

## Disbandment of 7 Regt (V) AAC, Netheravon

The British Army's only homeland security and civil-emergency support aviation regiment is to disband by April 2009 as an economy measure. Some 22 Westland Gazelle AH.1 light observation and utility helicopters are to be withdrawn three years ahead of schedule and 84 Territorial Army aircrew are to be made redundant in the disbandment

of the 7 Regiment Army Air Corps (Volunteers) based at Netheravon. In addition to its two squadrons based on Salisbury Plain, detached flights at RAF Shawbury in Shropshire and RAF Leuchars in Scotland will also cease operations. A British Army spokesman said that the cost-saving measure was being made because of a reduction in Gazelle flying



Photo: Dave Ashley

hours across the Army Air Corps (AAC). The spokesman said that "other AAC aircraft would be used in place of 7 Regiment's helicopters where there is a task requirement".