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The Overseas Bag continues to flourish. So much so that we simply cannot find space in the yearbook to carry verbatim quotations from correspondence. We also have to fit everything into one Yearbook, now that we have little available space in the May newsletter. We could have filled 20 pages, with text and great photographs, but that would have had severe cost implications for this publication. In the circumstances, I have had to make the editorial decision to reach for the pruning scissors and try to summarise what our correspondents have written. I apologise both to them and to our readers, and, indeed to Chris himself, but we have little choice. Insofar as the Yearbook is more archival in its purpose, then it is perhaps more appropriate that it should limit itself to the essence of the activities of our Overseas OFs, at the expense of the detail. There is consolation in that the full text can still be found on our website, should you wish to pursue that detail, in the familiar chatty style. (Ed)

*In the last Newsletter, Richard Rowe indicated that a combination of work commitments and a desire to spend more time with his young family meant that he needed to make the sad decision to relinquish editorship of the Overseas Bag. He does, however, continue as a vital member of the web team.*

*So who am I? My name is Chris Essex (K 69-75) and I have volunteered to pick up the reins from Richard. Although I went to Framlingham with him, my family is now fairly grown up (but not yet fled the nest or wallet!) and I have chosen to retire early and therefore have more time available.*

*However, this is not supposed to be about me, but what our adventurous OFs living overseas have been up to. As is customary, I issued an e-mail in June 2006 to all OFs living overseas, who have registered an e-mail address on the SOF website and I'm very grateful to all those who have been in touch. I trust that my editing skills have done your many and varied messages proud, but please read the full versions of the correspondence I have received, via the 'People' section of the website ([www.oldframlinghamian.com](http://www.oldframlinghamian.com)).*

*I know that not all of you have email or internet (if you do have email, then please register on the website as it assists communication enormously). For those of you overseas but without email, I am still very keen to hear your news – by mail, friend's email, phone or whatever. Do send your news to me, especially photographs.*

## Australia

**Chris Shaw** (K 50-56) emailed from Cairns in late March, having safely survived the Category 5 cyclone Larry which hammered the Queensland coast. No phone or electricity for 3 days, lots of fallen trees, but much better off than folk about 80Km away. Political response reported to be better than in the USA – Richard Rowe

knew all about the impact of the Florida hurricanes.

After leaving Fram Chris worked as an apprentice in Boots (Tavern Street, Ipswich), completed Pharmacy Studies in Leicester and Plymouth, became a Medical Rep in London, and then Overseas Medical and Area Rep for the (then British) West Indies. Australia (Cairns) followed, where he had two pharmacies, two marriages and two children. He is now semi-retired, writing a bit, doing locums and trying to get a pharmacy-related business up and running. He is in touch with **Paul Williman** (K 51-57), **Clive** (K 51-53) and **Judith Simpson**, **Mike** (S 50-56) and **Mary Craven**, **Clive Hedley** (G 58-67)

and **Phil and Dee** in Sydney. His parents are 99 and 97 this year, and he is hoping the genes translate.

In July he and Rebecca had an unofficial OF Dinner with Janet and **Peter Hughes** (G 52-56) on the occasion of Peter's birthday – rude to ask which one – Peter is on Chris's right in the photo.



**Phil Bower** (G 65-74) sent a message from Sydney in February 2006. His older brother **Nigel** (G 58-68) had been over for Christmas and the New Year. Phil was "retrenched" at the end of November by his French employer, which didn't exactly help his almost legendary "froggolophobia." So he is back on the chain gang, working on whatever shows he can get into, with a new band cooking up quite nicely and ready to inflict suffering on the listening public by March. His website needed updating at that time.

He found the 2005 Yearbook enlightening and entertaining. It was sad to read of the passing of people he had known at school – the death of **Brian Mabie** struck a particular chord – "a really nice guy".



PHIL AND NIGEL BOWER AND WIVES

**Simon Ray-Hills** (S72-77) wrote from Perth with a brief family update. He is married to Sue, with 3 boys (18, 18 and 14) He had been living in Hampton Court and working as a Graphic Designer in London until 2004. They then decided to emigrate to Australia. They live in Swanburne, a suburb of Perth, where Simon now works. He plays hockey for an over 40s hockey team called Suburban and

one of his sons was selected for the W. Australian hockey team, who became National Champions.

