



# The Liberty Wing

*Base Guide*

**48th Fighter Wing**  
RAF Lakenheath, England

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## 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 U.S. Air Forces in Europe. Team Liberty is a dedicated and professional organization that uses leading edge technology to perform a leading edge mission.



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 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.

*48th Fighter Wing Commander*



## Welcome to the United Kingdom and Royal Air Force Lakenheath

USAFE bases in the U.K. have a host-nation commander as well as a U.S. Air Force wing commander. The reasons for having a Royal Air Force commander are primarily historical, but in real terms, I act as the landlord for the real estate.

The RAF commander is also your wing commander's adviser on Ministry of Defence matters as well as the 48th Fighter Wing's point of contact for the Ministry of

Defence and the various authorities within the U.K.

Additionally, I am the focal point with the general public on all matters, but particularly on noise and low-flying aircraft complaints. Last, but by no means not least, I am the head of establishment for more than 900 U.K. civilians that work closely with you on the base.

The RAF commander's task is to ensure everything goes smoothly in these areas so you can fully focus upon the successful execution of the mission at RAF Lakenheath.

Coping with unfamiliarity adds to the stress of a demanding job. Lakenheath leadership expects a lot of its Airmen and civilians, but in return provides a great support structure. Make use of it. The 48th Fighter Wing is a hard-working, dedicated and professional organization.

Away from work I encourage you to make the most of your tour in the U.K. Take advantage of the opportunities available -- from history, travel, culture and friendships.

Again, my sincere welcome to RAF Lakenheath.

*Squadron Leader*  
RAF Lakenheath U.K.





# Prepare for Departure

Welcome to your assignment to RAF Lakenheath. You're about to become part of the Air Force's finest fighter wing!

# Checklist for a smoother transition

Visit your Airmen and Family Readiness Center or [www.afcrossroads.com](http://www.afcrossroads.com), [www.dmdc.osd.mil/sites/](http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/sites/). From a .mil connected computer, you can also access <https://wwwmil.lakenheath.af.mil>.

Register for relocation classes through your local AFRC to help make moving easier.

Contact RAF Lakenheath lodging at DSN 226-6700 or via email, [liberty.lodge@lakenheath.af.mil](mailto:liberty.lodge@lakenheath.af.mil), for reservations. If you are scheduled to arrive in the morning, you may wish to reserve a room for the night before so you can go straight to a room; otherwise, check-in time is 2 p.m.

Contact your sponsor as soon as possible. Call the AFRC at 226-3847 or e-mail the Lakenheath intro manager at [liberty.link@lakenheath.af.mil](mailto:liberty.link@lakenheath.af.mil) if you have no sponsor within 90 days of your departure. Provide your sponsor a copy of your PCS orders to get a post-office box. If you have a spouse or children, share their concerns as well.

Inform your sponsor of your port call so he or she can greet you. If you come to England via Heathrow or Gatwick, you will process through British customs. If your sponsor isn't able to greet you, a free chartered bus is available to take you the 100 mile trip to RAF Lakenheath or RAF Mildenhall.

Plan for your pets. Bringing pets to the U.K. has become easier. Pets may enter the country without quarantine after a six-month process called PETS. For more information, see page 18 and visit [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk). Be sure to research PETS and plan accordingly. Even without quarantine, pets are not allowed in lodging so a kennel is necessary.

Make a list of expected expenditures, set goals and save now. Visit the personal finance manager at your local AFRC.

Even though the U.K. is an English speaking country, it's quite different. The bases are located in a very rural area with little to no 24-hour shopping available. For local information, visit: [www.suffolk.org.uk](http://www.suffolk.org.uk), [www.norfolk.gov.uk](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk), [www.stedmundsbury.gov.uk](http://www.stedmundsbury.gov.uk); [www.cambridge.gov.uk](http://www.cambridge.gov.uk) and [www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk).

When you arrive, you will need to obtain a USAFE driver's license. There is training before the test, but a review of The Highway Code beforehand may help. To view the book, visit [www.highwaycode.gov.uk](http://www.highwaycode.gov.uk).

Plan to ship your household goods, hold baggage and car as soon as possible. It takes time for them to arrive. Once you arrive, the AFRC loan locker at DSN 226-3134 has many useful household items to loan. The furniture management office at DSN 226-7029 also has temporary loaner furniture. They also issue items to use throughout your tour including refrigerators, washers, dryers, stoves, wardrobes and transformers.

It may take up to three months to receive your household goods. It takes 35-45 days for hold baggage to arrive. Items to pack in hold baggage are cooking utensils, plates, silverware, linens, extra clothing (warm clothing, with extra sweaters and coats in the winter), extra military clothing, and a few toys, books and games for children, along with anything needed immediately.

Be prepared for the time shipping a vehicle takes,

typically a month. Contact the traffic management vehicle processing center at 01842-813999, 00800-87267227 or visit [www.wherismypov.com](http://www.wherismypov.com) to check the status of your vehicle.

Hand-carry passports, birth certificates, marriage certificate, identification cards, driver's licenses, school records and transcripts, medical records, insurance records (don't forget a "no claims" letter from an auto insurance company), military records, shipping papers on household goods and vehicle, car registration and proof of ownership, name of sponsor and supervisor's with duty and home phone numbers, and squadron duty phone number.

Plan care for your children. Keep in mind you will have inprocessing appointments, car shopping and house hunting. If childcare is necessary, make a plan and be proactive about securing care as soon as possible. See page 34 for options.

Request a local pen-pal for your school-age child. In a letter, provide the child's name, age, interests, questions, address and email address. Mail request to Kids In Touch With Kids, 48 MSS/DPF, Unit 5200, Box 105, APO AE 09461, or email [liberty.link@lakenheath.af.mil](mailto:liberty.link@lakenheath.af.mil).

## Child's Education Transition Checklist

- Tell your child's current school when he or she will be leaving as soon as you are aware of the move. Return all books (library and text,) and clear all charges or fines.
- Tell the current school where your child will be transferring.
- Make an appointment to discuss withdrawal procedures with the appropriate school personnel. If you wish to receive a copy of records in addition to the withdrawal document, a 48 hour notice is required in most cases.
- Call ahead to determine if your child's new school has special programs available (if needed); learn as much as you can about the new school. To learn more about DoD Schools at RAF Lakenheath, see page 27 and visit [www.lakenheath.af.mil/libertykids](http://www.lakenheath.af.mil/libertykids).
- When you get to the new school, if you need further information or have questions, do not hesitate to call your old school. When you leave your old installation, you should have contact phone numbers or the email address of your old school.
- When you arrive at your new school, ensure you have the necessary documents and records. To enroll in DoD Schools you need your child's shot records, birth certificate and a copy of your orders. You should also have copies of records or report cards from your child's last school.

# 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 or 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 will 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 the JFTR, Volume I/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 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 Excise 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 U.K.

## Things to consider

British houses are generally smaller than American homes. Bringing oversized furniture, such as an eight 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 in 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 differences in cycles per second or 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 U.K. with the British broadcasting system (PAL I format) and can't be adapted. Televisions are readily available to buy or rent, 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're 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, including your Air Force physical training uniform. And don't forget a raincoat or gortex BDU jacket.

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 is to contact TMO Customer Service located in Bldg. 426 at RAF Mildenhall at 238-5243 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 U.K. has introduced tougher gun laws. Anyone contemplating shipping a shotgun or firearm into the U.K. should 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. Laws and restrictions even exist for ownership and use of air powered guns and BB-guns. If you intend to ship any weapon, be sure it's listed on U.K. Customs Declaration, DD Form 1434.

The bottom line is the U.K. 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 here and it is illegal, it will be confiscated.

If you want to shoot here, wait until you arrive and 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.



# Permanent issue and loaner furniture 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 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 or 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. A landlord or tenant agreement must be provided for rental property.

Single or unaccompanied members sharing a house or apartment are not issued like items, except for bedroom furniture.

FMO is located at RAF Feltwell in Bldg. 73. For more information, call 226-7029 or fax 226-7206.

## 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 100 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 to ease the transition until your household goods arrive. It's also authorized for up to 90 days before your departure from England. The following items are authorized in the 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

## Calling England



File Photo

England is five hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time. To make DSN calls to RAF Lakenheath call 314-226-1110 to speak to the operator. When dialing a commercial number dial 011, then the country code-44, a four digit area code-xxxx, and then the six digit number-xxx-xxx. If you see a five-digit area code with a 0 as the first number drop the zero and use the last four digits. For example, 01638-555-555, would be dialed 011-44-1638-555-555.

To convert a DSN to a commercial number, dial 01638 then 52 to call RAF Lakenheath or 54 if you to call RAF Mildenhall, then the last four numbers of the DSN. For example, RAF Lakenheath DSN 314-226-5555 would be 01638-525555 locally and from the states 011-44-1638-525-555. RAF Mildenhall DSN 314-238-5555 would be 01638-545555 locally and from the states 011-44-1638-545-555.

A quick reference list of useful phone numbers is listed on the next page.

Keep in mind the time difference when calling England. This can be frustrating and makes contact with your sponsor challenging. E-mail may be the best solution.



