

[Liam Fox flies into Philippines to grovel to sinister president for Brexit trade deal](#)

International Trade Secretary Liam Fox is visiting the Philippines and meeting with President Duterte, a person who compared the killings of suspected drug addicts to the Holocaust, said Obama should 'go to hell' and has admitted to personally murdering people.

[News story: Defence Minister unveils new £83 million state-of-the-art logistics site](#)

The Minister for Defence Procurement, Harriett Baldwin, has today formally opened a huge state-of-the-art £83 million MOD logistics centre in Shropshire, which will streamline distribution and storage, delivering savings of around £500 million by 2028.

The 80,000 square metre Defence Fulfilment Centre (DFC) is the size of ten football pitches and will revolutionise the way we support our Armed Forces across the world. It will be a central hub for the storage and distribution of Defence's £30 billion inventory, including spare parts, food, clothing, and medical supplies.

Minister for Defence Procurement, Harriett Baldwin said:

The Defence Fulfilment Centre in Donnington will transform the way we store and distribute essential supplies to the Armed Forces who keep us safe. Supported by our rising defence budget, this £83 million investment and partnership with leading logistics specialists is concrete evidence of our determination to give our personnel the very best support wherever they are in the world.

The DFC has been delivered to time and on budget and consists of two warehouses and a support building. The facility, based in Donnington and managed by Kuehne + Nagel on behalf of Team Leidos, will use new warehouse management systems to maximise value for money and manage the complex supply chains of the 21st Century seamlessly. Alongside special environmental storage, the DFC's automated storage and retrieval system will be capable of

picking more than 1000 items an hour.

Chief of Material (Land) at the MOD's Defence Equipment and Support organisation, Lieutenant General Paul Jaques said:

The Defence Fulfilment Centre will transform the way we support our servicemen and servicewomen. Contribution to Operational Readiness through the provision of supplies and commodities to our Armed Forces will be on a par with industry best practice as a result of this investment in state-of-the art facilities.

The opening of this centre on time and on budget is testament to the close and positive collaboration between Defence Equipment and Support, and Team Leidos. I very much look forward to seeing this fabulous facility fully operational in 2019.

The site has been opened as part of the Logistic Commodities and Services Transformation (LCST) programme, which aims to deliver our Armed Forces what they want, when and where they want it as efficiently as possible. The programme is being delivered collaboratively by the MOD and Team Leidos and will build an efficient and agile support network with the ability to support current and future military operations.

Leidos Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Roger Krone said:

The completion of the Defence Fulfilment Centre is an important milestone in our strategic plan to deliver enhanced information technology and logistics services to the Armed Forces.

This state-of-the-art facility is a conduit to ensuring front-line troops can get what they need, when they need it, by offering a more efficient and effective processes across the supply chain.

Shoppers feeling Brexit squeeze as supermarket prices rise 2.3%

The average UK household has lost £21.31 in the past three months as supermarket prices rise due to Brexit inflation, research by Kantar Worldpanel has found.

Use of chemical weapons by anyone cannot be tolerated – Thornberry

Emily

Thornberry MP, Labour's Shadow Foreign Minister, commenting on the suspected chemical attack in Syria, said:

"This was a shocking and barbaric attack, and our thoughts are with all the victims and their loved ones.

"The use of chemical weapons by anyone cannot be tolerated, as the Syrian government itself accepted when it joined the Chemical Weapons Convention, and there must be no impunity for those found responsible."

Ends

Tory Government is failing the victims of trafficking as statistics show rise – Abbott

Diane Abbott, Labour's Shadow Home Secretary, responding to National Referral Mechanism statistics showing that child trafficking is rising, said,

"This Tory Government is failing the victims of trafficking.

"Recorded child trafficking has reached a record high, but these figures are still well below the Government's own estimate. Meanwhile, decisions to provide support for victims have fallen to a record low.

"The Tories promised in their manifesto to tackle trafficking and child exploitation. Instead they have imposed even further cuts on the Border Force and police, the frontline in the fight against these horrific crimes."

Ends

Notes to editor

1. Annual

statistics on reports to the National Referral Mechanism show that in total there were 3,805 potential victims of trafficking in 2016; a 17% increase on 2015. However, child exploitation referrals rose by 30% to 1,278.

2. The

figures also show that positive conclusive decisions – which enable victims to access support – decreased to 635, compared with 1,028 the previous year.

3. Full report – National Crime Agency, NRM End of Year Summary 2016, 29 March 2017,

<http://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/publications/national-referral-mechanism-statistics/2016-nrm-statistics/788-national-referral-mechanism-statistics-end-of-year-summary-2016/file>