**John Gates** (S44-48) ) sent greetings from Queensland in the New Year. He reported on a then forthcoming lunch at Maroochydore with **Peter Bailey** (K 34-38), **Neville Marsh** (S 53-61), and **Peter Simpson** (K 32-40), together with wives. The Gates and the Baileys were off to New Zealand in February. In July John wrote in from Dubai, en route for 4 months away, taking in Pembrokeshire, Shropshire, Rutland, Oxfordshire, a Med cruise, and a catch-up with cousins in Norfolk and Suffolk.



**Bob Munro** (R 56-60) proudly announced news of a 2006 Commonwealth Games bronze medal, together with **Mike Garnett** (R 54-56). For full revelation see 'Here and There' – p92. Bob also wrote in later about his film-making exploits: Charlotte's Web with Julia Roberts, Oprah Winfrey and John Cleese as the voices for some of the cartoon characters.

**Peter Risk** (R 55-60) made contact, saying that he had come out to Australia in 1961, farmed in NSW for 4 years, back to the UK for 3 then out to Western Australia in 1968 as a builder. Life has become a bit more leisurely, with more time spent share-trading and enjoying "the best climate in the world."

**Jonathan Amos** (S 67-71) contacted Chris Essex, a near-contemporary, to congratulate him on his new job. Having had miserable years as an accountant, Jonathan now enjoys running his own business as an MYOB consultant in Perth. He has a Japanese wife, and has visited Japan 6 times, so, finding various elements of Oz life tiresome (crime, hooliganism, 4 wheel drives, accent) he finds a second emigration to a more civilised Japan an attractive proposition. His wife prefers Australia!

**Nick Carlton** (G 63-70) ) responded in June. Chris correctly remembered that Nick was House Captain of Garrett in that year, and that **Jeremy Page** (K 72-70) was Head Boy. Nick, has been a one-company man, doing cruises, and the cruising boom has served him well. At the time of writing he was in Alaska, on 10 day cruises on the Regal Princess out of San Francisco, having trans-shipped from the Grand Princess in the Mediterranean (Naples). He was due to return to the Grand in September.

**John Bennett** (G 34-42) wrote to welcome Chris to his new role, carrying on a fine tradition starting with Alfred Pretty, through Tom Saul, James Ruddock and Richard Rowe. He even scanned a letter written to him in 1946, while he was serving overseas, by Alfred Pretty. The transcript follows:

*My dear Bennett, I did not know you had left Bangkok and gone to Singapore, and I congratulate you on not being blown to bits by the mine which hit you just before you got there. I notice you are in a Coast Defence Regt. composed entirely by Malays, bar the officers. I see you have met Rossiter and George Martin. If you see them again, please tell them I am eagerly awaiting letters from them, and that they would do well to equal you in regularity of correspondence.*

*With every best wish, Yours sincerely, Alfred Pretty.*

John writes that he is sure that so much of the strength of the Society is due to the dedication of its officers over the years. He continues to say that there has been a tremendous rush for tickets for the Test series. Thousands have been sold to English supporters, with the interest in Australia as high as for the bodyline series of '32/'33 – so much so that even early morning queueing failed to bring him tickets for the Sydney Test Match.

Some consolation to have tickets for the match v The Prime Minister's XI and the 2nd 1 day match. John's wife, Dorothy is through and through Aussie, while he has only lived there for 50 years, so support is divided. His hopes that England might meet Australia in the Football World Cup were dashed.

John is still in touch with several contemporaries including **Ken Knight** (K 32-38) – 85 on July 6th – **Mike Dobson** (R 34-42) and **Mike Abbott** (K 34-41–Canada), who, with his wife, paid a visit some years ago.

**Tom O'Donald** (S 51-57) welcomed Chris Essex to the job and recalled that it was Richard Rowe who had brought him back into the SOF after a break of nearly 50 years. He had caught up with two very good friends **Martin Wolferstan** (G 52-57) (but see Obituaries, Ed) and **Mike Geddes** (S 51-55). His mixture of medical problems and robust humour deserves direct quotation:

*I have developed a brain dementia which has robbed me of my ability to walk, and has now affected the muscles of my throat so that I run the risk of inhaling food and thus giving myself pneumonia. The whole thing was delightfully put by my neurologist in 2 minutes flat:*

- 1. If you get pneumonia it would be pointless to do anything much save keep you comfortable.*
- 2. Appoint a Power of Enduring Attorney so that your wishes may be passed on.*
- 3. (And this is the killer) Please may we have your brain. Thank heavens I have not lost my macabre and warped sense of humour, although, when they took my driving licence away, it did cause a bit of a downer, but it is surprising what you can do with a gopher and the local bus and train services.*

Tom and his wife had booked a cruise up the Queensland coast for November, and he is hoping to hang on to see one of his sons to walk down the aisle for the third time next March.