## Quick reference telephone numbers

|                                       |              |                                     |           |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| Action Line . . . . .                 | .226-2324    | Gate 2 . . . . .                    | .226-2015 |
| Airmen's Attic . . . . .              | .226-2140    | Hobby, Auto . . . . .               | .226-2454 |
| AMC Terminal . . . . .                | .238-2248    | Hobby, Wood . . . . .               | .226-3367 |
| Community Bank . . . . .              | .226-3750    | Hospital Appointment Line . . . . . | .226-8010 |
| Base Exchange . . . . .               | .226-2996    | Post Office . . . . .               | .226-3548 |
| Base Lodging . . . . .                | .226-6700    | Public Affairs . . . . .            | .226-2151 |
| Chapel . . . . .                      | .226-3711    | Red Cross . . . . .                 | .226-1855 |
| Child Development Center . . . . .    | .226-3829    | School Liaison Office . . . . .     | .226-5077 |
| Civilian Pay . . . . .                | .226-3164    | Shoppette, Bldg. 650 . . . . .      | .226-2451 |
| Civilian Personnel . . . . .          | .238-3540    | Flightline shopette . . . . .       | .226-5729 |
| Command Post . . . . .                | .226-4800    | Tax Office . . . . .                | .226-3553 |
| Commissary . . . . .                  | .226-2247    | Taxi . . . . .                      | .225-2306 |
| Community Relations Adviser . . . . . | .226-3145    | Theater . . . . .                   | .226-2139 |
| Credit Union . . . . .                | .226-2115    | TMO Inbound . . . . .               | .238-2201 |
| Dental Clinic . . . . .               | .226-8795    | TMO Passenger . . . . .             | .226-1854 |
| Dial-A-Nurse . . . . .                | .0800-896409 | Travel Pay . . . . .                | .226-3519 |
| Eagle's Landing . . . . .             | .226-2535    | TRICARE Office . . . . .            | .226-8688 |
| Education Office . . . . .            | .226-3851    | Visitor's Center . . . . .          | .226-3554 |
| Airmen and Family Readiness . . . . . | .226-3847    | WIC-O Office . . . . .              | .226-9016 |
| Fitness Center . . . . .              | .226-3607    | Wing Safety . . . . .               | .226-3737 |
| Gate 1 . . . . .                      | .226-2629    | Youth Center . . . . .              | .226-3180 |





# Upon Arrival

We hope you will enjoy your stay while assigned to the United Kingdom and RAF Lakenheath.

## 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. See the bus schedule below for times. Please 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. The base is located approximately 100 miles from each airport.

### Gatwick

Departs RAF Lakenheath long term parking – 4:30 a.m. and 7 a.m.  
 Departs Bldg. 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 North Terminal, Gatwick Airport – 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.  
 Arrives South Terminal, Gatwick Airport – 8:15 and 10:45 a.m.  
 Departs South Terminal, (Bus Bay "D") – 9:30 a.m. and noon  
 Departs North Terminal (Coach Road) – 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.  
 Arrives RAF Mildenhall – 12:30 p.m. and 3 p.m.  
 Arrives RAF Lakenheath – 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Bus operates daily, except Christmas and Boxing Day. Times are approximate due to traffic and weather conditions. Passengers must show their military identification cards and orders to ride the bus.

### Heathrow

Departs RAF Lakenheath long term parking – 4:30 a.m. and 7 a.m.  
 Departs Bldg. 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 – 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.  
 Arrives RAF Mildenhall – noon and 2:30 p.m.  
 Arrives RAF Lakenheath – 12:30 p.m. and 3 p.m.

## Finding Housing in the Local Area

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 assist if a dispute arises. They can be reached at 226-6000. Inspected 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 housing and finance briefings. It is recommended these briefings are attended before making a commitment to a home. Available housing rental units are listed by the Housing Management Office as a detailed listing card that includes a photograph and as a brief listing sheet available as a handout. A housing representative inspects each house to ensure that 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 device and carbon monoxide 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 range are available from the furniture

management office at 226-7029 or 226-7030.

### Government housing

RAF Lakenheath military family housing consists of single-story and two-story units. RAF Lakenheath has 13 separate housing areas located both on base and in the surrounding communities.

### Waiting lists

The government housing areas range from on base to 31 miles away from base. 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. Please check our Web site for current waiting times that change monthly:

<https://wwwmil.lakenheath.af.mil/housing/housing%20site/>.

### Lodging

Reservations must be made through lodging. You can e-mail your request to [liberty.lodge@lakenheath.af.mil](mailto:liberty.lodge@lakenheath.af.mil) or contact the RAF Lakenheath lodging office at DSN 226-6700. Your sponsor can also make a reservation on your behalf. If you are arriving in the morning, you may wish to reserve a room for the night before so you can go straight to a room upon arrival; otherwise, check-in time is 2 p.m.



## Dormitories

### Current and future inventory

The Liberty Wing 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.

All Airmen assigned to the Liberty Wing are assigned private rooms.

### Eligibility

All E1- E3 and E4 with less than three years of service, are required to live in the dormitories. Due to the lack of excess dormitory space, priority 3 (E1 – E3 and E4 with three years of service or more) and priority 4 (unaccompanied enlisted members) will not be housed in dormitories.

### Rental information

Listings of approved available rental listings are posted daily at 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 U.K. standards, such as gas, oil or electric.

More than 80 percent of families locate community housing within 24 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 courtesy drive service to view housing in the community. Drives 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

### Intro and Exit

Intro and Exit is a program designed to streamline inprocessing and outprocessing procedures for the 48th Fighter Wing. The goal is to make the process as close to "one stop" as possible. The result of Intro and Exit should be a simplified process requiring only two to three days for individuals to complete all their duties when arriving and departing RAF Lakenheath.

rows). Apartment blocks and complexes are virtually nonexistent. Housing on the economy may not be what you're used to in the U.S. 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 –\$875; three-bedroom home –\$1053; and four-bedroom home –\$1769. All rents are per calendar month and are paid in advance by the tenant. Rents shown



*RAF Lakenheath semi-detached Military Family Housing Units.*

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 in cases where the housing office lists properties.

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, this will waive the requirement to pay a deposit.

Telephone services are no longer a monopoly in the U.K., 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 in the U.S., local calls are not free.

### 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 U.K. 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. When buying a home, TLA will only be paid for the average TLA paid for the previous quarter. These averages change every quarter. Most personnel are unable to buy a home in this amount of time and are advised to seek a short-term

lease until the home buy is complete.

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 (lawyer), to carry out the necessary legal work.

### 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 a 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 U.K. 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.

## Bringing Pets to the United Kingdom



If you are assigned to RAFs Lakenheath, Mildenhall or Feltwell, you must register your pet. Registration is mandatory.

When you arrive with your pet or within two weeks of obtaining a pet, you will be required to register your pet with the U.S. Army Veterinary Clinic at RAF Feltwell.

### Pet quarantine

As of December 2002 properly documented cats and dogs coming from the U.S. and Canada will no longer have to go through the six-month quarantine when entering the U.K. on approved routes, as long as they meet specific criteria. Information on the Pets Travel Scheme, or PETS, can be found at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/quarantine/pets/index>.

An import permit is required for each animal to enter the U.K. The application must be made and approved in advance.

The quarantine laws are continuously changing. For the most up-to-date information on PETS, to locate authorized quarantine kennels or to locate airlines qualified to carry pets to the U.K., visit [www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/quarantine/index.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/quarantine/index.htm).

### Exotic pets

Any pets out of the ordinary need to be approved by the U.K.'s Department of the Environment Endangered Species Branch at 01179 878170 or 01179 878684.

### Animal Welfare officer

An Animal Welfare officer is present to offer pet care advice, including transportation requirements and assistance to military families to properly plan for shipment of their pets. Pet Scoop is a class offered by the Airmen and Family Readiness Center about pets in the U.K. For more information about Pet Scoop contact the AFRC here at DSN 226-3847. To contact the AWO, call 226-5796.



## 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. Individuals may contact a bank for an exact exchange rate.

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

Just like the dollar, the pound is divided into 100 pence. There are two copper coins, one and two pence, and four silver coins, 5, 10, 20 and 50 pence. In addition, the one and two pound currencies are 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 \$10,000 in reserve to prevent any financial difficulty. You are entitled to a temporary lodging allowance, but it might take a little while to receive 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. The following are some initial expenses to expect.

### Daily expenses

A hotel room on the economy with two double beds costs between £60 and £100 per night. Billeting rooms in visiting officer's or airmen's quarters are approximately \$25 per a night. Family units are approximately \$44 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 £600 to £1,800. Other charges that might apply to newcomers are appliance hook-ups and telephone hook-ups. If the cost seems too expensive, obtain a second estimate or ask around. Transformers can be a significant cost; remember the Furniture Management Office at RAF Feltwell lends transformers.

Members are entitled to an overseas housing advance to help cover the first month's rent and the security deposit. In addition, upon renting an off-base house, individuals will receive a move-in housing allowance (MIHA) to help defray costs. All members receive this in addition to the dislocation allowance. Call the housing office at 226-2796 for more information.

### Currency exchange

Money can be changed from pounds to dollars and vice-versa at Community Bank, the credit union or the clubs on



**British pounds Sterling**

base. In addition, some base concessions and activities will accept payment in either currency. Currency can also be exchanged at off-base banks.

Debit cards can be used to withdraw pounds from both on and off-base automatic teller machines. When credit or debit cards are utilized, the daily international exchange rate is the rate charged. Using your debit card can save you money by charging you only the international currency rate, unlike a Bureau de Change, which normally charges the international rate plus a fee. If using a credit card, check to make sure the credit company will not charge you a conversion charge. Major credit cards and debit cards with the Visa or MasterCard logo are readily accepted at all on-base facilities and at many establishments off base.



### Annual road tax

Payment of a road tax is an annual requirement in order to drive on British roads; it is similar to the annual requirement to register and to obtain license plates for your car in the U.S.

