenheath village today.

Throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries, the residents of the warren continued to use Lakenheath as common land, grazing their flocks on the slopes near Maid's Croft Hill (the high area north of the flightline), and the fertile areas near the pond until the area was

Liberty Wing Lakenheath's history

selected as a military site. At the outset of World War I, the Royal Flying Corps established several training areas around Lakenheath Warren, one of which was a few hundred yards from the current Lakenheath Country Club complex. A number of units were stationed in the area with at least two American units attached to the corps for training.

Reforestation

Following World War I, an effort was made to reforest the landscape made bare by harvesting trees for the war effort. Large plantations around Thetford, Brandon and other areas were planted as a government scheme to replenish Britain with sorely needed wood.

Many of these groves, all planted in rows, can be seen today in Thetford Forest. Landowners also planted pine trees around fields and roads to prevent further sand blows from damaging crops and prevent migrating sands from covering open fields. Several stands of trees were planted during the last quarter of the 19th century and are clearly visible behind the hospital, along Plymouth Road.

World War II

With Germany again making overtones of another military buildup, the Royal Air Force began searching for suitable aerodrome locations throughout East Anglia. Mildenhall and Feltwell were initially chosen as operational sites with construction beginning in the mid 1930s. When the war broke out, the RAF identified a need for additional sites and chose Lakenheath Warren as a suitable area for a decoy airfield. A number of dummy aerodromes, or "Q-Sites," were developed to confuse enemy aircraft. False runway lights and aircraft made of plywood were quickly constructed near what is now the Lakenheath Country Club, and which actually succeeded in luring Luftwaffe crews away from nearby RAFs Mildenhall and Feltwell, as German crews bombed or strafed RAF Lakenheath on at least five different occasions. Still, despite RAF Lakenheath's success as a dummy site, the RAF continued with plans to construct an airfield beginning in 1940.

In late 1940, engineers began constructing the new airfield according to Air Ministry standards. By early 1941, three runways in

an "A-Frame" pattern had been completed with one 3,000-foot runway at 246-degrees and two 2,000-foot runways at 186 degrees and 322 degrees, respectively. Also constructed were two T2 hangars, one B1 type hangar, and 36 heavy-bomber hardstands. RAF Lakenheath opened in November 1941 as a satellite airfield for RAF Mildenhall as part of No. 3 Group. The airfield's first occupant was No. 20 Operational Training Unit on temporary duty from Lossiemouth, Scotland. Flying Vickers Wellington Mk IC aircraft, No. 20, trained scores of aircrews in combat tactics before moving back to Scotland in January 1942. Between February and April 1942, No. 149 Squadron moved to RAF Lakenheath from RAF Mildenhall and began flying combat operations over occupied Europe in Stirling Mk III medium bombers. By the end of 1943, Lakenheath was functioning as an independent operational unit.

A second unit arrived at Lakenheath June 20, 1943. Flying Vickers Wellington Mk X aircraft, No. 199 Squadron, began flying combat operations almost immediately, most of them involving sea mining operations. By the end of the month, the squadron had converted to Short Stirling medium bombers and both squadrons participated in the raid on Peenemunde Aug. 17, 1943, causing heavy damage to Germany's "V" Weapon development center. By mid-1944 both squadrons had departed to other stations, with Lakenheath serving in a support role until the RAF closed the runways for construction to facilitate the arrival of British or American heavy bombers.

RAF Lakenheath reopened in the spring of 1947 and began receiving British support and instruction units. A top secret memo from the Air Ministry July 28, 1948, however, would have a permanent impact on the station. It stated that Lakenheath was to be immediately prepared to receive an American B-29 group of 30 aircraft and 750 personnel. By mid-August, elements of the 2nd Bombardment Group had arrived as a show of force to the Soviet Union who were espousing threats of expansion into western Europe.

Between August 1948 and January 1960, a number of bomber and fighter bomber units were temporarily assigned to Lakenheath as part of Strategic Air Command's Cold War rotation. Further, the U.S. Air Force assumed administrative control of the base May 1, 1951, when SAC's 3909th Air Base Group activated to support the unit rotations.



The 48th Fighter Group flew P-47s throughout World War II in locations from England to Belgium and Germany.