We wish him well.

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## ✧ France

**Pat Rogers** (R 56-60) still lives near Arles, running a nano-sized business of holiday cottages ([www.camargue-nature.co.uk](http://www.camargue-nature.co.uk)), but admits to laziness about getting the website in order and organising occasional residential English immersion courses. He also goes off on consulting missions for a week or six at a time, usually and preferably to the Far East, mostly something to do with biodiversity or parks or forests. Read about an interesting visit to China on the website.

## Germany

**Babette Klitz** (formerly **Schmidt**) (V 84-86) and her husband have moved to Berlin after 7 years in Brussels. Her husband works for Volkswagen and they have 2 boys aged 11 and 9. Her sister **Annette Netti** (formerly **Schmidt**) (P 80-82) lives in Berlin too and is also an OF. *(Given the number of OFs living in Germany/Berlin it would be good if someone there organised an OF gathering – volunteers?)*

## Hawaii

**Bryan Pearson** (S45-47) sent some updates on his recent cruises:

In September 2005, he and Celestine boarded the Tahitian Princess in Papeete for a 10 day cruise to Rarotonga in the Cook Islands and were royally entertained by **Captain Nick Carlton** (G 63-70). Despite concern that they were monopolising too much of his



time, it was a wonderful experience with loads of time to reminisce about time at Fram. On the last day, they went up to the bridge, and took pictures, wearing the OF ties brought for the occasion.

The next cruise was to be aboard with Nick from August 4th to 14th 2006, sailing from San Francisco up the Inland Passage to Alaska and back. Of the ten days, five were to be spent at sea, so more time to reminisce, and, of course, another Old Framlinghamian Dinner. Bryan was looking forward to visiting his daughter in Sonoma before the cruise.

## Hong Kong



**Iain Fidlín** (M 73-77) sent in the photo (above) in April 2006 of **Ian Howard** (S 57-62), **Iain F.**, and **John Birt** (S 59-63) after a chance meeting at the Hong Kong Rugby Sevens.

**Bob Fox** (R 66-71) has now been back in Hong Kong for 6 years, having spent 13 years in Australia, a further 8 in Hong Kong, one in Spain, another around Europe – which takes him back to 1975 when he left the UK. He is now working in a university, teaching IT in Education. There have been lots of changes but he describes HK as fundamentally still the same safe and vibrant place. With a bit of help from Chris, he was amazed to discover that there were 22 OFs there. An exchange of photos inspired him to think about collating lots of Fram photos – but then he was fruitfully directed to our website gallery.

He has been in touch with both his close friends at Fram: **Andy McConnell** (R 66-71) and **Gordon Gibbons** (R 66-71). He met up with Andy a few years ago, who stays in contact with **Ed Babbage** (R 64-69) and **Nigel Parsons** (R 64-68). Way back in 2000 he was also in contact with **Martin Hogg** (S 63-71), who is now living in Bury St Edmunds, and **Jonathan Amos** (S 67-71), now living in Perth.



## Mallorca

**Michael Evans** (S 45-48) got in touch to say that he had nothing remotely interesting to say to other OFs, but that he did see **Ian Foster** (K 46-53) who lived on the other side of the island.

## New Zealand

**Nick Marsden** (G 72-76) got in touch about his recently published novel (see website), and on return from a trip to Japan filled in some gaps. He has been in NZ for 14 years, having initially come for a month to run a teacher-training course.

After leaving Fram he went to Portsmouth Poly, sharing a flat with **Tony Tonka-Woods** (K 68-76) and, after graduating, headed to Morocco to teach English. He turned to training teachers, mostly in their own countries. His work has taken him to Izmir, Turkey (Directing an English School), Argentina, Poland, Brazil and Thailand.

