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I remember my first introduction to the Tavcom family whilst working for the Career Transition Partnership (CTP) providing resettlement training for service leavers almost two decades ago where I had taken of the role of our Nick who I never got to meet, as head of the engineering. As Tavcom were a preferred supplier to CTP for security systems training Mike and Paul had paid a courtesy visit to our training centre at Aldershot. They seemed quite impressed with our setup and Paul casually said “we could do with someone like you working for us”, subtle given the boss was there. Captain Shaw (the boss) clearly thought more of this as he later suggested “they will have you working for them one day”. A few years later and a change in my location to the south coast and a tough stint as a house daddy, a phone call out of the blue I was invited to come and see their training centre. I wasn’t expecting on arrival to be sat around the boardroom table with Mike, Paul and Kevin having what quite clearly was an interview! This seemed to become a common tactic where an informal few words would result in another adventure. So I started delivering the odd alarms course at the old Uplands Hotel and whilst chatting at the bar with Mike during lunch (the liver and bacon was delicious), he asked would I be prepared to travel. Well given this was the one part of the Royal Navy I missed, visiting exotic parts of the world I of course said yes. I remember my first “away course” was in fact Bradford, another new pin to my world map and I did have a great curry. The exotic places came though, Pune – India, Sydney, Kuwait, Dubai and regular trips to Abu Dhabi which had changed significantly in the thirty years since I had last been there. I was regularly Paul’s, as he called me “wingman” on overseas trips and to paraphrase his saying “one more” I had to remind him I had a job to do in the morning! In all I was very fortunate to have been welcomed in to the family, I have had some fantastic memorable experiences, met some lovely people and I am lucky to have a great Tavcom team supporting me. I hope the adventure will continue.

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