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From World War II to Operation Enduring Freedom

Liberty Wing soars through history

World War II

1941 - 1945

In a message to Congress Jan. 12, 1939, President Franklin D. Roosevelt stated war within Europe was inevitable. The Third Reich and Japan had developed larger and faster aircraft, some of which might be capable of reaching America's shores, according to the war department. This development prompted Roosevelt to revamp America's military planning, stating that "increased range, increased speed, increased capacity of airplanes abroad have changed our requirement for defensive aviation."

In May 1940, the U.S. Army Air Corps formulated plans to meet the president's call for increased aircraft production. This plan, aimed at bolstering America's airpower at her off-shore installations and territories, included the addition of nearly 80,000 men and 41 combat groups.

As part of the War Department's plan, the Army Air Corps activated the 48th Bombardment Group (Light) Jan. 15, 1941. Assigned to the group was a complement of four combat units, the 55th, 56th, 57th and 88th Bombardment Squadrons. For the first two years of its life, as was the case with many of its sister units, the group and its squadrons underwent a series of re-designations and transfers to meet Air Corps operational needs. Designations changed from Bombardment Group (Light) to Bombardment Group (Dive) in September 1942 and again to Fighter-Bomber Group in August 1943. The squadrons were also redesignated as the 492nd, 493rd, 494th and 495th Fighter-Bomber Squadrons.

Primarily a replacement training unit, the 48th participated in experimental joint Army-Air Corps maneuvers to evaluate close air support and air-to-ground tactics. The group even flew coastal patrol sorties in Mississippi and South Carolina between 1942 and 1943.

As units moved from their stateside training locations to overseas combat areas, training units like the 48th often found themselves flying numerous types of aircraft. Between 1941 and 1943, the 48th flew the A-20 "Havoc," the A/B-18 "Shrike," the A-24 "Banshee," the A-31/35 "Vengeance," the A-36 "Mustang," (an attack version of the P-51 that included special wing speed flaps for fast dives), the P-39 "Airacobra," and P-40 "Warhawk."

Restless to enter the war in Europe, the 48th received its wishes in February 1944 when the war department ordered the 48th to England as part of the buildup for the eventual invasion of fortress Europe. General Headquarters, Army Air Corps, directed three fighter squadrons and support elements of the 48th to be in place by March 30, 1944, to begin combat training. The 495th remained in the United States as a training unit and was disbanded in May 1944.



Aircraft mechanics take a break by the wing of a Stirling bomber at RAF Lakenheath.

By March 15, the bulk of the 48th was aboard ship, headed for a small southwestern airfield in the English countryside named Lbsley.

Lbsley proved to be just like any other wartime airfield. It contained a few quickly contracted Quonset huts and dirt runways fortified with steel matting all set under a canopy of constant drizzle. Many of the men were billeted in tents and nearby farmhouses since construction efforts couldn't keep up with the massive buildup. The tool to complete their mission was the P-47 "Thunderbolt." Called the "Jug" because of its ungainly appearance, the P-47 had the tendency to rotate to the left because of the engine's tremendous torque. Training sorties with the new fighter began during the last week of March, and by the second week of April, the bulk of the group's pilots had flown at least three sorties.

Just days later, April 20, 1944, nervous pilots listened to the morning's mission brief, learning they would be one of several fighter-bomber groups tasked to confuse German defenses along France's coastline.

As part of the Ninth Tactical Air Command, the 48th was tasked to attack anti-aircraft and coastal artillery batteries under construction. By June 5, the group accounted for more than 1,600 combat sorties, dropping 200 tons of bombs on enemy fortifications. Pilots flew another 1,900 sorties between June 6 and 30 to support the D-Day landings. Those sorties meant life or death for a quarter of a million men clinging to nothing but loose sand and a few yards of bloody earth in an attempt to liberate France. A number of 48th Fighter Group pilots didn't return from those D-Day missions. Some collided with trees while pinning down enemy forces while others died trying to fly their crippled P-47s back home.

Payday occurred June 12 when members of the 493rd Fighter Squadron scored three aerial victories – the group's first, but certainly not last. As the Allied foothold slowly pushed the Germans across Europe, the 493rd scored more victories in August, while the 492nd sent three more German aircraft spiraling to earth Sept. 21.