He has now been in NZ for 14 years and is applying for citizenship. Having been a bit of a nomad, he is now establishing solid NZ roots, particularly after the birth of daughter Naomi, now coming up for 1 year old.

A late starter he got married for the first time last year, but compares himself (un?)favourably to Charlie Chaplin who had his first child at 70 and finished up with 11!

Nick manages to keep in touch with **Peter Rodulfo** (R 70-75) and **Bill Shipley** (G 67-76), and regrets how easily one loses touch, while enjoying reconnecting. He hopes to do more writing – so watch this space.

## Philippines

**John Simpson** (K 32-36) wrote with news of his itinerant sons. **Jeremy** (K 56-64) was about to join them from his base in Philippines/Hong Kong. You can see what he is up to on [www.jeremysimpson.com](http://www.jeremysimpson.com). Jeremy is now a serial grandfather – his daughter, Becky, has 2 daughters and a son. **Ben** (BH 84-86) has a strapping son. Ben is loving life in Kenya, flying choppers. Paternity has caused him to give up paragliding, but John was not sure about his adventurous motorcycling.

John was in the same Rugby teams as the late **Norman Borrett**, but had no eye for the smaller ball. He was in the same form, and, as Governor, saw Norman later on when he was Second Master. Both finished up living in Framlingham. John reckons to have a few more archive pictures, but they need to be dug out of boxes.

## South Africa

**Adam Phillips** (G78-83) sent Christmas greetings. He lives in Cape Town and loves it. He works for Investec Bank. He believes that **Tim Smart** (R 73-81) now lives part of the year on Johannesburg. Tim, a great Rendlesham friend, works, he thinks, for De Beers.

He wrote again in June while the World Cup was on, finding it difficult to believe that it would be held in South Africa in 2010. Most South African support, this time, was for Ghana. More of a cricket and rugby fan himself, he was looking forward to seeing the Boks play France in June.

Adam also knows **James Campbell** (M 74-82) but has yet to meet him out there.

**Thomas (Tim) Lewis** (K 53-59) was intending to be back in Colchester during August and September. He kindly offered to bring with him an army plaque from his old regiment, as well as a book, for the cadets. It was not easy to think of an appropriate place to display the plaque, but thanks for the offer, Tim.

**Guy S Brooke-Smith** (S 41–44) passed on the sad news of the death of **Oliver Bridges** (S 45-50) on July 18th (see Obituaries). When they had lived in (then) Rhodesia and later Johannesburg, Oliver had been almost part of the family. He was a great friend.

## Thailand

**Michael Regan** (M 77-79) lives in Bangkok and had been trying, unsuccessfully, to get together with John Birt in Koh Samui. He is still trying. He sent thanks to Richard Rowe.

**John Birt** (S 59-63) reported on his 60th birthday bash in January. It was a dinner given by several pals in a Bangkok restaurant. **Ian Howard** (S 57-62) was present and had obviously given the organiser some key biographical tips which resulted in the serving of cocktails variously labelled as...

1. Sandhurst Sizzler - Citrus Vodka, Grand Marnier & Lemon Juice
2. Gurkha Grumbler - Bourbon, Sweet Vermouth & Angostura Bitters
3. Stradbroke Blazer - Kahlua, Bailey's & Grand Marnier

John further wondered about the possibilities of Rendlesham Ruin, Garrett Gimlet or Kerrison Kooler.

Still living it up, John later found himself again with Ian celebrating a friend's 50th birthday.

## USA

**Tony Neubroch** (G 61-69) has renewed contact with the SOF from Ohio.

**Niall Foster** (G 73-75) emailed from Troy, Ohio, having discovered the OF website. He remembered Richard's name but not the face. It had taken some 30 years for nostalgia to erase some of the less comfortable memories of Fram. It had been a difficult two years coming from the freedom of life in Trinidad to the restrictions of an English boarding school. But having survived, and, according to his father, become "a better man" the memories and the



NOTE THE RECENT PHOTO (ABOVE) OF HIS FAMILY, AND ONE OF NIALL WITH HAIR AT FRAMLINGHAM!