Road tax costs approximately £150 annually. Road tax varies directly with engine size. Keep in mind it's illegal to drive a car in Britain unless it is insured and the road tax is paid. Road tax can be paid annually or bi-annually and is reimbursable if you file a claim once a year with Finance.

### Car insurance

Insurance can be very costly for young people or people with bad driving records. British cars are generally cheaper to insure than American cars. Remember to find out if you can afford insurance before buying a car.

### Valued added tax

Similar to sales taxes in the U.S., the U.K. 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 U.K. 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,





**Expenses** *continued*

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, Bldg. 938.
- 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, 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 pound Sterling certified bank check as payment for the government issued check. A processing fee of approximately \$10 will be charged.

- One 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 of it to the VAT office. Failure to return the copy could result in the customer being denied any future VAT exempt purchases.

## Driving on the other side of the road

Upon your arrival to RAF Lakenheath you will receive a thorough traffic safety orientation briefing. 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 U.K. 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.highwaycode.gov.uk/> but does not have the road signs. We recommend you contact either your sponsor or purchase a full copy of the Highway Code book available at various U.K. shops or the RAF Lakenheath Shoppettes.

### 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, 5 mph during school commute times. Also, use caution in built up or residential areas. Off base, the speed limit is 70

mph on motorways and dual carriageways; 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.

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 U.S. Speed limits here are posted to the type of road traveled, rather than based on engineering analysis and traffic investigation. In other words, the same type of roads that you'll travel on in the U.K. at 60 mph would only be posted at 35 – 40 mph in the U.S.

Road bends on U.K. roads are not marked with signs indicating the safe speed as in the U.S. 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 U.K. When a pedestrian steps onto a crossing, vehicles must stop; however, do not cross the road until the vehicle has come to a stop. The zigzag lines indicate 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 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 blind persons know when to cross the road. If the crosswalk is empty, sensors in the crossing senses no one is crossing the road, and the control computer trips the safety hat which 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.

Do not use the horn in built-up 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 found out of limits. You are responsible for ensuring your vehicle is roadworthy prior to use on a public roadway.

Ministry of Transportation testing is required on all vehicles three years old or older, and Single Vehicle Approval testing is required on vehicles 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 U.K. is prone to adverse weather, including heavy rain, fog, ice and even snow. Adjust your driving accordingly and drive 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 mirrors, 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. There is a strict no passing policy on roads near the base.

Under British law, seatbelts 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 12 years old or under 53 inches in height must be restrained in an appropriate

#### Programs give DUI alternatives

In addition to driving defensively, driving after even one alcoholic drink is unacceptable. 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 seven days to pay their bill. Call them at (01638) 533060. Contact your first sergeant for more information.

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. For more information visit [www.childcarseats.org.uk](http://www.childcarseats.org.uk).

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 and they are covered. If not, and you're stopped and charged, you will be fined, plus your USAFE driving permit will be revoked for a minimum of 18 months.



**Roundabouts are very common throughout England. Traffic flows clockwise so drivers must yield to traffic to the right.**

If you arrive at the scene of an accident, your first concern is to alert and 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 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 you are required to report it to the 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. Make your plans ahead of time. Remember – don't ruin your career or your life (or someone else's) because you didn't think. Think before you drink!

### Roundabouts

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 which is in the roundabout, and when clear, proceed into the roundabout staying on the outside. Exit the roundabout.

-Leaving the roundabout by exit 2: Approach 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 check 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.

-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. Just as you pass the exit before your desired exit, cancel your right indicator, 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.

Bicyclists are required to obey all traffic rules and signs. If riding at night, your 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 personnel who ride bicycles 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.

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 for safety not 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 personnel complete the MSF course prior to arrival. Class size is limited.

For more information about driving in the U.K. or motorcycle requirements, call the wing safety office at 226-3737.





# Liberty Kids

From DoD schools, British schools and homeschooling to child care and youth programs, the children of the 48th Fighter Wing are a top priority at RAF Lakenheath.

# Department of Defense Dependents Schools

The Department of Defense operates five schools serving members based at RAF Lakenheath, RAF Feltwell and RAF Mildenhall. There are no schools on RAF Mildenhall. These schools are part of the Isles District of DoDDS-Europe. The Isles District includes schools in Belgium, Lajes and Bahrain.

Tuition-free, space-required enrollment is limited to command-sponsored pupils. The child's name must appear on the sponsor's overseas travel orders as proof of command sponsorship. Others may be admitted on a space-available basis, either tuition-free or tuition paying.

Buses contracted from local commercial companies provide school bus transportation. Service is limited by DoD regulation to those students who live outside the walking area, but inside the zone limit of approximately a one-hour bus ride. The school liaison office, housing office and school bus office have maps showing the areas served by DoD school buses and the school zones for the two elementary schools. Families who intend to enroll their children in DoDDS and who require school bus transportation should contact the school bus office at 226-3752 or 226-7332 to determine whether or not they are on a bus route prior to signing a lease for a house or apartment off base.

Once the housing area and school zone are determined, the sponsor should report to the appropriate school office and complete the registration forms. Registration forms may be accessed at [www.lakenheath.af.mil/libertykids](http://www.lakenheath.af.mil/libertykids). Registration for new students takes place year-round.



*Powderpuff, a Lakenheath High school tradition have football players dress up as cheerleaders and learn cheer stances during Homecoming week.*





## Lakenheath Elementary school Grades PK-3

<http://www.lake-es.eu.odedodea.edu/>

CCSE/L UNIT 5185 BOX 40

APO AE 09464-8540

TELEPHONE: 01638-532672

DSN: 226-3721

FAX: 01638-531161

Approximately 800 students

Located on RAF Lakenheath

Sure Start Program

Pre-school children with disabilities program

Full day kindergarten

Mascot: Rocky the Eagle

RAF Lakenheath Elementary is the largest school in England, with an overall enrollment of 800

pupils. The school hosts kindergarten through third grade, as well as the Pre-school Children with Disabilities program and Sure Start. The LES program includes two host-nation teachers who introduce British history, culture and customs, as well as physical education, art and music classes. Located in the RAF Lakenheath housing area, the school serves children from RAF Lakenheath and RAF Mildenhall personnel living in the catchment area from Lakenheath to the south.



*The Lakenheath Elementary School includes Spanish immersion classes.*

## LIBERTY INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL: GRADES 4-5



File Photo

<http://www.libe-is.eu.odedodea.edu/>

CCSI UNIT 5185 BOX 50

APO AE 09464

TELEPHONE: 01638-522258

DSN: 226-2258

FAX: 01638-533906

Approximately 430 students

Located on RAF Lakenheath

Mascot: Tiger

An intermediate school, LIS hosts grades 4 and 5, with an enrollment of over 400 pupils, located on RAF Lakenheath. It serves RAF Lakenheath and RAF Mildenhall personnel living in the catchment area from RAF Lakenheath to the south.

## Feltwell Elementary school: Grades K-5

<http://www.felt-es.eu.odedodea.edu/>

CCSE/F UNIT 5185 BOX 315

APO AE 09461

TELEPHONE: 01638-527003

DSN: 226-7003

FAX: 01842-827931

Approximately 450 Students

Located on RAF Feltwell

Full day kindergarten

Mascot: Hedgehog



RAF Feltwell Elementary is a small elementary school with a big heart, serving RAF Feltwell residents and those military members living mainly to the north of RAF Lakenheath. Located about ten miles north of RAF Lakenheath, enrollment is about 450 pupils in kindergarten through fifth grade. FES has a friendly, "small school" atmosphere, and makes every effort to create a positive and nurturing environment for children.

FES has an active parent volunteer program, and parent involvement is very welcome. FES also offers a wide range of extra-curricular activities for children, including computer club, student council, school newspaper, chess club, video production club, sports club, quilting club, gardening club, dance movement club, French club and chorus. Parents are invited to contact the school office for more information.



## Lakenheath Middle School Grades: 6-8

<http://www.lake-ms.eu.odedodea.edu/>  
 CCSM UNIT 5185 BOX 55  
 APO AE 09461  
 TELEPHONE: 01842-828245  
 DSN: 226-7007  
 FAX: 01842-827329  
 Approximately 750 students  
 Located on RAF Feltwell  
 12 buildings  
 Mascot: Leopard

Lakenheath Middle School, located at RAF Feltwell, enrolls around 750 students. Students may participate in band, art, physical education, foreign language, computers, video production, speech, drama, AVID, health, humanities, careers and

home economics. The school also features many after-school activities. LMS campus consists of 12 buildings. Students are divided into "houses." Students in each house have classes from the same set of core teachers.



*Lakenheath High School graduation.*

## Lakenheath High School: Grades 9-12

<http://www.lake-hs.eu.odedodea.edu/>  
 CCSH UNIT 5185 BOX 45  
 APO AE 09464  
 TELEPHONE: 01638-523115  
 DSN: 226-3115  
 FAX: 01638-533073  
 Approximately 650 students  
 Located on RAF Lakenheath  
 Grades 9-12  
 Mascot: Lancers

Students must complete 24 Carnegie units for graduation, 16 of which are required courses including four units of language arts; three units of social studies; three units each of both mathematics and science (students must have a total of six units of mathematics and science); one unit each of career education, fine arts, and physical education; one unit each of computer science and health; and six units of elective courses, two in foreign language. A junior Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps unit also operates in the high school. Interscholastic sports include football, basketball, track and field, wrestling, girls' volleyball, cross country, tennis and girls' softball. Other extracurricular activities include a photo club, Model United Nations, Duke of Edinburgh Award program, JASON project, Destination Imagination and cheerleading.