The group's greatest World War II legacy lies not with its fighter

Liberty Wing Lakenheath's history

kills, but its close air support. Operating from former Luftwaffe airfields in France, the group supported the Allied break through at St. Lo in July, the drive across France in August, and provided air cover during the airborne attack on Holland in September.

Heroic flying in 1944 earned the 48th numerous Distinguished Unit Citations. Also, from Dec. 18 through Jan. 17, the group supported operations during the Battle of the Bulge and received its third citation in the Order of the Day of the Belgian army for relentless assaults against formidable panzer units. Along with the citation, the group was awarded the Belgian Fourragere.

Throughout the remainder of the war, the 48th continued its tactical operations from bases in Germany and Belgium by supporting ground forces and flying patrol, escort, weather reconnaissance and leaflet missions. On one occasion, some of the group's pilots even dropped blood plasma in belly tanks to needful ground forces. Finally, May 8, 1945, the group flew its final mission from Illesheim, Germany, and then moved to Seymour Johnson Field, N.C., where it was inactivated Nov. 7. Here ended the story of the original 48th.

Chaumont Era, 1952 - 1960

Because of the mounting concern of communist aggression in Korea and Europe in the early 1950s, the United States rapidly expanded its air forces, increasing the number of combat wings from 48 in 1950 to 95 in June 1952. Thus the 48th Fighter-Bomber Wing was born July 10, 1952, as part of that new concept.

Construction at Chaumont, France, began in late 1951. By the time the 48th Fighter-Bomber Wing arrived in May 1952, all that existed were two prefabricated aircraft maintenance hangars, tarpaper shacks for office space and a concrete runway.

Assigned to 12th and later 17th Air Force, the 48th FBW contained four groups: 48th Fighter-Bomber Group, 48th Maintenance and Supply Group, 48th Air Base Group and 48th Medical Group. The 492nd, 493rd and 494th Fighter Squadrons were again activated and assigned to its original combat group. Wing flying assets included 58 F-84Gs, six T-33s, two C-47s, one T-6 and one L-5B. The F-84Gs and T-33s belonged to the combat group while the other aircraft met maintenance and supply needs.

New name, new aircraft

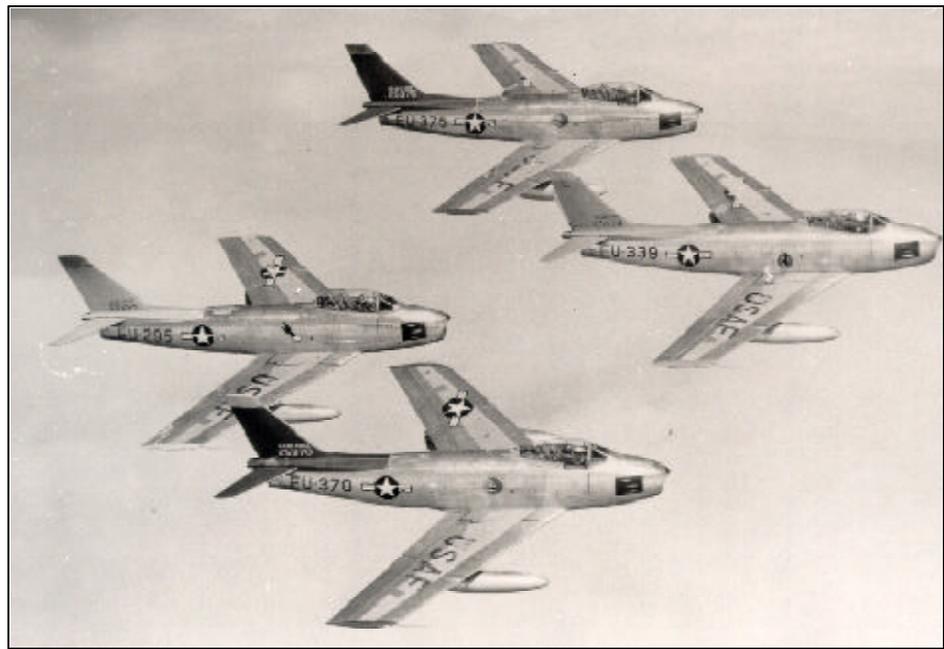
In 1954, the wing exchanged its F-84Cs for newer F-86F "Sabers." The 48th also received its name, the Liberty Wing, July 4, 1954. It was bestowed upon the wing by the French people because of the area's long association with Americans. The mayor and citizens of Chaumont were so fond of the wing that they gave the wing the unofficial name of the *Statue de la Liberté* wing because Bartholdi, original designer of the statue in New York Harbor, had his workshops only a few miles from the air base. In the spring of 1956 a bronze 3-meter statue was created from the original Statue of Liberty molds. During this time, the wing adopted what would eventually become its official emblem containing Miss Liberty.