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✚ names came flooding back: **Phil Bower**, **James (Wack) Barry**, **Simon (Beppo) Cain**, **Richard 'Rosie' and Bill Shipley**, **Simon N Garroway** (Head of Garrett), **Timothy 'T bone' Slaughter**, **Peter Dring**, **Ngozi 'Boff' Ofili**, **Ed Giles**, **Johnny Adnams**, **Piers Hedley** (Head of Garrett), **Chris Essex**.

Niall later sent in a few of his memories ("scary but my own") of Fram together with various photos – these fascinating and detailed memories are all available on the website, and, in addition to the above, include references to **Sam Slade** (K 72-75), **Martyn Crook** (G 70-75). The photos are of Garrett House and of Rugby teams, together with ones of **Charles Blackmore** (K 65-75) and **Rupert Chenevix-Trench** (S 71-75).

**Mark Twite** (R 79-87) wrote from Denver, Colorado, with news of a new arrival, Annabelle. He is in his final year of training in anaesthesiology. He is based in two hospitals – Univ. of Colorado Health Sciences Center/The new Fitzsimons Hospital and The Children's Hospital. He was expecting to be back in England, at Birmingham Children's Hospital from July-December 2006, getting further experience in pediatric cardiac anaesthesiology – and also catching up with family.

**Bryan Ivory** (K 48-52) braved computer, scanner and internet to send photos to the website gallery, trying to remember names. Thank you, Bryan. He pays tribute to OB editors and gives a brief biography. After leaving Fram he qualified as a Quantity Surveyor.

He emigrated to Canada in 1958, lived in Toronto for 3 years, returned briefly to the UK before returning to Toronto to work in a firm of architects. He then moved to Washington USA and worked for an engineering company. He spotted an advert to do work at Dallas Airport, but based in Boston, and the next 30 years, as they say, is history. He has designed and built his own house and lives just 3 miles from the coast in N Carolina. He has kept in touch with **James Ruddock**, **David Pitcher** (R 44-51), **John Gooderham** and **Michael Brown**.

**James Kuppe** (G 79-80) an ESU student in 1979, made contact from California. He is trying to locate **Ian Birrell** (G 69-80) and **Xavier Lam** (G 78-80). Both are listed as 'Gone Away', but details have been passed to brother Mark Birrell, while Xavier is believed to be an architect in London or Hong Kong.

**Alfred Molson** (K 38-43) tells of contacts with **Ted Woods** (G 38-44), **Ron Pine** (K 34-41), **William Shipley** (G 41-47) – a retired vet – farm animals as well as small – **Michael Blake** (K 72-76), whose father was rumoured to be a US ambassador. Alfred writes: "**John Thorne Blake** (K 37-39) and his brother **Elisha Roman Blake** (K 37-39) were two Americans at Fram with me. Their father, Maxwell Blake, was the US consul in Tangiers and I first met them in 1936 when 35/40 of us went back and forth to the UK to boarding school on P&O

liners. Maxwell's first post involved a donkey ride with all his belongings to a hilltop in Tirana, Albania. No airports in those days. His last post was Consul General of the USA in Morocco – where JT Blake was born. Maxwell served for some 60 years and retired during WW1. Elisha, with the US Military Police, died about the time of the Korean War.

Also on the P&O ships was **E Dempster** (38-40). Ron Pine told Alfred that the older brother **Fergus Lee Dempster** (29-34) won a DSC in WW2 – and it should have been a VC, according to another OF".

**Jonathan Ash** (S 80-82) renewed contact to say that, although his official base was still London, he was temporarily encamped in New York, staying with his girl friend who works at the Singapore Mission to the UN. He expects to be there until next year –and then who knows where next. At Fram Jonathan shared rooms with **Myer Blackshaw** (S 80-82), **Victor Cole** (S 80-82) and **Julian Mutimer** (S 75-82). He has lost touch with Victor, heard from Julian that he was driving a bus for a living down in Brighton – possibly married with children – but the conversation stopped there.

**Peter Ballard** (S 57-66) responded to an email to say that both children had grown up and left home. The eldest was a doctor serving with the British Army, somewhere in Afghanistan. The youngest married an American lass last year, with the wedding in England, at Easton Church and the reception at Yaxley Hall, all of which coincided with his parents' 60th wedding anniversary.

He is still in the employ of Rolls Royce working the Corporate Aircraft market. He is in the throes of restoring a recently acquired 1933 Morgan Three Wheeler – a true piece of British history. It looks great from 10 feet but problems lurk beneath the surface. It is not unique –there are some 250 of them over there. Retirement plans involve a move back to a warm European country, but not England.

