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# Northwood Headquarters

**Last Updated May 11th 2003**

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## Multinational Headquarters (MNHQ)

In order to meet CDS's directive to provide the core of an Operation HQ (OHQ) and the core of a Force HQ (FHQ) for European Union-led military Crisis Management Operations (CMOs), a MNHQ facility has been developed at Northwood. The facility is located in Bldg 99b and may be activated to provide an OHQ for command of an EU-led military operation on a case by case basis. The facility provides essential infrastructure for a multinational staff based around a PJHQ Key Nucleus and is provided with a direct secure communications link into Brussels. The facility has a wide range of national and multinational uses and a small, dedicated staff maintains its readiness. Located within the perimeter of the Northwood site, the OHQ is provided with essential operational and host nation support by PJHQ acting as the Parent HQ. The OHQ is activated periodically for EU crisis management exercises.

## Commander-in-Chief Fleet

The flag of the Commander in Chief Fleet has flown over the Northwood Headquarters since its transfer from the Portsmouth-based depot ship HMS TYNE in 1960 in the guise of CINC Home Fleet. By 1971, this had grown to encompass CINCFLEET, and the RN took over responsibility for the whole site. The principal aim of the Commander in Chief is to prepare and operate the Fleet in both war and peace, delivering operational capability and providing maritime advice and services to other Government Departments. To this end, he exercises full command of all the Royal Navy's surface ships, submarines, aircraft, Fleet Auxiliaries and the Corps of Royal Marines – in total some 33,000 RN personnel and over 4,000 civilian staff. In April 2002, as a result of the 'Fleet First' initiative, most of CINCFLEET staff moved to Portsmouth, and the Northwood site became the tri-Service establishment it now is. CINCFLEET himself, and a residual core of staff, have remained at Northwood so that he can carry out his parallel NATO job of COMNAVNORTH.

## DCSA Regional Office

### Defence Communication Services Agency Communication and Information Systems (DCSA CIS)

DCSA, Headquartered from Corsham, is a large MoD agency within the DLO with a mission to 'Enhance defence operation advantage and business efficiency through the delivery of integrated information systems'. DCSA CIS comprises of 5 complimentary areas; Change Request Support Desk (CRSD), implementation Services, Cryptographic Distribution Agency, Operational CIS Support (Communication & Information Systems) and Defence Messaging. The CRSD is the Single focal point for change on the Northwood PJHQ Site. The intention of the CRSD is not only to ease the burden on customers who are demanding changes, but also to improve the level of co-ordination where the task is being undertaken by more than one supplier. The Cryptographic Distribution Agency (CDA) provide management, accounting, storage and distribution of all types of National, Allied and NATO cryptographic material and equipment to the Northwood Site and deployed PJHQ assets. Implementation Services provide on-site capability for installation and support of CIS equipment and infrastructure including the capacity to

respond immediately to Urgent Operational Requirements.

Operational CIS Support is split into four further departments, System Control Point (SCP), Operational Support Centre (OSC), Royal Navy Command Support System (CSS) and the Communication Centre. The SCP and OSC are the central engineering and support provider for local and external connectivity for the Permanent joint Headquarters (PJHQ), CinCFleet, NATO and all other units located at the Northwood Site. CSS provides a comprehensive support service, including application, administration, network management, maintenance and fault rectification. The Communication Centre offers 24/7 messaging capability for Naval Shore Telecoms Network (NSTN) and Defence Information Message Handling System (DIMHS).

### **Joint Support Unit Northwood**

The Joint Support Unit (JSU), which is part of the PJHQ and therefore comes under CJO's TLB, is responsible for the general administrative needs and provision of site facilities for all the organisations on the Northwood Headquarters site. It is also responsible for site security and the maintenance of buildings and infrastructure on the 43 hectare estate. It is a tri-Service unit that also employs a large number of Civil Servants, Directly Employed Labour (MOD DEL) and Contractors (SODEXHO who run the MAC - multi activity contract, mainly cleaning, catering and hotel services) to carry out its role. The remainder of this handbook shows the facilities that are provided by the JSU, with supporting supplementary information, to enable the site to function 24/7.

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