

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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- Life has not all been work. With a family of three teenagers, we ski and sail. Anderley, my wife, and I have raced a Laser 2000 for a couple of seasons, becoming Army Individual dinghy champions and coming 5th in the 2006 Inland National Championships. My son William looks like following me into the Army, having just obtained an Army scholarship – much to his mother's chagrin.

My mother and father, **Peter Wade** (S45–49), are still globetrotting (currently in Canada), out of a delightful house in the Yorkshire Dales, from which my father continues to run the pheasant shooting for the members of Catterick Garrison. He now only plays golf three times a week. Brother **Jeremy** (S69–79) has a London and Essex-based business which is so time-consuming that he can only shoot and play golf twice a week. Brother **Julian** (S71–81) is bringing his architectural skills to bear for a business in the Yorkshire Dales.

I am currently attending RCDS where I am analysing the policy approaches to regime change – experience in the MOD has certainly helped! I have recently been appointed to command 145 (Home Counties) Brigade in 2007, but prior to that I have the challenge of commanding Multinational Task Force (North West) in Bosnia, commencing in September 2006. Bosnia is in an interesting state of transition; promoting political/civil primacy, whilst balancing the risk of military drawdown in a state where the memories of the ethno-nationalist wars of the early 1990s remain deeply scarred. I would be delighted to see any OFs either in Bosnia, or in Aldershot once I return.

Thank you Miles for an interesting account of a very busy life. Good Luck for your tour in Bosnia and congratulations again for your forthcoming promotion to Brigadier.

Julian Bunce (R70–80), who is still in his post at Warminster writes:

I'm in my third and final year responsible for communications and information systems support to the Joint Helicopter Command, based at HQ Land in Wilton, Salisbury. The Command is an interesting mix of Army Air Corps, the Commando Helicopter Force and the RAF's support helicopter fleet. We also look after the Army's 16 Air Assault Brigade which is a potent combination of Parachute Regiment battalions and Apache attack helicopters.

It's one of the most varied posts I've had in my 22 years service, frustrating at times when having to cope with some of the RAF peculiar habits (was it Churchill who said the RAF doesn't have customs, just bad habits?) but always challenging. We've just deployed a large part of 16 Brigade to Afghanistan and Iraq continues, so business is busy. I have dealt extensively with Cdr Gordon Corner RN over the last 2 years who was been 'higher HQ' as the CIS lead in the MOD.

Sailing is occupying much of my time and I met Col Miles Wade last year at the Army dinghy sailing committee. He is the current Army

champion (with his wife as crew) in the Laser 2000 class. I race my own dinghy here in Warminster on a small lake on the Longleat estate and also own a small cruiser in the Solent with my father and sister. We're happily settled in our own house and I'm hoping to re-tour at HQ land, probably moving into IT project management if all goes according to plan. I also see **Richard Pugh** (R75–80) occasionally – our sons play in the same West Wilts hockey team.

Royal Air Force

Jon Owen (K93–98) writes:

Looking at the latest magazine, I can see it's been a while since I kept you updated with my whereabouts.

From Cranwell, I was streamed helicopters and posted to RAF Shawbury to undergo rotary wing flying training. After 18 months spent flying the Squirrel and Griffin, I was role disposed onto Search and Rescue. Posted to RAF St Mawgan, I spent 7 months learning to fly the Sea King before being posted to RAF Lossiemouth for my first operational tour.

With an average of 200 callouts per year, Lossiemouth is one of the busier Search and Rescue Flights – certainly enough to keep me busy! I'll leave with a plea for any OFs – if you do go hill climbing in Scotland please wear something more than jeans and a T-Shirt!!

United States Navy

*I have received some welcome late news from **Sergio Kontek** (S92–94) who is now a Lieutenant in the United States Navy and writes:*

After leaving Fram, my family and I returned to the States in a suburb of Washington, DC, where I attended my last two years of high school. I received a congressional nomination to attend the United States Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, NY, where I studied marine transportation and engineering. I graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in Marine Operations and Technology, a commission in the Naval Reserve, acceptance into Navy flight school, and Merchant Marine license as "Third Mate, any tonnage, upon oceans". This essentially meant that I became a licensed ship's officer and could sail on almost any type of seagoing vessel.

After graduating in 2000 I did just that. Despite being commissioned I was not yet given a start date for flight school, so I applied for a third mate job with the U.S. Navy's Military Sealift Command. I sailed on the USNS Saturn and deployed with the USS George Washington battle group to the Mediterranean Sea for 6 months.

