

23 July 2002

From: LCDR Deborah K. Barnes
To: Chief of Naval Personnel (PERS- 440C)

Subj: END OF TOUR REPORT

Ref: (a) CHNAVPERS WASHINGTON DC 231407Z FEB01

1. As directed in reference (a), this report is submitted to provide a record of my experiences at the United Kingdom Joint Services Command and Staff College, Shrivenham. A summary of my tour would be categorized as very positive and no problems were encountered. Typically there are six American students (two USAF and three USA every year, and one USN in alternating years) and three exchange posts for American instructors (one each USAF, USN, USA). Attending this course was an excellent opportunity that I am glad I took advantage of.

2. Location. The JSCSC was established in 1997 as an amalgamation of the three separate British Staff Colleges and is located at Shrivenham, the British Army's post-graduate education site. This is approximately 20 miles west of Oxford and 80 miles west of London. The academic and accommodation facilities are new and modern.

3. Class size. The size of the Advanced Command and Staff Course was 330 students, comprised of O-4 and O-5 equivalents. Almost 50% of the UK students were British Army students, with the remaining British students coming from the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force, along with a small contingent from the Civil Service. There were approximately 80 overseas students, from 45 countries. The ACSC course administers syndicates of 10 students.

4. Academic Year and Course of Study. The academic year for international students begins the second week of August, with a three-week course called Pre-Course Training. International students who require language training begin earlier in the summer at Beaconsfield for language training. A one-week break follows PCT, and then the ACSC begins the second week of September. There is a two-week break at Christmas/New Year's and at Easter. The year is divided into three phases: Foundation, Single Service (Maritime), Joint and Combined Operations. Highlights of the course include a trip to Europe (my trip was to Bulgaria, NATO/SHAPE/EU in Brussels, and a Normandy battlefield tour) and a visit to the U.S. for briefings by the State Department, NSC, JFCOM, etc in Norfolk and Washington, D.C. The course finishes the last week of July.

5. Master's Degree Program. A Master's degree program in Defense Studies is available as part of the course. The work is integral to the course and no extra expense is involved. I did not do the Master's option, but the workload in addition to the normal course load was estimated at 30%. It is administered through the highly regarded King's College, University of London.

6. Administrative requirements. Administrative needs are taken care of by Commander, Naval Activities, United Kingdom, located outside of London at RAF West Ruislip. PSD service is from the PSD at Commander, U.S. Naval Forces, Europe. I normally took care of

Administrative matters via email, phone, fax, or mail with no problem. CNAUK is the reporting senior for the not observed fitness report.

7. Accommodation.

- a. For married personnel: British military Married quarters are available at the college for married personnel and are convenient as the houses are located a short walk from the school building. While the size of the houses (typically all four bedroom) is somewhat smaller than U.S. standards, the houses are only a few years old. All of the other married U.S. officers lived in the married quarters, and seemed to turn the houses over to their successors very easily.
- b. For single personnel: I lived in a three-bedroom unfurnished house in the village of Faringdon for £750/month (I received the Oxford OHA rate). Adequate houses and flats to rent are available on the economy in the local villages of Shrivenham, Watchfield, Highworth, and Faringdon. Overseas housing allowance will cover an adequate sized home. Both furnished and unfurnished units are available. Accommodation is also available in the Officers' Mess at the College for single officers or for geographical bachelors. The rooms (British military standards are a one room cabin if you are living away from your family, or a two room suite if you are single) are furnished with the basic furniture and nothing else, unlike a U.S. BOQ that may have some cooking facilities. A Dining Hall serves the needs of the students, both those living at the college and off base. A drawback to on base accommodation in the Officers' Mess is the cost; we usually pay the U.K. government non-entitled rate of £15/day for the room and £24/day for food. For a permanent U.S. resident on the course there may be room for negotiation on this cost for the entire year.
- c. Through the Housing Office (the Navy office at West Ruislip) you can have the use of a loaner wardrobe, washer, dryer, two transformers, dishwasher, and microwave for no charge for the entire year in your on base or off base house, so there is no need to ship those items.

8. Recommendations.

- a. As part of your PCS orders, arrange at least three to four days TAD at CNA UK in London prior to reporting to the college. This will allow you and your family to visit the Housing Office and PSD and CNA. If you have a married quarter already, report to the Shrivenham area at least the week prior to the beginning of PCT in order to move in, etc. If you need to arrange housing on the economy, arrive at least one or two weeks prior to PCT. A Temporary Lodging Facility is available at the closest U.S. base, RAF Fairford, which is located 14 miles north of the college if your housing is not available right away.
- b. The SITES service has good information on CNA UK, CINCUSNAVEUR, RAF Fairford, and other military facilities, HHG shipment information, voltages for appliances, etc.
- c. Bring your mess dress and service dress (usually always blues because the USN instructor and I tried to match the RN uniforms) in your baggage, as you will need them fairly early into the course. The mess social life is quite active.

- d. Educate yourself or read a textbook about U.S. National Security Policy and government positions before your arrival (or check out a book out from the JSCSC library during PCT). You will find yourself questioned continuously about the U.S. position on all issues, particularly areas where U.S. policy is seen in Europe as controversial.

9. Points of Contact

JSCSC: www.jscsc.org, MAJ (ret) Tony Boyce, International Student Support, telephone 011-44-1793-78-8041, aboyce@jscsc.org

Current USN instructor: CDR Mark Dennis telephone 011-44-1793-78-8164 or mdennis@jscsc.org

U.S. Army instructor: LTCOL Julio Alvarez telephone 011-44-1793-78-8133 or jalvarez@jscsc.org

CNA UK: Commander, Naval Activities, United Kingdom Administrative Office
011-44-1895-61-6103/6107, www.cnauk.navy.mil

If the next student has any particular questions, I can be reached at deb868@hotmail.com or at my next duty station, the School of Aviation Safety, Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, CA.

D.K. BARNES
LCDR USN