On the operations side, crews diligently trained for their NATO strike missions, often deploying to Morocco for bombing and gunnery training. But transition was not far off for the 48th.

The wing received word in late 1955 that the Air Force would exchange the 48th's Sabers for a newer aircraft – the F-100D "Super Saber." The larger-bodied F-100 was capable of carrying more ordnance than the F-86 and was one of the first fighters designed to operate at supersonic speeds.

Reorganization, then re-designation

The wing began realigning its units March 15, 1957, as part of an Air Force worldwide reorganization. Combat groups were inactivated, assigning the unit's fighter mission to the wing. The same process was applied to the 48th Maintenance and Supply Group. Its supply and transportation elements were attached to the 48th Air



The 48th Fighter Bomber Wing flew F-86 Sabers until 1956.

Base Group while the newly activated 48th Field Maintenance Squadron assumed maintenance responsibilities.

As part of yet another organization change, the 48th dropped the "Fighter Bomber" designation July 8, 1958, becoming the 48th Tactical Fighter Wing – a designation that would last more than 30 years. The three flying units also changed designation, becoming tactical fighter squadrons.

A change in residence, however, loomed on the horizon for the 48th. Disagreements arose concerning atomic storage and custody issues within NATO, resulting in a decision to remove Air Force atomic-capable units from French soil.

Simultaneously, the advent of the intercontinental ballistic missile had reduced the United States' dependence on European-based airborne medium-and long-range bombers.

One of the bases vacated by rotating Strategic Air Command units was a former World War II airfield, nestled away in the East Anglian countryside called Royal Air Force Lakenheath. In the early morning hours of Jan. 15, 1960, the wing's three fighter squadrons lifted off Chaumont's runway and, after making farewell passes over the outlying village, headed toward the English Channel.

Liberty Wing Lakenheath's history

The Lakenheath Era, 1960 - present

When the 48th Tactical Fighter Wing's first F-100D touched down on RAF Lakenheath's runway Jan. 15, 1960, the landing symbolized a return for the Liberty Wing. Almost 16 years had passed since the 48th Fighter Group's arrival at Ibsley, England, for the D-Day invasion. One of the 48th Fighter Group's original members, present when the group first occupied Ibsley, was assigned to the Liberty Wing in 1960. Master Sgt. James Watcher, a bomb-loading private in 1944, returned to Lakenheath as a munitions supervisor.

"I really enjoyed England the first time, but I think I'm going to enjoy this tour even more because I don't have to look for Messerschmitts," he said. "Even better, I don't have to watch our pilots take off and wonder if they'll be coming back."

As Strategic Air Command elements began their departure, the 3910th Air Base Group began its transition of handing Lakenheath's facilities and real estate over to the 48th's support elements. While SAC had upgraded numerous World War II-era facilities and lengthened the runway, the wing initiated an ambitious, multimillion dollar construction project to facilitate its three fighter squadrons and support elements. Further, housing plans were begun to ease the strain on local communities dealing with 2,000 additional military people and their families.

New crises and new name

Upon their arrival, Liberty Wing pilots began an intense training schedule to meet the wing's NATO strike commitment. Support personnel also became inundated with the tasks of getting the 48th's fleet of 60 F-100Ds fully operational. With the Cold War heating up, the wing's regeneration efforts paid off in many ways.

