

BEST DEALS REPEATS

ON OF WHAT'S ON SHOW

WILTON COLLECTION

TOP QUALITY, TRADITIONAL AND MODERN DESIGNS AT AN AFFORDABLE PRICE.

ONLY £11.99

AXMINSTER

BY STODDARD, 80% WOOL, 20% NYLON, VERY SPECIAL OFFER.

ONLY £15.99

WILTON RUGS

400% WOOL, SPECIAL PURCHASE APPROX. 9' x 13' £405 APPROX. 11' x 8' £270 100% AT SCOTLAND'S LOWEST PRICES!

LOWEST PRICE PLEDGE
IF YOU FIND ANY IDENTICAL CARPET FOR LESS - BEHAR WILL REFUND THE DIFFERENCE.
*YOUR RETURN WILL FOR PAID FROM US TO THE ORIGINAL CARPET DISTRIBUTOR HELD IN STOCK.

SUBJECT TO STATUS. APR 36.8 VARIABLE. WRITTEN DETAILS. ON REQUEST.

BUZZ INTO



SELL / W. BILL SAMSON

some resulted in savings of several hundred thousand

Artist's impression of the explosives handling jetty installed at Coulpport nuclear weapons store

Safety curbs and design doubts add to problems on the Clyde

By Severin Carrell

THE TRIDENT construction programme at the Clyde Submarine Base is rated as the second-biggest engineering project in Europe, closely following the Channel Tunnel in scale and cost.

Involving large areas of land around the Gareloch and Loch Long, it stretches to more than nine kilometres and absorbs about 10 per cent of the overall budget for the Trident programme, currently estimated at £10.5 billion.

The first Trident submarine, Vanguard, is due to visit Scotland this autumn for contractors' sea-trials and is expected to enter operational service by early 1995.

But the giant shiplift at its future base at Faslane is two years late and is not expected to be ready until well into 1994, forcing navy officials to call for the preparation of emergency docks at Rosyth Royal Dockyard on the Forth.

According to Treasury figures, the shiplift, which should pull submarines from the water to allow repairs and refurbishment, is also about £210 million over budget.

It is, however, just one of ten projects at Faslane and Coulpport, Trident's vast weapons storage facility, which have hit deep problems. According to evidence given to the Commons defence select committee earlier this month, the so-called finger jetty that juts out into the

COST OVER-RUNS OF DEFENCE PROJECTS

	Original cost, £m	Estimated total cost, £m	Over-run, £m	Per cent over	Approx delay
Faslane shiplift and 12 berth	132.133	342.484	210.331	159	1 year
Faslane northern utilities building	44.744	84.101	39.357	87	1 year
Faslane finger jetty	25.304	76.957	51.653	201	1 year
Strategic weapons support building	13.129	23.304	10.175	77	1 year
Coulpport electrical generating building	28.846	64.223	37.377	138	on time
Coulpport explosives handling jetty	118.993	274.683	155.690	131	1 year
Faslane roads, shiplift area	6.980	20.361	13.381	130	1 year
Faslane site services	7.803	14.975	7.172	91	3 years
Coulpport NEA main building support	9.402	12.562	3.160	33	on time
Coulpport jetty security	6.162	15.682	9.520	154	1 year
	411.711	930.922	539.211		

Source: Supply Estimates 1992-93, Class 1 Ministry of Defence, HM Treasury

Gareloch beside the shiplift, has encountered problems. Additional safety requirements were placed its equipment after it was designed.

Senior navy officials told MPs that designing a sufficiently strong crane and other equipment to meet safety standards meant that they were now too heavy to put on to the jetty, from which torpedoes and other supplies will be loaded on to Trident submarines.

The finger jetty and associated equipment, according to the Treasury, is 201 per cent over budget, its original costs having risen from £25.3 million to almost £77 million.

According to navy evidence to the defence select committee hearing, the MoD is aware that the Trident works programme is a big cause for concern in the programme. From figures released to the committee, it appears that the budget for contingencies is

member of the committee, said it had also inquired about the £145 million fees paid to the PSA for managing the programme in 1991, of which about 40 per cent went on paperwork.

"We were quite incredulous at the increases in PSA costs last year, which went up by £57 million. From what I remember, the chairman, Michael Mates, found it difficult not to laugh at the fact they were declaring almost £60 million pounds worth of paper.

... all they did say was, of that figure, 85 per cent was basically fees. I recall that prompted the chairman to say: 'I know what I want to do when I grow up.'"



Another critical facility, the huge concrete explosive handling jetty being prepared for Coulpport, has become the focus of detailed criticisms from construction specialists who have worked on it at its fabrication yard in Hunterston.

The covered jetty is designed for removing and placing nuclear warheads around the missiles permanently carried in Trident submarines. But industry sources have said that hundreds of design changes made during its construction, cast severe doubts over its stability.

One specialist who worked on the project claims that additions have, in one case, led to 9,000 tonnes of steel being used against a design specification of 6,500 tonne. He said that those additions had made it impossible accurately to measure weight distribution across the jetty.

igation into management of the project by the PSA — the government agency that runs

EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE FESTIVAL

April 11-25, 1994

Over 300 events from Boon Workshops and The Madlab debates on the Human Genome Project and Science & Religion (with the Archbishop of York) author Dr Richard Dawkins

BOX OFFICE HOT

031 557 4296

MEET AT THE KEY CONFERENCE CENTRE

Meet at Glasgow University's KELVIN CONFERENCE CENTRE for your staff training, business meeting product launch, day conference or exhibition. It's open all year for day or evening meetings. Free car parking at the centre, which is located green campus of the West of Scotland Science Maryhill Road. Hire the 150-seat lecture theatre meeting room.

High quality AV equipment. Catering facilities can be arranged. Contact Alessandra Mitchell, Kelvin Conference West of Scotland Science Park, Maryhill Road G20 0TH.