# All about British Schools

## How do I find information on British schools?

Education is a service provided by the county councils in England. Suffolk, Norfolk and Cambridgeshire all have comprehensive Web sites that include a whole section on education in their area. This is a good place to start for general information.

## What is the difference between a state school and an independent school?

State schools are free of charge and independent schools are fee-paying schools. An old term you may still hear for an independent school is a “public” school, which really is a contradiction in terms because only the minority attends fee-paying schools.

## Will I have to pay to send my child to a church school?

If the church school is a state school, no fees are required. Voluntary-aided schools are run in partnership with the Roman Catholic Church and Church of England. The school governors decide which children can go to the school and how religion is taught.

## At what age do children start school?

British children must begin full-time education at the start of the term after their fifth birthday. In Suffolk all children can get full-time education from the start of the term during which they become 5. For example, children born in March can start full-time school in January if their parents want them to.

## What is a catchment area?

Most children attend the school in their local area. This school is called the catchment school. Every school serves an area of streets or villages, but sometimes this is different for church schools. Parents have a right to ask for a place at a different school. This is called a preferred school. However, it may not be possible to obtain a place if the preferred school is full.

## When does the school year start and how is it divided up?

The school year starts at the beginning of September and is divided into three “terms” with holidays (vacations) of two weeks at Christmas and Easter and a six-week holiday in the summer. Each term is sub-divided into two “half-terms” by a week’s vacations.

## Do I have to register?

Registration is not the same here. We use the term enrollment. When the head teacher confirms there is availability at the school, he or she will need pupil details. The information required will include a date of estimated rotation from overseas for the parent. This is required to help plan numbers related to future funding for the school. Should you take your child out of the school for any reason, notify the head teacher as soon as possible of the last day of attendance.



In order to enroll your child at a British school, you will need to have a British address in the local area.

## How will my child progress through school?

Teaching is based on the National Curriculum, which has a core of four subjects – English, math, science and information technology. Other subjects, such as languages, are introduced at different stages. Within the National Curriculum there are key stages of learning. Key Stage 1 is years 1 and 2, Key Stage 2 is year 3 to year 6, Key Stage 3 is year 7 to year 9 and Key Stage 4 is years 10 and 11. Key Stage 4 is the time when external examinations are taken with a view to entering further education such as college or university.

## Will my child get free transport to school?

Free bus transportation to and from school is not automatic. The head teacher may ask for a commitment from you as parents to ensure your child is delivered to school and picked up from the school. Also, in England we do not have distinctive school buses. Drivers here are not required to stop behind a school bus, but are required to proceed with caution. It is essential children are aware of the dangers of crossing the road when getting off a school bus.

## Will my child have to wear a school uniform?

In British schools the child will usually be required to wear a uniform. The top (most often a sweatshirt) has the school logo on it and can often be purchased at the school. The bottom (pants – called “trousers” or “skirt”) must be a certain color but can be bought in any store. The uniform is worn most days, except on “non-uniform” days.

## Who do I contact for more information on British Schools?

RAF Lakenheath Community Relations Advisor at 226-3145.



# Finding childcare at RAF Lakenheath

RAF Lakenheath offers many different childcare programs and can help link you to other childcare options.

Parents can use full-time care for their child while they work throughout the week or available hourly care spaces when short-term care is needed. The Hourly Care program is available for unexpected and expected times, such as while you visit the local clinic or dentist. In order to assist our community, the Hourly Care program entitles priority to families relocating. Additionally, the child development center offers the Give Parents A Break program, which provides families with weekend short-term respite care.

## Child Development Center

- DSN 226-3285 or 226-3829
- Child Development Center West
- Bldg. 439 (near Gate 2 and base housing)
- Child Development Center East
- Bldg. 659 (in between the Art & Crafts Center and base housing)

The CDC offers a developmental program for children ages 6 weeks to 5 years. The program is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children and certified by the DoD and the U.S. Air Force. The curriculum is based on the belief children learn best by doing, actively thinking and experimenting through purposeful play in a planned environment. It is designed to provide experiences in language, mathematics, motor skills, creativity and social and emotional growth. The program also 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:

1. Single military parents
2. Dual military families
3. Families with the spouse working or a full-time student
4. Families with an unemployed spouse

## Project Care

Combat Care is a program designed to improve the care, attention and information flow spouses and families receive while the military member is deployed. Combat Care will make sure families are integrated into the Lakenheath community and provided with all the support they need during these trying times.

A sponsor may place their child on the waiting list from anywhere in the world.

To register, complete AF Form 1181, Air Force Child Development Patron Registration. This form must include a local emergency contact and phone number other than the parents. Present an up-to-date immunization record and plan to pay an annual registration fee.

Children's names may be placed on the waiting list by a parent completing DD Form 2606, DoD Child Development Program Request for Care Record. The waiting list is prioritized by arrival on station time and date.

Participants may register before their PCS move to RAF Mildenhall or RAF Lakenheath if a copy of their orders is provided. DD Form 2606 is also accepted for unborn infants. However, a slot is not offered until the child is born. For more information, call the RAF Lakenheath CDC at DSN 226-3285 or the RAF Mildenhall CDC at DSN 226-2042.

There are four early child care programs available to support the community. At RAF Lakenheath, there are eight rooms that provide full-time child care for children from 6 weeks of age to their kindergarten year. (Kindergarten care on RAF Lakenheath is provided at the Youth Center as part of the Before and After School Program). Registration forms for all of the programs may be obtained from the front desk at the Lakenheath Child Development Center.

## Hourly Child Care program

To make an advanced reservation you must supply a copy of your orders, immunization records and a completed form 1181. This is the registration form used worldwide by the Air Force. Please make it clear as to what hours, days and times you will need care for your child. It is recommended you first fax your information to the HCC, and then call 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 are accepted at the HCC after their first birthday, through the age of 6, or completion of kindergarten. Remember each child attending the HCC will need complete immunization history and a current TB Tine test.

## Mildly ill child care

An RAF Lakenheath Family Child Care provider began caring for mildly ill children under a pilot program being tested here. The Mildly ill Child Care program is being tested here and at 24 other Air Force bases worldwide. The program's goal is to provide a place for parents using full-time military child care centers to take their children who are too sick for regular day care.

This program benefits the parents and the military. The program is free to authorized users. However, children must be enrolled in one of the base's full-time child care programs,





and also be registered with the family child care mildly ill program.

Parents cannot call the provider directly. Before a sick child is placed with the provider coordination must be done between the CDC and full-time care programs, the hospital and the family child care coordinator. The coordination process prevents a child with certain illnesses from being placed in care that can affect other children, such as an asthmatic child being placed with a child with chicken pox. As such, referrals are made only by medical providers. For more on the program, call DSN 226-2994 or 01638-522994.

### Family Child Care program

- <http://www.48servicessquadron.com/fcc.htm>
- Phone: DSN 226-2994 or DSN 238-4040

Family Child Care is the care of a child or children in the home of another family residing in government housing. Individuals must have a license to do child care in government housing. FCC providers offer developmentally appropriate care for children ranging in age from 6 weeks to 12 years. FCC providers offer variety and flexibility in their programs by caring for children on a full-time, part-time, hourly, evening, weekend, swing shift and extended care basis.

To be eligible to become a FCC provider the requirements include being 18 years or older, ability to speak, read and write English, dependent of military or GS employee residing in government housing. FCC provider licensing requirements also include a 36 hour orientation training, CPR, first aid, and food handler's certification. Each applicant is also inspected initially by the fire, safety and public health offices. Upon licensing all providers receive unannounced home visits on a

monthly basis to ensure health and safety requirements are met.

Additionally, providers receive on-going training from the FCC staff. Each FCC provider must complete 18 training modules in 24 months, four hours of training credit each, covering program management, safety, health, learning environment, communication and other topics related to early childhood development and education. Caregivers are required to serve nutritionally sound meals and receive training and advice on nutrition through the program staff.

A list of child care openings may be obtained at the FCC office, AFRC, CDC, youth center, housing office, billeting office and the Family portal. The FCC program offers orientation training for those interested in becoming providers once a month. For more information on becoming a provider or registering a child with a provider, contact the FCC Office at DSN 226-2994 or DSN 238-4040.

The Lakenheath Family Child Care Program provides full-time, part-time, hourly care, evening, weekend, swing-shift, respite and extended care services to the families in the community. Licensed homes may be located in Anglo, Phase III, Main Base, Feltwell and Lakenheath Village.

### Extended-duty child care program

Available for: on-base mission related duty; extended duty days; temporary shift changes; rapid mobilization; deployments; Reserve or Guard on active-duty.

The Family Member Programs Flight can offer extended duty child care homes (experienced, insured, licensed, inspected).



# Youth Programs

## Youth and Teen programs

Youth programs provide opportunities for youths to develop their physical, social, emotional and cognitive abilities and to experience achievement, leadership, enjoyment, friendship and recognition. Our programs provide a wide variety of services, instructional classes and activities for children five to eighteen years of age including before and after school age programs, full day camps during summer vacation and school holidays, youth sports, youth transition and support services. The youth center is a proud member of the Boys and Girls Club of America.

