

DAVE BOWDEN

Well I seem not to have had a civilian phase of my working life. However I will provide a few notes which you may wish to use if you think useful to your plan.

After 34 years in the RAAF I had a fairly limited time to be employed in another career. I did spend three years as the civilian *Director of Wargaming* at the Australian Defence Warfare Centre at RAAF Base Williamtown from 1996-99. This was a computer supported capability to exercise Operational Level Headquarters. Essentially with a small staff we provided a fairly complete environment surrounding a headquarters of about 100 players and injected reports and live on screen inputs to them so they could react to warlike situations against a mythical enemy. Missions and activities by the three Services were planned by the staff and flown (or processed) by the computer simulations along with all aspects of logistics, movements and supporting reports. It was all run in 'real time', although as most headquarters were only established for day shifts, we could run the program in fast time overnight and have all reports and information on desks at the start of the next day.

I had always had a desire to cruise on a yacht. We bought a 42-foot catamaran in December 1999 and spent the next 13 years living aboard and undertaking extensive cruising. In that time we circumnavigated Australia as part of *Matthew Flinders' Bicentennial* celebrations, spent two months in PNG, three months in Tasmania, seven months in New Caledonia and Vanuatu and three years in Asia.

Although I had not envisaged such extensive trips, you tend to keep expanding your horizons as you gain experience. I have now rounded Cape York nine times during these trips, either in our yacht or helping bring yachts back from Asia. While I still own the yachts, our trips are more conventional, sailing to Sydney or up the coast to the Barrier Reef.

Cheers

Dave