East Germany's decision to build the Berlin Wall and the Missile Crisis in Cuba increased Cold War tensions to an all-time high, as wing F-100s augmented Air National Guard aircraft in Germany for rotational alert duties under Operation Stair Step. Lakenheath also served as a rotational base for Strategic Air Command B-47 and B-52 aircraft throughout the Berlin Crisis. This requirement ended in mid-1963 during an Air Force-wide reorganization.

In 1962, the Air Force approved the 48th Tactical Fighter Wing's emblem, thereby officially making the wing one of the only units with a numerical and lettered designation. At about the same time, the Liberty Wing came under the operational command of 3rd Air Force.

Between 1963 and 1972, the wing's F-100 fleet maintained its readiness by participating in a number of U.S. Air Forces in Europe and NATO exercises. Operation Round Robin found Liberty Wing pilots deployed to other NATO bases to evaluate aircraft cross-servicing procedures and combined air tactics. Crews also flew "roulette" missions to evaluate 2nd Allied Tactical Air Force intercept capabilities. Periodic "max effort" exercises, similar to today's sorties surges, were conducted in conjunction with other tactical fighter units to test air-to-air intercept and coordinated close air support training. Wing pilots also found themselves in Turkey, Libya, Norway and locations in between during combined NATO deployments such as Polar Express, Barking Pup, Quick Train and Derby Time.

Phantoms and Aardvarks

The period between 1972 and 1977 can be described as a five-year aircraft conversion. In late 1971, the Air Force announced plans to exchange each fighter squadron's F-100Ds for F-4Ds. The Liberty Wing's first F-4D arrived Jan. 7, 1972, assigned to the 492nd Tactical Fighter Squadron. The last F-100D left Lakenheath's runway April 15, 1972, completing the first of two aircraft conversions.

By December 1973, the wing only possessed 26 F-4 aircraft. External demands for the Phantom, which included foreign military sales, precluded fighter arrivals. It took until March 1975 for the last of the three fighter squadrons, the 494th, to achieve initial operational capability with the new weapon system.

No sooner had Liberty Wing crews become familiar with their new Phantoms when the Air Force again announced that Lakenheath would be the new beddown location for the F-111F, "Aardvark." The F-111F, with its sophisticated avionics, state-of-the-art weapons delivery mediums, and extended range, would provide USAFE and NATO with an unparalleled strike capability anywhere within NATO's scope of operations.

The transition was part of a three-way aircraft transfer. The wing received its complement of F-111Fs from the 366th Tactical Fighter Wing at Nellis AFB, Nev., transferred its F-111As to Mountain Home AFB, Idaho, while Nellis received the wing's complement of F-4Ds. The first three F-111Fs set down at Lakenheath March 1, 1977.

In preparation for the new weapon system and its unique training requirements, USAFE activated the 495th Tactical Fighter Squadron April 1, 1977. This was 33 years to the day since the squadron's inactivation. The 495th's mission of functioning as a replacement training unit for the other three fighter squadrons made the wing unique in two ways. First, it made the 48th the only combat unit in USAFE with four flying squadrons. Furthermore, it made the 48th the only wing operating with its own replacement training unit. The 495th ended its mission Dec. 13, 1991, when the wing reorganized under the objective wing program and began its transition to the newer F-15E "Strike Eagle."

The switch that brought the F-111s to RAF Lakenheath went so smoothly that the wing received its third Air Force Outstanding Unit



The 48th Tactical Fighter Wing flew F-111Fs until 1991.

Award. With little time to bask in its achievements, the wing increased its training tempo to meet aircrew training and NATO readiness requirements. Air and ground crews deployed to Italy, Turkey, Iran, Greece and Pakistan, which offered flying opportunities and air-to-ground ranges. At home, monthly exercises honed combat skills to a fine edge. By September 1979, the wing had flown the highest number of hours ever recorded in a fiscal year by an F-111 unit. This dedication culminated in the 48th's performance during a joint USAFE Operational Readiness Inspection and NATO Tactical Evaluation in March 1980. As a result, the Secretary of the Air Force selected the 48th TFW for its fourth Air Force Outstanding Unit Award.