## Youth Program

- Bldg. 250, Anglo Housing Area - Radcliffe Road  
- DSN 226-3180

RAF Lakenheath Youth Programs (LYP) offers a variety of programs and activities for dependent youth between the ages of six and eighteen of military/DoD personnel. RAF Lakenheath Youth Center is one of the largest in the Air Force. The center is located in Bldg. 250, which is off base in the housing area on the corner of Radcliffe and Bangor Roads. Once children become members, they are free to come and use the equipment and facilities.

Instructional classes are provided for all age groups to include: ballet, wall climbing, creative movement, guitar and piano lessons, gymnastics, jazz and martial arts.

Youth sports offers children aged 5 to 18 the opportunity

to play in the following programs throughout the year: spring soccer, baseball, T-ball, softball, flag football, 5-a-side soccer and basketball.

The youth center also hosts Little Liberty Tots, a play group for children four years and below. Phone the youth center for current dates and times.

For additional information on the RAF Lakenheath Youth Programs, call DSN 226-3180 (01638 523180). You can also fax us at DSN 226-6155 (01638 526155) or e-mail your questions to [youth.programs@lakenheath.af.mil](mailto:youth.programs@lakenheath.af.mil)

## Sports program

The sports program is open to boys and girls ages 5 - 18 (except volleyball). "Start Smart" is a year round program for children ages 3 - 5, covering the fundamentals of sport. The sports program currently includes girls volleyball (11 - 18 years), 5-a-side indoor soccer, basketball, in-line hockey, and home school physical education program.

## Other programs

Other programs for youth include the Torch and Keystone clubs — these small group clubs focus youth on positive development in areas such as service to club and community, education and career development, fitness, social recreation and more. Teens may enroll in the Youth Employment Skills (YES) Program to gain valuable work experience and earn money for college, while the Congressional Award Program offers national recognition for their achievements in community service, physical fitness, personal development, expeditions and exploration.





# Liberty Services

Agencies on RAF Lakenheath are available to support members of the Lakenheath family throughout their time in England.



## Adult Education

### Education services flight

The Education Center provides a wide range of services to military members, civilian employees and family members of the RAF Lakenheath community. For more information, call 226-3851.

The Education Center provides information and assistance on college programs (on base and distance learning), testing opportunities, veterans education benefits, Air Force Tuition Assistance, Spouse Tuition Assistance, Air Force Institute for Advanced Distributive Learning courses, Air Force Institute of Technology programs, nonresident officer and enlisted Professional Military Education, Community College of the Air Force and Air Force commissioning programs. Individual counseling is available from professional guidance counselors when required.

Testing is available for GED (high school equivalency), college level testing (CLEP, DSST, etc.), certification, distance learning and Professional Military Education.

Five U.S. colleges and universities conduct classes on RAF Lakenheath, offering programs varying from vocational and technical subjects to traditional academic disciplines. Academic term lengths differ from school to school, but most of the undergraduate institutions offer five, eight-week terms per year.

The on-base schools are:

**Central Texas College** offers certificate and associate's degrees in applied science. Programs include paralegal, early childhood professional, criminal justice and emergency medical technician.

**Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University** offers certificate, associate's, bachelor's, and graduate degrees in several aeronautical and aviation specialties. They also have aviation maintenance technology and independent-study courses.

**The University of Maryland University College** offers associate's and bachelor's degrees in a wide array of subjects, such as business communications, computers, humanities, and many others. They also offer all the general education classes needed for Community College of the Air Force. The University of Maryland also offers graduate degrees in counseling psychology, guidance and counseling, public administration and management information systems.

**The University of Oklahoma** offers master's degrees in human relations and international relations.

**The University of Phoenix** offers a Master of Business Administration and a Master of Arts in Education (Elementary and Secondary Teacher's Certification), Adult Education and Distance Learning, Administration and Supervision.

For more information on any of these programs, call 226-3851.

## Employment Opportunities

### 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.

### When you arrive

Go to the Airman and Family Readiness Center as soon as possible. The Career Focus specialist will help you obtain information on civilian personnel, human resources, Army and Air Force Exchange Services, Department of Defense Dependent Schools, contract positions and off-base companies. The specialist will explain all of the opportunities available on and off base and how to apply for jobs at each of the agencies. Since most civilian personnel job opportunities open on Friday and close on Thursday, it's best to wait until you arrive to apply for one of these jobs.

### U.K. job search

Update your civilian or federal résumé. The Career Focus specialist will assist you with the Optional Form 612, which is what many jobs on base require. You can save it on a disc so you will always have a copy. Be sure to keep copies of your college transcripts as they will be required for many different positions. In addition, it is important to learn about and to understand Military Spouse Preference. You do not want to lose it, before you even learn about it!

### Job hunting tips for spouses

Be aware job opportunities in an overseas assignment are different from job opportunities in the U.S. The base is located in a rural area and there are not as many industries as in a more populated areas. If you would like to work off base, you are allowed, per the Status of Forces Agreement. When working off base, you will need a National Insurance Number. It is similar to the U.S. Social Security Number. One of the biggest differences is you do not need a National Insurance Number before you begin working. You may apply for one after you have found a job. The Career Focus specialist at the AFRC can assist you with where to go to apply for a National Insurance Number and how to write a Curriculum Vitae (the British résumé). If you have questions regarding income taxes, contact the base legal office.

### Transition Assistance Program

The transition assistance program provides the necessary tools and training to retiring or separating Air Force members, Department of Defense civilians and their family members, to help them make a successful transition from military to civilian life. 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 skills, such as résumé writing, and conducts skills assessments so potential separatees or retirees can anticipate future needs.

## Chapel

### Liberty Chapel

Our chaplains and chapel support staff at RAF Lakenheath are committed to providing the best spiritual care possible. They give “accountable ministry for people who count.” Knowing the Liberty Wing is a lead Air and Space Expeditionary Force Wing, the operations tempo is high, and we can be called at a moment’s notice to deploy anywhere in the world. Our chapel team is ready to respond.

Not only must chaplains 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. Our chapel offers comprehensive Catholic and Protestant programs. Chapel activities include groups for women and men, youth activities, choirs, worship bands and drama teams, religious education classes for all age groups and spiritual retreats. Social and fellowship activities are also conducted throughout the year.

Our Liberty Chapel Worship schedule:

#### Catholic Services

Saturday Mass – 5 p.m.

Sunday Mass – 9:30 a.m.

Daily Mass – 11:30 a.m. Monday, Wednesday- Friday

#### Protestant Services

(All Protestant services held on Sundays unless otherwise stated)

General Protestant Worship – 11 a.m.

Gospel Service – 12:30 p.m.

Contemporary Service – 4:30 p.m.

#### Other Denominational Services

Jewish – Events and services held at RAF Mildenhall Chapel. (238-2822)

Sabbath Services – 6 p.m. second and fourth Friday

Call the RAF Lakenheath Chapel at 226-3711 for information concerning other faith groups in our surrounding communities. After duty hours, a chaplain can be reached for emergencies by calling the RAF Lakenheath command post at 226-4800.

## Airman and Family Readiness Center

### Family Support Center

The RAF Lakenheath Airman and Family Readiness Center offers specialized workshops, seminars and classes. Topics include parenting, career planning, financial planning and many more. Individual services are also offered. For more information call 226-3847.

### Information and referral

The information and referral program’s core function is to link individuals and families with the right resource to meet their needs. Whether you are new to the U.K. or the Air Force or both, you may have questions about living overseas or about different base agencies. The AFRC 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. Call the AFRC for more information at 226-3847.

### Personal financial management

The personal financial management program is designed to aid individuals in financial matters such as budgeting, debt reduction, basic investment planning, home buying and retirement planning. The financial management program offers a wide variety of financial classes and provides one-on-one financial assessments. Call the AFRC for more information at 226-3847.

### Air Force Aid Society

The Air Force Aid Society is also in the AFRC. 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.

Free childcare for members within 60 days of PCS to or from RAF Lakenheath is also available through this program.

The AFAS officer can be reached at 226-3847.

### Relocation assistance program

The goal of the relocation assistance program is to increase knowledge and skills needed by military, Department of Defense civilians and their families to accomplish a successful move.

For inbound personnel the relocation team liaisons with the Base intro. program manager to provide a variety of services for newcomers. One such program is the newcomer’s orientation. For outbound personnel this service is done through various seminars such as PCS with Ease, Pet Scoop and Kids on the Move. Obtain up-to-date information on your new installations by visiting [www.afcrossroads.com](http://www.afcrossroads.com) or [www.dmdc.osd.mil/sites/](http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/sites/).

### Family services

Family services is located within the AFRC, Bldg. 949. This service was 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.

The Loan Locker inside family services is stocked with household items, including dishes, pots and pans, irons and ironing boards, port-a-cribs and more. A copy of PCS orders is required. Family services also coordinates the base’s Coupon Connection program and Newborn Layette program. For detailed information, call 226-3847.

### 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 and morale packages. In addition, the

coordinator helps families maintain contact during separations through morale calls, videophones and e-mail.

### Wing Volunteer Resource program

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

## Post offices

The Air Force post office provides full postal service, including parcel post, postal insurance and money orders. Your sponsor can get you a post office box address before you arrive with just a copy of your orders, or you can do it on your own by contacting the post office directly.

Letter mail from the U.S. 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 next day, with second-class mail taking a bit longer outside the immediate area. A small branch British post office is located on base in the same building as the base post office 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, 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.

## On-base Shopping

### Base Exchange

The Base Exchange, located in Bldg. 995, offers a selection of electronics, jewelry, clothing, cosmetics, housewares, footwear, health and beauty care, DVDs and CDs, and other items. It also offers layaway, check cashing, gift certificates, special orders, gas coupons and VAT coupons. For more information call 226-2996.

