Overview:
The US Department of Defense announced the final results of the European Infrastructure Consolidation (EIC) review on 8 January 2015.

Under this EIC review, the Department of Defense has decided to realign several U.S. Air Forces in Europe-Air Forces Africa missions, in order to reduce excess infrastructure capacity. Within the EIC plan, the U.S. Air Force intends to consolidate intelligence centers, currently located at RAF Molesworth and supported by RAF Alconbury, to RAF Croughton.

Details:
Intelligence and support elements located at RAF Molesworth and RAF Alconbury, will relocate to RAF Croughton. These include the USEUCOM Joint Intelligence Operation Center-Europe Analytic Center (JAC), NATO Intelligence Fusion Centre (NIFC), and the U.S. Africa Command (USAFRICOM) J2-Molesworth.

This consolidation will eventually result in the closure of RAF Molesworth and RAF Alconbury, and the inactivation of the 501st Combat Support Wing in the 2021 timeframe.

The new Joint Intelligence Analytic Center (JIAC) at RAF Croughton will provide a single facility for all three intelligence missions currently located across 21 facilities at RAF Molesworth. The JIAC construction will recapitalize inadequate and inefficient intelligence analytic facilities at RAF Molesworth and provide purpose-built space to fully enable and modernize current intelligence missions.

In accordance with the European Infrastructure Consolidation actions, these missions are being consolidated, not eliminated. Consolidation of intelligence and support elements at RAF Croughton ensures continuation of the strong U.S. intelligence relationship with the UK and will result in effective consolidation efficiencies, greater cost savings, operational synergy and U.S.-UK-NATO intelligence collaboration advantages. These intelligence facilities are utilized by U.S., NATO and coalition forces to meet operational intelligence requirements of EUCOM, AFRICOM and several other U.S./NATO organizations.

An exact timeline for these movements is still under development. USAFE will continue to engage with UK representatives to determine how best to conduct the realignments. It is expected the process will take approximately seven years.

RAF Croughton will continue to have no flying mission.

Background:
The facilities occupied by the intelligence missions in RAF Molesworth are not adequate and require complete re-capitalization. Relocating the intelligence centers presented an opportunity to generate significant long-term base operating support savings. The savings, coupled with the fact that these facilities were never intended to house the missions or amount of information that is processed, made economic sense for this move.

Local Impact:
The consolidation at RAF Croughton includes three phases of military construction funding including the intelligence missions and necessary support facilities. The first phase of construction is programmed to begin in Fiscal Year 2016. An exact timeframe will depend on a number of factors, including securing planning permissions from the local authority. It is estimated that the process will take approximately seven years.

RAF Croughton renovations and construction will take place over a number of years. In addition to the new intelligence facility, new construction will include medical and dental clinic (in progress), dormitory, commissary, fitness center and elementary and middle/high schools. A Base Exchange renovation, post office addition and Child Development Center addition are also expected.

Approximately $418M will be invested at RAF Croughton to construct the new Intelligence Center and associated support facilities and infrastructure. By recapitalizing at RAF Croughton, we have the opportunity to consolidate and achieve approximately $74 million per year in savings. An analysis of alternative locations for the new center found no better opportunities for recapitalizing these intelligence organizations and associated personnel.

This consolidation will affect approximately 1,450 personnel positions (U.S. service members, U.S. civilians and local national employees), with approximately 200 positions eliminated and approximately 1,250 positions relocated to RAF Croughton.

Coordinating, facilitating and executing these actions will not happen immediately. It is a slow process.

US – UK Relationship:
The US Air Force is strongly committed to the long-standing relationship with the UK – based on trust, mutual respect and the common goals of protecting our two nations’ shared security and strategic interests.

The local community near RAF Croughton has been essential to the success of the mission, and we are grateful to have such a strong relationship.

Consolidation of intelligence and support elements at RAF Croughton ensures continuation of the strong U.S. intelligence relationship with the UK, and will result in, greater savings, operational efficiencies and U.S.-UK- NATO intelligence collaboration advantages.

As the EIC decisions are implemented, the USAF will continue to work with UK government leaders and local community to ensure actions are taken in an atmosphere of respect and understanding, in order to maintain the positive relationship we enjoy now, for the long term.