Eldorado Canyon

During the night of April 14, 1986, President Reagan exercised a military option that would send a message to any country sponsoring terrorism. In a combined action with U.S. Navy carrier-based aircraft, 48th Tactical Fighter Wing F-111Fs launched from Lakenheath and struck military targets within Libya. Previous intelligence indicated that Libya and its leader, Col. Mohmar Qadafi,

Liberty Wing Lakenheath's history

had sponsored many terrorist attacks.

Launching from Lakenheath at 7 p.m., Liberty Wing crews flew around Spain, through the Strait of Gibraltar and bombed their targets around Tripoli. Although seen as a success, the wing experienced the loss of two aircrew members when one of its F-111s failed to return.

Operations Desert Shield and Storm

But the Liberty Wing's involvement in the Middle East was far from over. After several threats, Iraq invaded Kuwait Aug. 2, 1990. That day, the 48th TFW began organizing for possible deployment to Saudi Arabia and other locations identified by the U.S. Central Command under the direction of Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf. By Sept. 18, planning included at least a package of 24 F-111s. By August 1991, mere days before the coalition launched the air war against Saddam Hussein's military forces in Kuwait, the Liberty Wing had more than 60 aircraft and 1,500 personnel deployed to Taif, Saudi Arabia. In response to Iraq's sudden aggression, President Bush replied, "Iraq has thrown down the gauntlet and we have picked it up. There is no compromise."

During the air war Jan. 17 through Feb. 24, 1991, and subsequent four-day ground war of Feb. 24 to 28,

Liberty Wing F-111Fs flew thousands of sorties, unleashing their lethality of precision-guided munitions on Iraqi armor, artillery, bridges, military airfields and command and control centers. 48th aircrews even stopped the flow of oil contaminating the Persian Gulf by bombing a pumping installation purposefully damaged by retreating Iraqi forces.

All the wing's personnel returned to Lakenheath by May 13, ending for many what proved to be a 10-month ordeal. But, as was commonplace in the 48th's history, many returned to find the wing in yet another transition. In mid-1991, the wing began restructuring under the objective wing program, realigning its maintenance-fighter squadron work force and establishing several command positions to include the logistics group, operations group, medical group and support group commanders. The program also redesignated the majority of the Air Force's tactical units. The 48th Tactical Fighter Wing became the 48th Fighter Wing Oct. 1, 1991, drawing upon the heritage of the wing's predecessor, the 48th Fighter Group. Aircraft transfers also began as the first F-15E "Strike Eagle" arrived Feb. 15, 1992. By December 1992, all the wing's F111Fs departed for units within the United States, signifying yet another historic precedent for the Liberty Wing.

No sooner had the F-15Es arrived at Lakenheath than the 48th received word that it would be receiving additional aircraft. But, unlike the wing's previous 50 years of air-to-ground operational history, this time the mission would be air superiority. Beginning in November 1993, F-15Cs began touching down at RAF Lakenheath with the familiar gold and black tails of the 493rd Fighter Squadron that subsequently activated Jan. 1, 1994, to facilitate the new mission.

Not only did this set a historical precedent in the 48th's 50-plus year history, the 493rd's new mission set further records when the

48th became the largest F-15E/F-15C composite unit in the U.S. Air Force. No sooner had the 493rd Fighter Squadron's state of the art F-15Cs touched down on Lakenheath when they were called to support the no-fly zones above Iraq and later Bosnia as part of Operations Provide Comfort and Deliberate Guard, operations which the squadron continues to support.

Operation Allied Force

Even though the Liberty Wing's excellent record and string of historical precedents set it in the forefront of Air Force history, the wing made world history between October 1998 to June 1999 when it was called to simultaneously support two separate air operations from three separate geographic locations.

The wing deployed 12 F-15Cs to Cervia Air Base, Italy, in October 1998, while F-15Es deployed to Turkey in December and began dropping precision-guided munitions on Iraqi surface-to-air threats. Meanwhile, additional F-15Es deployed to Italy over Serbian intransigence regarding atrocities against Kosovar Albanians by Serbian military units. In the meantime, F-15Cs deployed to Turkey to fulfill the air superiority mission above Iraq followed by an additional 12 F-15Cs deployed to Italy for Operation Allied Force. In



F-15Es from the 492nd Fighter Squadron flew combat missions during Operation Allied Force.

a truly astounding feat of military logistics, airmanship and maintenance by ground crews, the wing engaged hostile forces in both Iraq and Serbia from two locations in Italy and Turkey and later the United Kingdom. What made the feat even more astounding was that the wing flew more than 1,000 combat missions without losing one aircraft or aircrew – another precedent in the wing's long history.

