

## OFFICIAL

### OP FARAN 2020 CHANGES - COVID-19 RESPONSE

#### BACKGROUND

As part of the national effort to manage COVID-19, the Army remains focussed on delivery of essential operational activity and outputs. In March 2020, in line with government policy regarding social distancing, and to comply with the requirement to cease all non-essential movement, the decision was taken to delay/postpone all re-basing moves planned for Summer 2020.

Where possible, Unit moves have been postponed for 12 months to align with school summer holidays. Where this has not been possible for operational reasons, and where Units have been delayed a matter of months, every effort will be made to align SFA moves with breaks between school terms.

For those Units delayed 4/6 months the revised movement schedule assumes that there will be sufficient Covid19-related freedom to conduct Unit moves when now planned. Changes will only be made to this schedule if there is a clear and robust operational imperative, and/or to comply with any further Central Government direction.

Army Basing and Infrastructure and Headquarters Regional Command are working closely with Unit Welfare Officers to mitigate the impact on families for education and housing. We continue to review options to enable individual family moves before or after new unit movement dates, and where families have children in milestone educational years such as Reception or GCSE years, these will be considered on a case by case basis.

All families will be able to keep their current SFA until their re-scheduled move date, and we will communicate information about any changes in requirements at future locations as soon as possible. Until then, personnel should use the Unit Welfare Officer as their first point of contact for any questions.

Army Basing and Infrastructure and Headquarters Regional Command continue to work closely with all relevant agencies to ensure rescheduled moves are managed with the minimum impact on Service Personnel and their families.

All unit moves will be completed prior to any previously announced closure at any site.

#### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

##### DELAY

##### **What work has been underway to manage the delay to the unit moves under Op FARAN 2020?**

- Army Basing and Infrastructure continue to work closely with Local Authorities, the Department for Children and Young People and the Children's Education Advisory Services to understand and manage any impact to children's education and school place allocation and with DIO Regional Delivery and Amey to manage Service Families Accommodation allocations and occupation issues.
- Army Basing and Infrastructure and HQ Regional Command are working directly with units, key stakeholders and supporting agencies, to ensure rescheduled moves are managed with the minimum impact on Service Personnel and their families.

## OFFICIAL

### **Could unit moves be delayed longer than currently anticipated?**

The revised movement schedule assumes that there will be sufficient Covid19-related freedom to conduct moves when now planned. Further change will only be made if there is a clear and robust operational imperative, and/or to comply with Central Government direction.

- The detailed timings for the small number of moves that have been delayed into Winter 2020 and Spring 2021 have been released and are now the focus for Army Basing and Infrastructure planning activity.

### **SFA**

#### **Are we able to keep our Service Family Accommodation (SFA) in our current unit location?**

- Yes, families will be able to keep their current SFA until their re-scheduled move.

#### **How will my future Service Families Accommodation (SFA) be secured?**

##### For Units subject to a Four Month Delay:

- For units delayed 4 months SFA will be held as allocated, where possible.
- Following the assignment freeze and Government direction, all unit and individual assignment moves scheduled to take place between now and 30 Jun 20 have been cancelled. If you have been affected by this, you will receive notification from Amey and through APC Careers Managers. Essential moves will be reviewed.
- Beyond 30 Jun 20, and where allocations have been made against houses that are occupied but due to be vacated, these are being monitored and there may be some changes.
- Where SFA allocations need to be altered DIO Service Delivery and Amey will work with Army Basing and Infrastructure and units to manage and communicate this. Reallocation will be to the same entitlement, in the same location and will consider school applications.

##### For Units subject to a Twelve Month Delay

- For units delayed 12 months, your allocated SFA will be cancelled and you will receive notification of this directly from Amey. The OP FARAN 2021 allocation process will commence in October 2020 with the submission of E1132 SFA applications. Where already submitted these have been retained and will be reviewed. Allocation Panels will be conducted in February 2020. All allocations will be to the same entitlement in the same location and will consider school applications.

#### **Who do I contact if I have any queries regarding my Service Families Accommodation?**

- Unit Welfare Officers should be the first point of contact for queries regarding any housing matters. Please do not contact the Amey Help Line, this is for maintenance issues only.

## OFFICIAL

### **I previously had Early Movers Status (EMS), is this still in place?**

- All EMS cases are currently on hold. Any EMS issues currently underway will be subject to careful review and reconsideration. No early moves are to be conducted whilst COVID-19 restrictions apply without appropriate authority. HQ Regional Command are working with the Pay and Allowances Casework and Complaints Cell (DBS PACCC) to provide further direction to impacted units.
- For EMS and Retention, personnel should contact their respective UWOs in the first instance.

## **EDUCATION**

### **What work has been underway to manage any impact on children's education and the allocation of school places?**

- All UK Schools are impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic and there is significant uncertainty around when and how schools will fully re-open. Army Basing and Infrastructure will continue to engage with the Department for Children and Young People and Local Authority Education leaders to help manage the situation for school impacted dependents.

#### For Units subject to a Four Month Delay

- Army Basing and Infrastructure and the Department for Children and Young People are engaging closely with all impacted Local Authorities to advise them of revised units' arrival and departure dates and to understand their requirements.
- Army Basing and Infrastructure, the Department for Children and Young People and the Children's Education Advisory Services are working with units to assist with the management of individual and specific educational issues as required.

#### For Units subject to a Twelve Month Delay

- For units due to move in Summer 2021 all school applications will need to be resubmitted as per the standard process to secure a school place in the next academic year.

### **My child has Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND). What is being done to ensure that a suitable place is secured?**

- Please make the Children's Education Advisory Services aware of any children who have an Education, Health and Care Plan. This will allow liaison with the relevant Local Authorities to ensure that consultation with schools can take place and prevent any delays when your family arrive in your new location. If you have any queries regarding SEND, please contact: [DCYP-CEAS-Enquiries@mod.gov.uk](mailto:DCYP-CEAS-Enquiries@mod.gov.uk)

### **Where can I go to find out further information on Education?**

- Further advice is available for parents on [applying for a school place](#) and [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

## OFFICIAL

### FURTHER INFORMATION

**Where can I go to find out further information about Op FARAN and how it affects my family?**

- Please use your Unit Welfare Officer as your first point of contact for any questions.
- We will continue to keep you updated as new information becomes available.

**When will further detailed information be available regarding the OP FARAN moves?**

- Details regarding future unit movement activity that have been delayed into Winter 2020 and Spring 2021 have now been released. More information on those affected by 12 month delays will be made available when confirmed.