

Squadron Leader P A Atherton OBE



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Dear Neighbour and Friend of Croughton,

You will probably be aware that in January 2015, as part of the United States' European Infrastructure Consolidation Review, the US decided to relocate the Joint Intelligence Analysis Centre (JIAC) and the NATO Intelligence Fusion Centre (NIFC) to RAF Croughton from RAF Molesworth (Cambridgeshire). This would have resulted in the USAF withdrawing from RAF Molesworth and nearby RAF Alconbury, with both sites subsequently being disposed of by the UK MoD.

However, in Spring 2018, the US re-assessed potential future locations in the UK for these intelligence operations and it was decided that retaining the facilities at RAF Molesworth would best support their strategic priorities. This decision will secure the US presence at RAF Molesworth. I am therefore writing to let you know that the MoD has now approved that US request to retain the JIAC and NIFC at RAF Molesworth. Accordingly all operations will remain at their current location using newly-constructed facilities, estimated to be operational in approximately 2027. The majority of support activities will remain at RAF Alconbury for the time being, but some support functions will likely transfer from RAF Alconbury to RAF Molesworth.

RAF Croughton will continue to deliver its current communications mission and will see no change to its current role or size. Planned improvements to its existing SATCOM equipment are unaffected as is the intention to relocate the main entry/exit to the Base. Construction on these major programmes is expected to commence as soon as all approvals and preparatory works are complete.

MoD officials will continue to engage with Local Authorities and Parish Councils as the USAF plans mature. For those in the Croughton area, the topic will be addressed at the 422nd Air Base Group Winter Reception the date for which is yet to be confirmed and also

at the Littlebrook Ward Council meeting on 28th January 2019. If you have any specific queries or concerns, please let us know in advance so that they can be addressed. Queries should be forwarded to Ms Julie Scott the RAF Croughton Community Relations Advisor who can be contacted as usual on 01280 708012 or via email: julie.scott.2.gb@us.af.mil

With best wishes,

Paul Atherton