Air Expeditionary Force

After Operation Allied Force, the 48th Fighter Wing was given a chance to reconstitute its forces for the first time in six years. However, during this rest period, the wing upgraded its F-15E fleet with new Block E-210 models. At the same time, the wing participated in training with its NATO allies through a series of deployments across continental Europe while receiving USAFE and NATO strike evaluations, tactical evaluations and surety inspections. Yet

Liberty Wing Lakenheath's history



Liberty Wing F-15Es deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom where they escorted humanitarian missions into Afghanistan.

the wing continued to prepare for future taskings, such as its new Air Expeditionary Force commitments.

In December 2000, for the first time since the Gulf War, the wing's flying squadrons deployed to the deserts of Southwest Asia. As part of AEFs 2 and 4, respectively, the 494th and 492nd Fighter Squadrons served as Operation Southern Watch's precision-guided munitions squadrons based at Ahmed Al Jabar Air Base, Kuwait. While deployed, the two units flew numerous missions and employed several munitions against Iraqi targets, racking up 690 sorties for the 494th in AEF 2 and 730 sorties for the 492nd in AEF 4.

After once again proving itself USAFE's premier fighting wing, the 48th Fighter Wing served as the lead wing force provider for the 363rd Air Expeditionary Wing at Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia, during AEF 4. The 493rd also deployed to PSAB and served

as Southern Watch's air superiority squadron, flying 363 sorties.

After the AEF 4 redeployment in June 2001, the wing moved into its 10-month training period consisting of exercises and inspections, both at home and at events such as Weapons Training Deployments. However, this period was severely interrupted when the face of the United States and the world was irrevocably changed.

Freedom Will Endure

Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist forces hijacked several commercial jets and plummeted them into the New York World Trade Center twin towers and the Pentagon killing thousands of people from some 80 nations. In response, President George W. Bush initiated Operation Enduring Freedom – air and ground strikes against terrorist organizations and training camps in Afghanistan. The

president's rationale: "Great harm has been done to us. We have suffered great loss. And in our grief and anger, we have found our mission and our moment. Freedom and fear are at war."

As part of this operation, the 492nd and 493rd Fighter Squadrons deployed to support the humanitarian airlift operations from Ramstein Air Base, Germany. The F-15C and F-15E squadrons ensured air superiority and supremacy for C-17 aircraft delivering humanitarian daily rations to Afghan refugees in Afghanistan.

As the past has proven, the future is always uncertain. But the 48th Fighter Wing will continue to achieve excellence in all its endeavors. As the Statue of Liberty looked over the burning New York City skyline on that fateful day, and showed the world she would not be overcome, so the Statue of Liberty Wing will continue to demonstrate to the world the supremacy of the U.S. Air Force.

Calling RAF Lakenheath

To call DSN from the states to RAF Lakenheath, dial (314) 226-1110 to speak to the operator. If you know the extension of the person, dial (314) 226 and the four-digit extension. To call from a commercial telephone in the States, dial 011-44-1638-52 and the four-digit extension. If you're calling from inside the United Kingdom, dial 01638-52 and the four-digit extension. To call an extension from on base, dial 7 and the four-digit extension. Note that extensions preceded by 98 are RAF Mildenhall numbers and the commercial number is 01638-54 and the four-digit extension. Below is a quick reference list of extensions that you may need. If you do not see the number you want, call the operator on base at 113, or extension 3000.