### Commissary

The commissary, with second largest sales in the European region, is open to authorized people seven days a week and serves more than 50,000 customers each month. The store offers an average of 9,000 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. For more

information and latest news, visit the store online at [www.commissaries.com](http://www.commissaries.com).

### Fast food

The base has Burger King (Bldg. 952), Popeye's Chicken (Bldg. 953), Taco Bell (Bldg. 1078), all with drive-thru capability, and The Great Little Pizza Place. The bowling alley offers grilled sandwiches and burgers, as well as breakfast items. The exchange offers Baskin Robins, Anthony's Pizza, Charlie's Grill and Cinnabon. Subway is also available at the shoppette.

At RAF Mildenhall, there is Baskin Robbins, Burger King, Taco Bell Express, Robin Hood and Anthony's Pizza, along with a Cinnabon, located in the BXtra food court Bldg. 163.

### Furniture store

The Feltwell Furniture store, located at RAF Feltwell, in Bldg. 71 is one of the largest, stand-alone furniture stores in AAFES Europe. The store offers a wide range of living, dining and bedroom furniture, as well an extensive range of baby and juvenile furniture and accessories. Rugs, lamps, framed art, artificial plants, major appliances and decorating accent pieces round off the assortment at this facility.

### Military clothing sales

The military clothing sales store, located in Bldg. 658 next to the Lakenheath Theater, offers a complete line of Air Force uniforms for men and women, plus a selection of military and novelty gift items.

### Movie theater

The Lakenheath Theater (Bldg. 694), features a snack bar, Dolby sound and movie projection system, and seating with wheel chair accessibility.

### Service stations

The service stations at RAFs Lakenheath (Bldg.1078), Mildenhall (Bldg. 163) and Feltwell dispense different types of fuel at substantially cheaper rates than is available on the economy. 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





now phased out of usage in the U.K.

The Lakenheath and Mildenhall gas stations operate 24 hours, seven days a week.

### Shoppette

The RAF Lakenheath Shoppette (Bldg. 650) carries the following convenience items: food, office stationery supplies, pet supplies, toiletries, Class Six, books and video rental. The following special services are also available at the Shoppette: Navy gas coupons, German or Netherlands POL coupons (Sponsors only may purchase with TDY/Travel orders), Lakenheath theater advance tickets, Retiree limited privilege program coupons, Star card payments and check cashing.

The RAF Lakenheath Shoppette with gas, located in Bldg. 1078, is open 24 hours a day and offers the following convenience items: food, stationary, limited Class Six merchandise, beer and toiletries. If you're hungry take advantage of the Snack Avenue for hot dogs, sandwiches, coffee, cappuccino, slush puppies, Cinnabons and more.

## On-base banking

### Community Bank

The Community Bank offers full banking services for active-duty members, their families, DoD civilian employees and retirees. Contact the RAF Lakenheath branch at 01638-533750.

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,

cashier's checks, personal loans, foreign currency sales and exchanges. In addition, the bank can establish automatic monthly bill payments directly from your account.

Community bank maintains ATMs throughout RAF Lakenheath and RAF Feltwell for patron usage. 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.

### Keesler Federal Credit Union

Keesler Federal Credit Union operates four offices in the U.K. Contact the RAF Lakenheath office at 01638-533268. The credit union offers a full range of services, from savings and checking accounts, to individual retirement accounts. Loans, bank checks, bank wires, western unions, money orders and travelers checks, homebanking and bill pay services are also available.

Keesler maintains two ATMs, located at the base exchange and the shoppette, with 24-hour access for patrons. They dispense dollars or pounds from checking or savings accounts or credit card advances. There is an additional ATM located inside the commissary that dispenses dollars only, accessible during Commissary opening hours. Each ATM is linked to systems such as PULSE, CIRRUS, THE EXCHANGE, ARMED FORCES FINANCE NETWORK, CREDIT UNION 24, allowing access to stateside bank accounts.

# Facilities and Services

### Arts and Crafts Skills Development Center

The Skills Development Center, located in Bldg. 906, provides exceptional value, state-of-the-art equipment, facilities, and instruction to people throughout the Liberty Wing. You'll find a huge selection of arts & crafts material in our retail section, as well as new state-of-the-art classrooms offering everything from ceramics to photography to stained glass. Come in and have a look today. We can be reached at 226-2383.

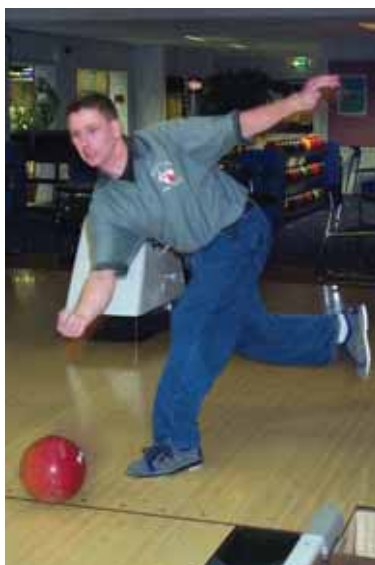
### Wood Skills Development Center

Need to fix your bed, put up an extra shelf, make that doll house for your daughter or just need advice on how to refinish that antique? The Wood Skills Center staff, located in Bldg. 1104, can offer advice and custom build anything from crates to cabinets. We stock hardwoods, softwoods and sheet materials and a selection of stains, dyes and hardware. We can be reached at 226-3367.

### Auto Skills Development Center

The Auto Skills Center, located in Bldg. 1108, provides you the best in service, price and selection while in the U.K. We are here to simplify your motoring needs by offering

complete MOT, tow & recovery services, light conversions, tire rotation & balancing, oil changes, electronic engine analysis, welding and roadside repair. The center has six lifts, nine maintenance stalls, a complete tool crib, a 24-hour car wash and vacuum facility, steam cleaning equipment, custom mechanic professionals, and an auto parts store. For DIY enthusiasts, we have monthly "all-nighters." We can be reached at 226-2383.



### Bowling center

Liberty Lanes, next to the shoppette in Market Square, features 24 computerized scoring lanes. Leagues and bowling associations are available. The Spare Time Grill is a full service snack bar and is open everyday of the week, from early morning to late at night, offering breakfast (except Sundays), lunch and dinner items. For more information, call 226-2108.

### Liberty Club

Enjoy all-ranks family dining with a variety of nightly specials at the Liberty Club. Entertainment includes live bands, discos, shows and slot machines. Try the lunch buffet offered every weekday for a delightful fast lunch. Look for our themed specialty

nights when the dining room is transformed for an Italian Trattoria, Seafood Extravaganza and more. Check cashing and currency exchange services are available for club members. Newcomers to the base will be happy to know if you transfer your old club membership to the Liberty Club within 30 days for your move, you will receive \$25 in gift certificates. Call 226-1611 for more information.

### Eagles' Landing

For Sunday brunches or formal dining on special occasions, Eagles' Landing provides an atmosphere of elegance and style in an all-ranks facility. The club offers a great lunchtime menu, a beauty and barber shop and an Officers' only bar. Try the buffet offered every weekday for a delightful fast lunch. Look for our themed specialty nights when the dining room is transformed for an Italian Trattoria, Seafood Extravaganza and more. Looking for a special place to hold your wedding reception or your organization's business meeting? Look no further - Eagles Landing will deliver world class service and superior food quality. For more information call 226-2535.

### The Great Little Pizza Place

Build your own pizza, choose from one of our many combination pizzas or try the special pizza of the month. We also offer terrific salads, pizza sticks and inferno wings. All pizza is made with our fresh dough and is available for pick up, eat in or delivery, just call 226-2497.

### RAF Lakenheath Community Center

The RAF Lakenheath Community Center, 48th Avenue, is open to all active-duty military, Department of Defense

civilians, retired military, their dependents and bonafide guests. The center offers programs such as piano lessons, Tae Kwon Do classes and drama productions. National and international fax service is available, as well as photocopier services. The center has a coffee shop, television lounge and multi-purpose room, which is available during the day for private or group functions. In addition, the center sells British stamps, phone cards and offers resale operations of balloon bouquets and food and beverages.

### RAF Feltwell Community Center

Located at RAF Feltwell, next to the Satellite Dish Snack Bar, the center offers recreational activities for all residents of RAF Feltwell and the surrounding areas. Activities are planned for youth, adults and families. The center also offers a fax service, copier service, snacks, British stamps, balloon bouquets and a multi-purpose room that can be reserved free for meetings or parties.

There is also a pool table and foosball table for everyone's enjoyment. Instructional classes are continually being offered and include: pre-school ballet, yoga, dance, Tae Kwon Do and piano.

### 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, four tennis courts and a sports complex with two softball fields, two soccer fields, three batting cages and concession stand.



All base personnel may participate in martial arts or aerobics programs for all levels. The weight-training program is tailored to each person's individual needs and abilities, using Nautilus and Cybex machines and free weights. A comprehensive intramural and varsity athletic program is operated year round and includes flag football, volleyball, golf, soccer, horse shoes, softball, racquetball and basketball, along with special events such as fun runs, tournaments, incentive programs 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 226-3607.

### Golf center

The Breckland Pines Golf Course is a 9-hole heath land-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. Wednesday through Sunday the snack-bar transforms into the busiest steakhouse on base. Delicious char-grilled steaks and chicken are the most popular. Call 226-2223 for more information.