After returning home in January of 2001 I finally received my first set

of Navy orders, directing me to report to Navy Schools Command, Pensacola, FL to begin flight training and my Navy career. After Aviation Preflight Indoctrination I joined the 'Shooters' of VT-6 (Training Squadron 6) from Primary flight training in the T-34 Turbommentor. It was during training that I met my wife Heather. We actually attended high school together in Virginia, but that is a whole different story!

At the completion of Primary I was selected into the E-2/C-2 Pipeline, which took me to Corpus Christi, Texas for Intermediate multi-engine flight training. There I flew the T-44 Pegasus and received my instrument rating.

After leaving Texas I took a short break to get married and go on my honeymoon and then moved to Meridian, Mississippi to begin Advanced flight training in the T-2 Buckeye, a two-engine jet. Advanced training meant that I landed on an aircraft carrier for the first time and finally receive my Wings of Gold in January of 2003. Heather and I moved to Norfolk, Virginia in February to begin training in the E-2 Hawkeye, but not before having to attend SERE (Survival, Evasion, Resistance, Escape) school in San Diego for 2 week. If you've seen G.I. Jane, it's kind of like that, except not quite so 'Hollywoodized'. Suffice it to say that it was miserable, but one of the greatest places in the world to train.

I carrier-qualified and finished E-2 training at VAW-120, the E-2 Fleet Replacement squadron, in February of 2004 and was assigned to Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 125, where I am still stationed until March of 2007. I deployed to the Arabian Gulf in June of 2004 aboard the USS John F. Kennedy and will deploy again soon aboard the USS Dwight D Eisenhower until my departure from the squadron. My next assignment will take me back to Pensacola, Florida to fly the T-6 Texan II.

On a very happy note, Heather gave birth to our daughter Olivia Rose on January 17, 2006 and she is growing and learning at an incredible rate. I must say that parenthood is probably the most exciting thing in the world... well, except for landing at sea in the middle of a dark night!

Thank you very much Sergio and please keep us posted on your news when you get back to Pensacola.

Addresses

These are the latest addresses that we have. In several cases we are listing home addresses as being more permanent, and easier to keep up with.

Royal Navy

Cdr GC Corner RN, N62 Atlantic Building, Northwood HQ, Sandy Lane, Northwood, Middlesex HA6 3HP

Cdr RJA Bellfield RN, Woodland View Adams Green, Halstock, Yeovil BA22 9SW

Lt Col DE Summerfield RM, RMR City of London, 2 Old Jamaica Rd, Bermondsey, London SE16 4AN

Lt Cdr FP Fawcett RN, The Wardroom, Britannia Royal Naval College Dartmouth, Devon TQ6 0HJ

Lt Cdr PHG Moore RN, DEC UWB, Northumberland House, Northumberland Ave, London WC2N 5BP

Lt Cdr TC Woods RN
New address requested

Army

Col MWE Wade CBE, c/o Lloyds Bank plc, 14 Market Place, Beverley, East Yorks HU17 8BD

Lt Col GP Bettesworth R Irish
New address requested

Lt Col JRC Bunce R Signals, SO1 J6 Joint Helicopter Command, HQ Land, Erskin Barracks, Wilton, Wiltshire SP2 0AG

Lt Col AJ Hamer-Philip RA, 54 College Road, Framlingham, Nr Woodbridge, Suffolk IP13 9ES

Lt Col JC Campbell RA, Amathusia, Park Road, Winchester, Hants SO22 6AA

Lt Col AG Fryatt AGC, 7 Cotland Acres, Meadvale, Redhill, Surrey RH1 6JZ

Major TD How RTR, SO2a DEC (CBRN), 02.K.46, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

Major SJ Powell RAMC, 23 Parachute Field Ambulance, Montgomery Lines, Aldershot, Hants GU11 2AZ

Capt P C Moxey, Royal Anglian, 1st Bn Royal Anglian Regiment, Elizabeth Barracks, Pirbright, Surrey GU24 0DT

Royal Air Force

Air Vice-Marshal SRC Dougherty QHP, RAF, DG Medical Services, RAF HQ Personnel & Training Comd, RAF Innsworth, Gloucester GL3 1EZ

Wg Cdr M K Allport MBE, RAFR, International Training Officer, Trenchard Hall, RAFC Cranwell, Sleaford, Lincs NG34 8HB

Sqn Ldr AA McCord RAF
New address requested

Sqn Ldr H Edwards RAF, 10 Sey Burn Wynd, Elgin, Moray IV30 4PH

Flt Lt JK Owen RAF, D Flight, 202 Squadron, RAF Lossiemouth, Elgin, Moray IV31 6SU

Flt Lt RN Paine RAF,
New address requested

United States Navy

Lieutenant SM Kontek USN, 4311 Bayou Blvd, Pensacola, FL 32503, USA

"Calling all Services"... Any security-cleared photos from our Service members would be most welcome (Ed).

