



AFF Rebasing Announcement Quick Poll April 2013

The recent rebasing announcement informed soldiers and their families which units would be moving and where to. AFF asked families how they were dealing with the news and what their main concerns were. A total of 127 responded.

Key findings:

- Over 50% of respondents were affected by the announcement
- 40% of families were most worried about housing, although many indicated they were worried about education and employment for spouses
- Many expressed doubt that the infrastructure would be in place in time - or at all - for the moves, and were concerned about how local councils would cope particularly in the Super Garrison areas
- Some families commented that they believed the Army would use this opportunity to force families into buying their own house rather than to continue to provide SFA. Families worried about how they could afford to do so, especially those returning from overseas.

AFF View: Reassurance that plans are in place to provide infrastructure and support for local councils is needed as soon as possible, as well as reassuring families that they are not going to be 'forced' out of SFA. Reassurance is also required for families living in areas that are closing down - they doubt that the infrastructure will stay in place for the duration of their time there.

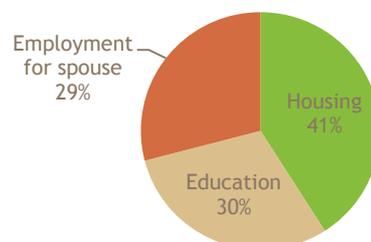
Will you be moving due to the rebasing announcement?

127 responses

Yes	64 (50%)
No	34 (27%)
Don't know	29 (23%)

What are your biggest concerns?

127 responses



Any other comments:

31 responses

As my husband is currently based in GB, the rebasing announcement has no immediate impact on us. However, on reading the supporting documents, I found that in the future the regiments within my husband's Corps are to be based from Catterick down to Aldershot and almost everywhere in between. The Defence Secretary commented that it was important for Army families to know where they would be based so that they could plan education, housing, employment etc (and I can appreciate this is important for units returning from Germany). Realistically, what plans can we make for our own careers if our partners (like mine) are posted every two years? Far too little is being done by policy makers to assist Army spouses find employment. I have been unable to find employment during this current posting, which means my husband and I are £20,000 per year worse off than before we moved. As you can imagine, this has had a huge impact on our finances

My biggest concern is continuity of education for my daughter. Due to not knowing exactly what year we will be moving back to the UK, I'm not sure what school year she will be in.

Our children are in German education and we bought a house here in Germany five years ago, thinking my hubby could stay in Germany until the end of his Army career. Now we are facing having to sell the house and taking the children out of German education, two years before the eldest's final exams, or living unaccompanied for six years without the income to do this

Marry the man ... marry the uniform. If you don't like moving more than you love your husband then stay at home with your mummy and daddy ... you can't have your cake and eat it ... rant over grrrrrrrr

I can't wait to get back to the UK - the employment situation for spouses in BFG is a joke

I can't believe my husband will stay static. Will we just end up paying market rate for rented quarters forcing us to buy our own house and live apart?

I have concerns over the ability of local authorities to cope with increased numbers (particularly regarding education). Also, I have little faith that the appropriate infrastructure will be in place within the reported timescales - particularly new barracks being built and quarters being available in the right locations

In Herford our youth club is down to one [day] a week, instead of three. Parts of the education centre are not open, this is due to posts not being filled, this can only get worse as people will not be willing to take on some of the more demanding jobs for such a short period, we are already missing out. What is going to be done to resolve these problems?

A huge amount of families moving back to the UK, schools already overcrowded, jobs are far and few between! Not looking hopeful

I have heard that the housing that will be offered in Super Garrisons will be below standard. Should you refuse the house you have been offered, you could be moved up to 45 minutes away from serving member's unit. This is apparently to force people indirectly into buying their own property. How much truth is in this please?

Due to the amount of troops moving into Bulford it is a concern that we will be faced with substandard housing and education for our children

The previous regiment to us will still be there when our regiment gets there, so we are worried if there will be enough housing and school places?

If the rebasing plan goes to schedule, we will move a year into a two-year posting. I'm so disappointed as after three short postings (current one is nine months) I have been really looking forward to trying to find employment and potentially adding a job that has lasted longer than a year to my CV! We also hoped to feel settled in our SFA for the first time and even to be able to do some gardening!

Still no firm date has been given, just an 'around'. As we will be one of the last to leave BFG I am concerned that our SFA [in UK] is going to be poor as we will be the last ones in

I am currently based in Hohne but quartered in Celle. Considering the support services were meant to remain "right to the bitter end" my nearest British facilities are now 25 Ks away in Hohne. That's a 50 KM round trip to post a letter. How's that keeping up services?

Our children are at boarding school so at least that worry is taken away

There aren't enough houses for families now so how are they going to fit thousands more in? The same goes for school places, the covenant doesn't help as once they've gone over by a few then no child can get a place. There need to be more houses and schools built

My wife was offered to do her nursing training free sponsored by the ward she currently works on! This is a fantastic opportunity for her and us as a family. Now she will have to turn it down even though we have only been here at Wimbish for seven months we have to move our family again!

We will be moving because of the rebasing announcements, however, we have moved four times in the last four years anyway, so really it makes no huge difference to us. As with any move, education is our main concern