### Health and Wellness Center

Located in the Fitness and Sports Center, Bldg. 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, specialist HAWC staff, such as exercise physiologists and nutritionists, can provide the expertise to assist anyone to make the necessary changes to keep active, fit and lead a healthy lifestyle. For more information call 226-2710 or 226-9388.

### Information, Tickets and Travel

The Information, Tickets and Travel Office is located in the Liberty center. IIT offers day trips to local points of interest throughout the U.K., theatre tickets, discounted ticket rates for most major attractions, airport bus tickets and more.

Continental tours are also available to destinations such as Paris, Amsterdam, Brugge, Paris Disney, Dublin, Oktoberfest and many other places. Stop by the office for a brochure and let the staff help you plan the most for your leisure time. 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 local attractions, car hire, airports and tourism is available at the office. For more information, call DSN 226-2979 or commercial 01638 52 2979.

### Library

The library offers access to knowledge and information supporting the Air Force mission, education, and quality of life programs. Located in Bldg. 907, it maintains over 21,000

volumes of technical, educational and recreational reading. The library receives the latest and most popular books shortly after publication through the use of the McNaughton Book Plan. The library subscribes to 130 magazines, journals and newspapers to help readers stay up to date on current events, to support technical and educational requirements, and to offer optional materials for leisure. The collection of materials also includes CD-ROMs, CDs (both music and talking books), videocassettes, DVDs and books on tape.

Free programs for children at the library include preschool story hours and a summer reading program for elementary school students. Special programs celebrate Children's Book Week in November and National Library Week in April. Library orientations are available upon request.

Services include a reference and reader's advisory service, inter-library loan document delivery service, and a photocopier for customers, which costs 10 cents per copy. A conference room is available for meetings. For information, call 226-3713.

### Equipment rental

The Equipment Rental program takes care of your needs by offering a wide variety of lawn and garden tools, sporting equipment, caravans, car top carriers, utility trailers, camping equipment, power and automotive tools, air castles, dunk tanks, play kits, party items, key cutting, video cameras and DVD conversions. If you need it, chances are we have it. For more information, call 226-2146.

### Outdoor Recreation

The Outdoor Recreation program offers trips from the ordinary to the exotic. Use our friendly, knowledgeable and caring staff to help get you out of the house and into England's "great outdoors," whether it's as tame as a simple walk in the forest or as extreme as skydiving. If you have an idea and the people, we will put the trip together for you, complete with the equipment to do it and the transportation to get there. For more information, call 226-3820.

### The Pedaler Bike Shop

The Pedaler Bike Shop offers a large selection of well-priced skateboards, bikes and accessories, a certified technician, instructional courses and free safety inspections. Give us a look – you'll be amazed at what we have to offer. For more information, call 226-2146 or (01638) 522146.

### Video, DVD and video games

Electric Avenue has one of the largest selections of American videotapes for rent on base. The assortment is continually updated and several copies of new releases are available. Full-size and portable video systems are also available to rent by the day, week or month. Game systems and cartridges can also be rented. We sell compact discs and cassettes, and have a special-order service. Other services include passport pictures and photo processing. For more information, call 226-2067.





# Organizations

From aircrew to combat support to medics, the Liberty Wing represents the foundation of USAFE's combat capability.



## 48th Operations Group

The 48th Operations Group consists of 460 personnel in five squadrons. The aircrews of the Operations Group are attached to the 492nd, 493rd and 494th Fighter and 56th Rescue Squadrons. The three fighter squadrons operate 83 F-15 aircraft and are responsible for conducting air operations as tasked. The rescue squadron has five HH-60 helicopters and are tasked with rescue operations worldwide. Aircrew gain and maintain proficiency in employing precision-guided munitions, air-to-air ordnance, and conventional and strike weapons with the support of the fifth squadron, the 48th Operations Support Squadron. Together the five squadrons provide combat-ready aircraft and aircrew to support U.S. and NATO missions as well as equipment, training, scheduling, analysis, weather, intelligence, standardization and evaluation and command and control for an efficient flying operation.

### Project SMART

Project SMART -- Smartly Managing Awareness, Risk and Threats -- is a USAFE program that helps emphasize and incorporate a "smart" way of doing things into the lives of Airmen. It emphasizes risk management and reduction at the personal and organizational level. Project SMART allows commanders to reinvigorate already strong safety programs and reminds individuals to use the question, "Is this the right way to do this?"

## Wing Staff Agencies

The 18 wing staff agencies range in diversity from the wing legal office, chaplains and historian to flight, ground and weapons safety; protocol and advanced programs.

### 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 226-4800 or 226-9500 or commercial (01638) 524800.

### Comptroller squadron

The comptroller squadron manages the wing commander's budget and is the resource manager for the Liberty wing.

### Exercises, Inspections and Readiness

The 48th Fighter Wing Exercises, Inspections and Readiness Directorate, or CVI, is the overall planning, programming and assessment team for wing exercise deployments, contingency and normal operations. Several Air Force specialties combined into one functional section make-up the

core of the wing exercise evaluation. CVI prepares the wing for major command and NATO inspections. CVI plans, organizes, and executes no-notice exercise scenarios to test the wing's ability to respond to major accidents, natural disasters and worldwide mobility commitments. CVI personnel work together to provide the Liberty Wing with essential planning, programming and assessment to ensure the wing is prepared to meet their Air Force mission.

### Inspector General

The 48th Fighter Wing Inspector General is an ombudsman, fact finder and honest broker in resolving complaints and conducting related non-criminal investigations. In addition, the IG advocates and publicizes the Air Force Complaints and Fraud, Wast and Abuse programs. The IG can be reached at 226-5124.

### Military Equal Opportunity

MEO is tasked with promoting an environment free from personal, social or institutional barriers that prevent Air Force members from rising to the highest level of responsibility possible based on their individual merit, fitness and capability.

### Public Affairs

The 48th Fighter Wing Public Affairs office is responsible for producing RAF Lakenheath's base news website 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 and more. Call 226-2151 for more information about PA programs.

### Plans and Programs

The 48th Fighter Wing Plans and Programs, or XP, is the overall planning, programming and assessment for all contingency operations, deliberate plans and other governing plans for the Liberty Wing.

### Staff Judge Advocate

Active-duty members, retired members and DOD civilians, along with their family members are eligible for free of charge 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, 9 – 10 a.m., and Thursdays, 3 to 4 p.m. Wills are handled by appointment only on Wednesdays, 9 to 10:30 a.m. The legal office also offers powers of attorney and free notary services on a walk-in basis Mondays to Thursdays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Claims office is available for services 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays to Thursdays. Legal and claims services are provided on Fridays, 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 226-3553.

### Sexual Assault Response coordinator

The SARC is responsible for providing each member of the

Liberty wing with a safe and respectful environment in which to live and work, free of sexual assault. The SARC accomplishes this task with support of leadership, education and training of wing members and by spreading awareness.

### Treaty Compliance

The treaty compliance officer is tasked with ensuring the wing and its members are in compliance of all treaties affecting U.S. armed forces in Europe. For more information call 226-6121.



## 48th Medical Group

The 48th Medical Group has more than 800 military and civilian members and is the largest Air Force medical facility in Europe.

The group plays a key role as the military referral center for the U.K. and beyond. Its focus is to provide customers with local service whenever possible.

The medical group provides care for more than 35,000 beneficiaries.