Action Line	2324	Family Support	3847	MODPolice	3784
Airmen's Attic	2140	Fitness and Sports Center	3607	Pass & ID	1853
AMC Terminal	98-2248	Gate 1	2629	Pharmacy	8091
Youth Center	3180	Gate 2	2015	<i>From within the UK</i>	0800 919 121
Bank	3750	Hobby, Auto	2454	Post Office	3548
Base Exchange	2996	Hobby, Wood	3367	Public Affairs	2151
Base Lodging Reservations	1844	Hospital Central Appointments	8010	Red Cross	1855
Chapel	3711	<i>From within the UK</i> ... (0800 137 857)		Schools Liaison Officer	5078
CDC	3829	Housing Office	2796	Shoppette	2451
Civilian Pay	3164	Job Hot Line (CPO)	98-4138	Tax Office	3553
Civilian Personnel Office	98-3540	Knight's Table	2915	Taxi	2306
Command Post	4800	Law Enforcement Desk	4631	Theater	2139
Commissary	2247	Legal Office	3553	TMO Inbound	98-2201
Com Relations Adviser	3145	Liberty Club	3869	TMO Passenger	1854
Credit Union	2115	Library	3713	TravelPay	3519
Dental Clinic	8795	Military Clothing	3710	TRICARE Office	8688
Dial-A-Nurse	0800 896 409	Military Equal Op	3278/3229	Visitor's Center	3554
Eagles' Landing	2535	Military Pay	1851	WIC-O Office	7-9016
Education Office	3851	MPF	1845	Wing Safety	3736/3737

British translations



Divided by
a common language

Although English is spoken in the United Kingdom, you may be confused by some of the terms. Following is a list of some common British words and their American translation.

British	American
Articulated lorry (or lorry)	Semi-trailer truck
Bangers and mash	Sausages and mashed potatoes
Bank holiday	Legal holiday
Barrister	Lawyer who appears in court
Biro	Ball-point pen
Biscuit	Cookie or cracker
Bobby	Police officer
Bonnet (of car)	Hood
Boot (of car)	Trunk
Braces	Suspenders
Brolly	Umbrella
Bungalow	Single-story house
Call box	Telephone booth
Calor gas	Propane
Caravan	Camper vehicle
Chemist	Drug store
Chips	French-fried potatoes
Cinema	Movie house/theater
Coach	Bus
Cooker	Stove
Cot	Baby's crib
Crisps	Potato chips
Curriculum vitae (or CV)	Resume
Day-return	Round-trip
Drawing pins	Thumb tacks
Dual carriageway	Divided highway
Dustbin	Garbage can
Dustman	Garbage collector
Engaged (telephone)	Busy
Estate agent	Real estate agent
Fag (slang)	Cigarette
First floor	Second floor
Fizzy drink	Pop or soda
Flannel	Face cloth
Flat	Apartment
Flex	Electrical cord
Flyover	Overpass on highway
Fortnight	Two weeks
Fringe (hair)	Bangs
Gateau	Layer cake
Greengrocer	Fruit/vegetable store
Ground floor	First floor
Hire	Rent
Hire purchase	Installment plan
Hob	Stove top

British	American
Holiday	Vacation
Hood	Convertible top
Hoover	Vacuum
Interval (theater)	Intermission
Immersion tank	Hot water heater
Jelly	Fruit gelatin
Joint (of meat)	Roast
Jumper	Sweater
Knock up	Awaken someone by knocking
Left luggage	Baggage checking
Lift	Elevator
Loo (slang)	Toilet
Mains	Electric circuit box
Motorway	Freeway
Nets	Sheer curtains
Newsagent	Shop selling newspapers
Number plate	License plate
Paraffin	Kerosene
Pavement	Sidewalk
Petrol	Gasoline
Pillarbox	Mail box
Plaster	Bandaid
Pub	Tavern
Push chair	Child's stroller
Ring road	Circular route around a town
Queue	Stand in line
Quid (slang)	One pound (£)
Rates	Property taxes
Ring up	Telephone
Rubber	Eraser
Rubbish	Garbage
Saloon (car)	Sedan
Scheme	Plan
Scone	Biscuit
Serviette	Napkin
Slip road	Ramp onto a highway
Squash	Fruit drink
Stone (weight)	14 pounds
Subway	Pedestrian underpass
Sweets	Candy
Takeaway	Carryout/take out
Tights	Pantyhose
Tippex	White out
Trainers	Sneakers
Tube	Subway
Verge (of road)	Shoulder
Way out	Exit
W.C. (water closet)	Toilet

Liberty

Wing

AD

Liberty

Wing

AD