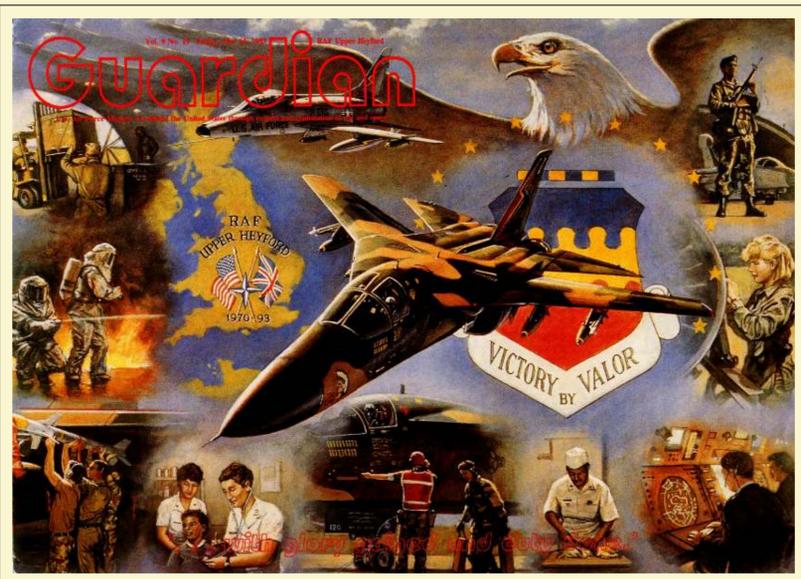


# THE USAF UPPER HEYFORD STORY: 7



A cover of the Base magazine

## 1994 to 1995

April 1994 SAL reports on meeting between MOD and Cherwell Council Development Committee about the future of the Base site. The plan is for a "Technology Village" of housing and businesses. Ruled out are rumoured schemes for a distribution centre, a sports stadium "the new Wembley", a large single manufacturer or a new airfield.

1995 Joint Parishes Group, representing 17 parishes in the environs of the Base reports on liaison meetings the CDC and the MOD about the future of the Base. North Aston suggest it being left as a greenfield site, Steeple Aston prefer a large National Sporting Centre for Excellence along the line of the Australian Academy of Sport. All parish councils fear too much intensive housing.

June Joint Parishes Council fear "short list" for future development of the MoD-owned site, prominent on which is a "settlement" of 6-8000. It is not clear if this refers to houses or inhabitants. Parish councils hoped for "village" development of no more than 500 homes. SAAC and Defend Steeple Aston suggest using remaining funds, and raising more, to fight over-development of the site and promote a national sporting facility.

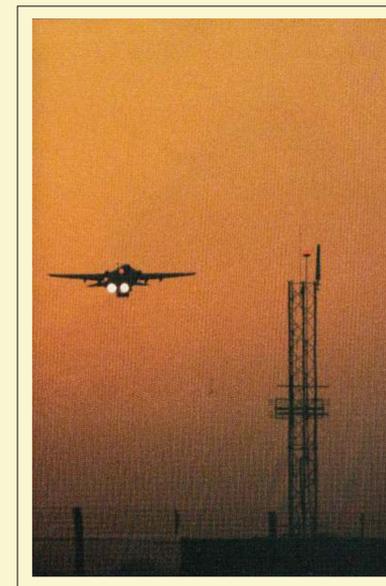
October Draft plan for the Base includes proposals for 5,000 houses (12,500 inhabitants). The site has been bought from the MOD by the North Oxford Consortium, a group made up of many powerful building companies. Villagers are urged to write letters to get their views known. Concerns are expressed about infrastructure, transport needs and pollution which will transform the surrounding parishes.

1996 Cherwell councillor Margaret Hodge indicates that the threat of 5000 homes seems to have receded and it is now likely to be 1000 (including the 300 already in existence). There is also considerable support by influential figures for establishing the Centre for Sporting Excellence.

In vain as it turned out. The Centre was eventually built in Sheffield.



Found on the bedroom wall of a house in Steeple Aston (above). Toad and Badger, representing British interests, drive the Weasels (dressed in US military uniform) out of Rousham House (Toad Hall) and over Heyford Bridge, an allegory of "Wind in the Willows". Below- a more direct message in the same house.



The F-111s fly home.

### Invader or benefactor?

#### The role of the USAF at Upper Heyford

The links between the air base and the villages around Upper Heyford are ancient, complex and not always happy. In pictures below we look at...

1969 - Villagers from Heble, near Bicester, dress up in protest at noise from the air base.

1980 - The Americans bomb Libya and protesters burn the US flag.

1985 - Local man Frank Trendle and Sgt Leader Chris Fock saved a player marking 60 years of association between the village and the base.

1986 - 13-year-old Michael Upton is one of many children welcomed to the base over the years - his visit was a prize in the Bunkery Ambulance League of Friends Tombola.

1979 - Jessica Roberts of Bicester is presented with a pin to mark her ten years' service at the base.

1978 - American airmen distribute a huge collection of toys to local children at Christmas.

### Facts and figures

British building firms are reaping the benefits of dramatic increases in spending on building projects at RAF Upper Heyford and other American units in the area.

Expenditure of the American forces on and off RAF Upper Heyford, RAF Croughton and the air stations at High Wycombe and Luton rose last year from £68,827,210 to £81,120,000 last year (figures in British pounds).

The largest increase was in the amount being spent on construction at RAF Upper Heyford and RAF Croughton.

In 1982 a total of £2,200,000 dollars was spent on construction contracts at the four units.

One of the requirements at the base paid £22,000 for shelving and up to 100,000 dollars for a total of contracts has just been spent on furniture for the refurbishment of an operations complex on the base.

Over four million dollars was spent on similar work on all RAF Upper Heyford and the base. A question mark hangs over the future of the base as the US Air Force contemplates all its options within the next few years.

From the time of the arrival of the F-111s the...

1975 - Upper Heyford Skyways bring American football to the base.

1975 - The Upper Heyford Little League baseball team from the USAF Junior tournament.

A Starlifter transport plane



### Winding down of Heyford will hit economy

## USAF cost shocker

Millions lost as jets go home and county airbase is run down

Millions of pounds will be lost to the local and national economy with the winding-down of the Upper Heyford base. Over 1,000 British workers employed at the base. And with 1,000 American soldiers, their wives and children there, a substantial number of jobs will be lost.

One estimate of the loss to the local economy is £10m a year. The base has 1,000 jobs and the air stations at High Wycombe and Luton. The base has 1,000 jobs and the air stations at High Wycombe and Luton.

The air base is to be closed by 1995. The base has 1,000 jobs and the air stations at High Wycombe and Luton.

Local companies will be hit. The base has 1,000 jobs and the air stations at High Wycombe and Luton.

By PETER BARRINGTON

Upper Heyford has been a military stronghold since the 1950s. The base has 1,000 jobs and the air stations at High Wycombe and Luton.

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