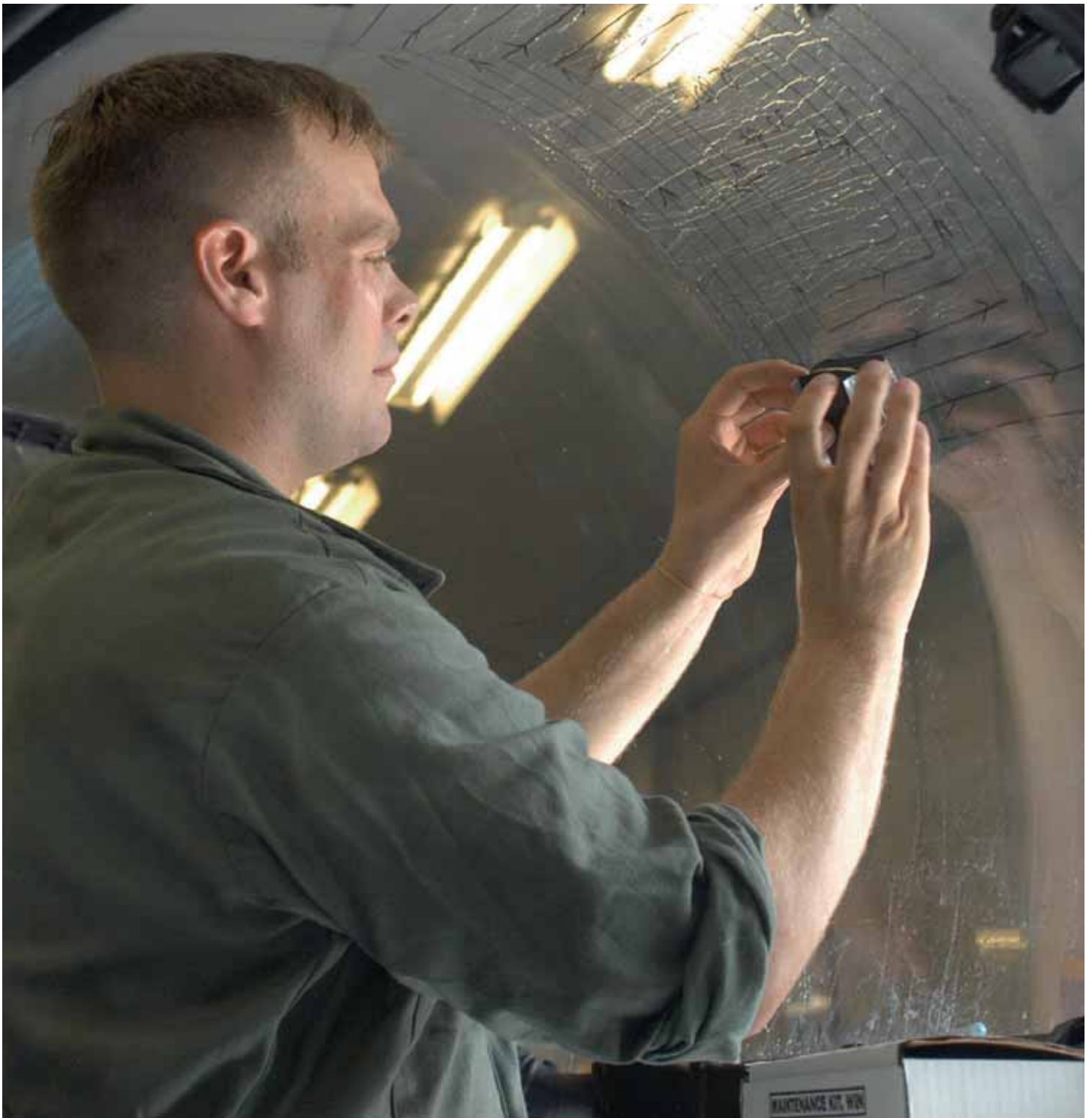
### Customer College

Customer College is designed to deliver the training, resources, tools, and initial skills required for customer service professionals to provide comprehensive care that exceeds customer expectations. The program's objective is

to encourage helping others through excellent service and organizational pride. Customer College will put fully trained, customer-focused people back into our products and services and ultimately make a positive and long-lasting contribution to USAFE quality of life.

## 48th Maintenance Group

The 48th Maintenance Group is responsible for all organizational and intermediate level maintenance for 83 F-15 C/D/E and 5 HH-60 aircraft, engines, munitions and support equipment used by four flying squadrons to accomplish USAFE, USEUCOM and NATO commitments and taskings. It is the 48th MXG's mission to ensure the readiness of 2,200 personnel and aircraft fleet health through planning, analysis and programming for manpower, funds, equipment, training and facility requirements.



## 48th Mission Support Group

The 48th MSG executes expeditionary and in-garrison personnel, logistics, communications, contracting, engineering and services support for USAFE's lead AEF wing. Provides force protection for infrastructure, facilities and personnel at home and deployed locations. Enhances the quality of life and quality of service for over 15,000 military, civilian and dependent personnel assigned to RAF Lakenheath and the surrounding community.





## Associate Units

### 372nd Training Squadron, Det. 16

The 372nd Training Squadron, Detachment 16, is a tenant organization here, headquartered at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas. The detachment's instructors provide training for five F-15 aircraft maintenance specialties, aerospace ground equipment and munitions.

The unit trains more than 1,100 maintenance technicians annually for units assigned to the 48th Fighter Wing, USAF and allied air forces. The detachment also maintains an operating location with instructors at RAF Mildenhall, where they provide aircraft maintenance training to the 100th Air Refueling Wing and associate units.

### Detachment 4, 18th Intelligence Squadron

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

### 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 RAFs Lakenheath, Feltwell and Mildenhall, in addition to on-call assistance for more than 25 counties in the U.K., Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic.

Investigative services include criminal, fraud and counterintelligence, forensic analysis of evidence, antiterrorism investigations, protection of visiting dignitaries, security clearance investigations and the use of advanced technical investigative means. For more information call 226-1852.

### 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 226-3608.







# About Us

Providing responsive  
combat air power,  
support and services for  
our nation and allies.



# Liberty Wing



## Wing mission

Historically, the 48th Fighter Wing has been the foundation of USAFE's combat capability and remains so today. The Liberty Wing led the El Dorado Canyon raids into Libya in 1986 and was the first F-111 fighter unit to deploy to the Gulf during Operation DESERT SHIELD/DESERT STORM. We also flew into Operation NORTHERN WATCH and have regularly deployed as one of USAFE's lead AEF wings in support of the Global war on terror.

## Mission statement

To provide responsive combat air power, support and services to meet our nation's and our Allies' international objectives.

## Vision

To be recognized as the most respected expeditionary focused fighter wing in the world.

## Values

- Integrity
- Service Before Self
- Excellence In All We Do

## Teamwork

The 48th Fighter Wing's team is the synergy that makes the wing so effective as the Air Force's largest, mission ready, F-15E/C and USAFE's only search and rescue unit. From aircrew to combat support personnel with advanced communication systems, medical support and force protection, each member of the Liberty Wing understands, their contributions represent combat capability.



## Where Rabbits Run

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 further 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 arrow heads, 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 Icenii (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 renowned 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 Icenii settled in East Anglia during the Iron Age and remained in the area throughout the Roman occupation. Incidentally, the Icenii 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 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



*Remains found during archeological dig at RAF Lakenheath.*

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, probably fifth to seventh centuries A.D. 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



**Archaeologist Alexis Willett checks the measurement of a newly discovered Anglo-Saxon child's grave. The site forms part of an early Anglo-Saxon cemetery complex first identified in 1956. This excavation revealed many graves dating to a period between the late fifth and early seventh centuries.**

constructed on the southwest 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 number one (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 5th-7th 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 5th-9th 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

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.

The lodges, essentially fortified fortress-like cottages, protected the warren keeper and served as a safe haven for the rabbit pelts that 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 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.

More information can be found about RAF Lakenheath history at <http://www.lakenheath.af.mil/about/history.htm>



# Life in Britain

Britain offers many places to visit, from castles to forts to world heritage sites. Make the most of your assignment here by enjoying the local culture.



# Discover Britain

## Community Relations Adviser

A Ministry of Defence British national is assigned to RAF Lakenheath as a Community Relations Adviser. One of their roles is to answer queries about living in the United Kingdom. The CRA can answer queries on issues such as British customs, educating your child in a British school and volunteering opportunities in the local community. If the adviser doesn't know the answer, they can refer you to the expert who can. The CRA is available to answer questions from all members of the family, not just the military member.

The CRA interacts with representatives from the local area on a daily basis – from local civic leaders to members of the public – attending numerous meetings in their capacity as CRA. This gives them a real feel for how community relations are between the base and its neighbours. The CRA is located in Building 1085. For more information, call 226-3145.

## Life 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. 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.

England is about the size of Alabama, and has a population of about 47 million. The northern part of England is more rugged than the flatter southeast. Industrial England is mainly in the north and Midlands.

## 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 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.

## Lakenheath Village

The base's namesake, Lakenheath Village, population 10,000, lies just over the western boundary of the airfield. By road, it's about one mile from the base. Some base housing is located in the village. 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 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.

## Mildenhall Village

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.

## Brandon

The market town of Brandon, population 10,000 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 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

Thetford, population 21,805, 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

Newmarket, population 14,700 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

Bury St. Edmunds, population 35,500, 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, packed with tiny shops right out of Charles Dicken's time.

### Ely

Ely is known best throughout the world for its magnificent cathedral, often called the "Ship of the Fens" for the distant views from its towers that dominate the landscape. Oliver Cromwell, a well known British soldier, politician and religious figure, lived in the city for several years. The city has many historical buildings, good shopping and markets.

### Cambridge

Probably the best known city in the area, Cambridge, population 108,900, 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.

### Pubs

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. Children 14 and over may be admitted legally to the bar to consume non-alcoholic drinks. Customers must be age 18 years or older to buy or consume alcohol in a bar.

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

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

### 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.

### Other sites worth visiting

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

**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. The site on the island opens at 10 a.m.

**Stonehenge** is described by English Heritage as the greatest mystery of the prehistoric world. Some of the surrounding structures were started as long ago as 3000 B.C., 1,000 years before the pyramids were built in Egypt.

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.

### American air bases in the U.K.

| Base                          | Distance  |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| RAF Mildenhall                | 5 miles   |
| RAF Feltwell                  | 10 miles  |
| RAFs Alconbury and Molesworth | 40 miles  |
| RAF Croughton                 | 60 miles  |
| RAF Fairford                  | 100 miles |
| RAF Menwith Hill              | 200 miles |

## Being a respectful guest

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

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.

### Military criticism

U.S. and British forces have a joint commitment in support of NATO and are partners in that commitment.

### Project CHEER

Project CHEER (Creating Hope, Energy, Enthusiasm and Recreation) is a program designed to create an environment of energy and enthusiasm for our single and unaccompanied Airmen of all ranks at RAF Lakenheath during the holiday season and winter months. The program will host events and recreational outings in an effort to relieve some of the stress and loneliness that comes with being away from family members during the holiday season.

another nation's people.

Always remember you are a guest, and you represent your nation, so you must be polite and even diplomatic at times. In the U.K., 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 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 Britons 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 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.

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:

### Ugly Americans

We've all seen "ugly Americans." You can find them in the United 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,

Avoid criticism of the British forces and any suggestion of a dominant U.S. military.

### Weapons

Although 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 as common in Britain as it is in the U.S. One difference, however, is fuel is considerably more expensive here than back home. Try not to mention we buy fuel on base at lower prices than the British public.

### Black-marketing

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 do it.

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 despite currency fluctuations, re-computations of allowances and other factors that affect 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.