BELOW: PETER'S 1933 MORGAN THREE WHEELER – A TRUE PIECE OF BRITISH HISTORY



**Richard Rowe** (S 65-74). Last but far from least, readers will be delighted to hear about Richard. He is pleased with the impact which Chris has made with the Overseas Bag, and enjoys the less pressurised role of being a mere correspondent. He has done so much travelling in the last few months that he is beginning to forget where and when – grey cells beginning to rot. But – lots of new places: Medellin in Colombia, Lahore in Pakistan, Israel, Bulgaria, along with more usual destinations – Brazil, Mexico, Portugal, Turkey, India and Sri Lanka. He has a hand-held GPS to help with hotel/airport navigation.

Perhaps we should conclude by quoting verbatim from recent adventures – if ever anyone had a life style which shows the value of having contacts in far-flung places then Richard is the man. What he writes has the flavour of present day international travel: exciting but uncertain and sometimes hasardous:

"In Medellin there was the expected person holding a card with my name. My Spanish is almost non-existent and his English was not much better. He muttered "Car coming", and a large Mercedes pulled up. 4 men jumped out and motioned me inside. Their first words were "The road to town is broken, so we take longer route" As we roared off, I was beginning to wonder how many months of detention in a jungle hideout the "longer route" might take. But everything turned out to be genuine – just shyness because of the language barrier. They entertained me well. As with Pakistan my

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local guides implored me to be an ambassador for their "beautiful country" They simply didn't understand why the US and UK have their countries on travel advisory blacklists."

"I now have US citizenship but the UK does not recognise the US requirement to renounce allegiance to all foreign countries – so I still have my UK passport as well. Gone are the days when I could have held up my passport high like a shield to walk away from trouble. Now I hide my nationality and try hard to keep away from trouble.

In Israel I visited a factory North of Haifa. My guide then explained that I was in the safe North of the country, away from the Palestinian trouble areas. Today that same area is under attack. Bulgaria was fascinating, if only because the people shake their head for "yes" and nod for "no".

On the family front his three boys are very active in sports: the eldest, James, soon turns 7. There are terrazzo floors in the house so he has taught himself to skate on roller blades on the smooth floor. So, when he was put on ice for the first time he was off and away. He is enrolled in lessons and super-keen. The two younger boys are also taking to the ice-rink so ice hockey could become a major commitment.

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Thank you to the correspondents who have contributed some very interesting accounts of current life in the Services in this edition, and their own recent doings. At present there are a number of OFs working in or near the MOD, and it would be good if they were able to attend the London OF Suppers held in January and July at the Farmers Club within a short stone's throw of their offices! We look forward to welcoming them there. *John Stevens*

## Royal Navy

**Gordon Corner** (S 72-75) has recently finished a long stint working at the MOD in central London, and has just started a new appointment in the NATO HQ at Northwood. He says that in his new job he is in touch with **Tim Woods** (Z83-88), who has left RNC Dartmouth and is now MA to the Chief of Staff. We understand that **David Summerfield** (G72-77) is now CO of the Royal Marine Reserves City of London, based in Bermondsey.

## Army

*Many congratulations to **Miles Wade** (S66-76) who was awarded a well deserved CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for his work over the last three years in the MOD on Future Army Structures. He writes:*

I have not been a very good correspondent of the Old Framlinghamian Services Section since I was the Military Assistant to the Commander of NATO's Rapid Reaction Corps (as IFOR) in Bosnia and Germany from 1995-98, after which I undertook the MPhil in International Relations at Cambridge University in 1999. During my year at Cambridge, I was fortunate to be a member of Trinity Hall, and conducted an analysis of NATO's purpose and its military capability, using Bosnia and Kosovo as comparative examples.

Thereafter, I was privileged to command The Royal Yeomanry, converting it to be a Reserve Armoured and NBC Regiment, before undertaking an operational tour as Joint Operations Centre Director of HQ KFOR in Kosovo in mid 2002. I was Colonel General Staff in the MOD from 2003-5, responsible for Army policy and planning of the Future Army and Infantry Structures - a controversial and challenging task - which has fortunately resulted in a recent mention in the Queen's Birthday Honours list.

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