In 2002 the actual employment position was substantially below the Environmental Impact Assessment figure of 7,250. Including military, civilian and employees of Babcock Naval Services there were 3,697 civilian and 1.732 military personnel working at the two sites – a total workforce of 5,429. This is likely to continue to be the case. Following on from the Defence Industrial Strategy, the White Paper and the Defence Committee's inquiry into the manufacturing and skills base supporting Trident it is likely that there will be a drive toward cost containment on 'through-life support costs' across the 'supply chain' and that the responsibility for achieving this will fall to prime contactors but be borne by sub-contractors. Since the transfer of the management of the base to Babcock, employment has reduced significantly with the loss of around 500 jobs between 2002 and 2006. Babcock's defence services increased operating profit by 30 per cent from £16.8 million in 2005 to £21.8 million in 2006 (Babcock International Group PLC, 2006). For the same period Babcock's wage bill increased by around 8 per cent.

Since the early 1990s the US defence industry has seen significant consolidation and the emergence of four giant firms which dominate the defence sector. A wave of industrial takeovers between 1994 and 1997 saw around twenty major players coalesce into Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, Boeing, and Raytheon. According to figures from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute the US accounts for almost one-half of the $1,000 billion industry.

In terms of the main global aerospace and defence companies, the market value in descending order shows the market domination of a small number of US, European and UK firms. UK defence statistics show clearly that these large contractors figure prominently in the list of organisations paid £5 million or more by the MoD in 2005/06 (see DASA, 2006). Many of the of the largest defence suppliers to the UK government are foreign-owned or controlled and indigenous companies have a high level of investment from US contractors leading to what has been termed a 'new transnational military-industrial complex' (see Bradden and Bradley, 2005).

Company	Market Value (£million) 2004
Boeing	27,225
EADS	22,484
Lockheed Martin	18,430
Horthrop Grumman	15,494
Honeywell International	13,287
Raytheon	10,507
General Dynamics	9,953
BAE Systems	9,092

In light of concern about the management of major projects and substantial cost and timescale overruns (see Hartley,2004), the MoD embarked on its Smart Procurement Initiative from 2000. This initiative centres on cost reduction through identifying industrial prime vendors who are then responsible for delivering best value in the supply chain on MoD commitments. The global dominance of a few large defence contractors presents a major obstacle to market entry for local firms unless they adhere to the requirements of cost containment within the supply chain. This regime has clear implications for working conditions given the intensification of labour associated with just-in-time, sub-contract methods of production and the weakening of the position of the workforce in relation to meeting fluctuating prime contractor demand.

The defence estate in the UK extends across 4,000 sites and covers an area of 366,000 hectares (1,410 square miles). By parent service the army holds 246,000 hectares, the air force almost 49,000 hectares, the navy over 43,000 hectares with an additional 30,000 hectares held centrally or for other uses. Total MoD land holdings amount to around 1 per cent of the area of the UK.

MoD landholdings in Scotland account for almost one-third of the total UK defence estate with 116,300 hectares (or 450 square miles) (DASA, 2006).

The RNAD Coulport site covers some 235 hectares on the Rosneath peninsula including reinforced concrete buildings. The Faslane site on the Gare Loch extends to an area of over 90 hectares including one of the largest shiplifts in the world measuring 185 meters in length, 50 meters in width, and 40 meters in height (MoD, 1984; SRC, 1984). Both sites are areas of high security and are encircled by high perimeter fencing which extend beyond the footprint of the bases. Military facilities further extend into Glen Douglas and Glen Fruin. This militarised area is incongruously situated on the doorstep of the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park and is home to a number of European Protected Species and UK BAP species as well as distinctive natural, historical and built environment features.

The initial Environmental Impact Assessment conceded that "some tourists might be deterred by the prominent visual impact of some of the [then] proposed structures, though equally there is the possibility that an enlarged Clyde Submarine Base and submarine activity may attract sight seers to the area" (PSA, 1984, 35). As the Alternative Employment Study Group noted latter part of this observation ignores the fact that "the majority of tourists are attracted to Scotland by the kind of scenery which the MoD are destroying" (AESG, 1988, 20).

The environmental impact goes significantly beyond this in the context of Loch Lomond and the Argyll Forest being among Scotland's key tourism destinations (Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, 2005a). The presence of the high security bases excludes local communities from realising fully the opportunity to capitalise on potential tourist revenue estimated at £200 million for the National Park in 2002 of which £84.5 million (42 per cent) was generated in the Loch Lomond area with an additional £18.7 million (9 per cent) generated in the Argyll Forest area (Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, 2005b). National targets set by the Scottish Executive include an increase in revenue from tourism of 50 per cent by 2015 (Scottish Executive, 2006). Indeed the employment effect of the national park has been estimated as generating an additional 0.3 jobs for each of the 4,490 directly employed – an induced employment multiplier comparable to that of direct military employment (Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, 2005b).

This leaves Argyll and Bute as the most defence dependent local authority area in Scotland of the 7,240 UK regular forces posted in Scotland across naval and army services 2,990 (41 per cent) were located in Argyll and Bute. For naval services Argyll and Bute accounts for 79 per cent of Scotland's 3,800 personnel (DASA, 2006b).