# Kim Interview – 1 31 Oct 2017

(officer, 19 years, married, yes, -11)

## C

Why did you join the military?

## Kim

I just always wanted to I think I know I did I just always wanted to really sadly I just did I think I was more in love with the idea of the Air Force than what I did in it. You know as an Air Cadet I just liked the idea, no military family. Dad left Italy so he didn’t have to do his national service. That is how unmilitary the family are. He left Italy so he didn’t have to do it. He wasn’t like arrested or anything but mum did say, this was really bad, mum did say that every time they went back you know for a holiday in those first how many years they had to go to the police station and Dad had to surrender his passport for the 2 weeks they were there. Anyway, random but no military.

## C

So, what was it that appealed?

## Kim

I don’t know I just don’t know. I was a geek I was an air cadet and I think I had watched the Battle of Britain and I remember standing this was about when I was 13 standing outside RE, I went to a good catholic school, and saying to somebody I am going to join the Air Force when I am older. I remember that conversation and that is all I was fixated on, I went to the Air Cadets I was a proper geek, went to university, discovered boys had about a year and a half of not having much to do with the Air Force apart from my boyfriend who was on the UAS and I though I quite missed that fitting in you had with cadets and that’s that banter that social life and I thought how hard can this be, went to the careers office got myself a bursary for the last 2 and a bit years of a 4 year degree and there has never been anything else. With hindsight would I have done anything else yes and I probably came to that conclusion half a dozen years in and here I am 19 years in but its served its purpose. There you go.

## C

What do you mean it’s served its purpose?

## Kim

In terms of its given me a job I’ve enjoyed it, its paid the bills, its bought house, its not made me I am really risk averse in terms of jobs you know I am terrified about real life and think oh my god I am going to get sacked its given me the ability to have a job but not really have to worry about work does that make sense cause you kind of just turn up automatically if you think about it you are still in like this giant office sim but if you whereas sometimes you know you sit there and you think you know its not actually real this shit is just not real, you know. You really did. Does that make sense? Its strange I’ve not really had to have to work hard for my money at all and I frustrate myself sometimes and I think what if I’d put some effort in? Where would I be what would I be doing but I did not and I look at some lovely friends who are post staff college, have been promoted are you know knocking on Group Captain whatever because they worked the hours. I’d be the first person to leave and go to the bar I’m not the one to, its served its purpose its paid me a nice wage I’ve got where I am but there we go there we go.

## C

So, it really was just something you got into your head and you thought …

## Kim

Yes, I loved the idea of it I loved the idea of being in the Air Force of being part of it. And I think I enjoyed it more when we were little baby DAMOs and we were actually doing stuff you know 3 years into DE&S tour thinking this is shit. But I am here because they are always dangling that carrot but, there you go.

## C

Dangling the carrot being?

## Kim

As in the next job as in and as well so maybe the last 3 or 4 years I have been 12th, 10th 11th on the board so actually they have got as far as 9th 10th and whatever I’ve been one away and this year they have got as far as 9 and I am 11 and its like that carrot is still there but this time I am determined I am not hanging around for it I am going but yeh that’s it, you can get posted to here or you can do this job or that job and you think oh I’ll stay in then, I don’t know time is just the stuff that I joined for that banter that sport the bar life that doesn’t happen anymore and it doesn’t happen for 2 reasons, one is you have out grown it because you are a 40 year old mother and actually it would be really weird if you were still in the bar or happy hours and all that but also the novelty the novelty you wouldn’t be doing that at 40 anyway or you would be the really sad old man or lady in the bar that is trying to befriend the little ones, the little ones! The junior officers so it’s the right stage in your life there you go.

## C

Ok when did you start to think about leaving? 5.27

## Kim

Oh my gosh Lets go go all the way back, I thought about leaving when I finished in Cyprus which would have been 2008 no 6, 8 2008 I really thought about leaving I had been ,I was one away and I was one away on the board and this is where I was thinking about that dangly carrot of mid-wifery there is something about you know I thought I am going to do it. I am just going to do it, I am so far away from my pension I am just going to do it, I missed the board by one I am going to do and I got that in my head and then I had to do an Out of Area and I was on the flight sitting at Brize when the desk phoned and said when you get off the plane you are going to do the SAMO not the DAMO job, that is how I because somebody, I forgot his name broke his leg so he wasn’t coming out. So, I was next on the board, and I was oh ok and they sent like an AMW chap to back fill. So, I didn’t really think about it again but I really remember in Cyprus a couple of months before I left thinking that’s it I’ve had an amazing time nothing will be as good as 2 and a half years in Cyprus. Actually, because I was going out of area and then I was going back to a really dull job in DE&S. But I did the out of area on promotion and I still went to DE&S to a really dull job but my life changed because on the det I met my husband. And he was at Lyneham so going to DE&S worked and then suddenly I did 2 and a bit years there and then where did I go from there? I went to PJHQ and suddenly you are swept into it again and you forget you were going to leave. This time round I was going to leave when I was at my 16 year point and that would have been, I’ve lost track of my years, but then I lost my daughter and I thought we want to have another child and I was leaving it was about her and I thought I don’t want to leave three is too much change going on so I took a 3 year extension to my 16 year point which I spent one year pregnant one year on maternity and this is me going back for the last year. So, for the last 3 years really, I have been leaving. Because I just took those 3 years just to pay the bills because it seemed silly to leave when I knew I was pregnant and a year’s maternity and I knew this last year would be what it was and its turned out even better than it was because I haven’t got a job. (laughter) So it’s really really been the last few years.

## C

And it comes down to?

## Kim

Well it comes down to when I was having when I had my daughter cause I wanted to I didn’t want to work full time I wanted to be a mummy and when she obviously died I didn’t see a reason for leaving cause I was leaving to spend time with my daughter and I didn’t have a daughter anymore but then we got pregnant within a year and that was the intent so as soon as I got pregnant I thought yeh I am still leaving so that it comes down to what’s right for the time in my life. Its served its purpose at the time its not right not anymore because its 5 days a week it isn’t 9 to 5 its 8 til the work finishes I have maybe I’m not the one to I take it for what its worth, I do still work I put the hours in and I can’t just walk away at 5 o’clock I just I would resent falling further and further behind I think so there you go, I just don’t want to do 5 days a week and I don’t want to go away and leave them, not my son I can’t leave him at home and go for 6 months away I don’t want to go It doesn’t work if you are both serving and my husband is away from home now my husband hasn’t go the rank or the progression or anything like that but he loves his job so why would I pull him away from that to stay at home with a child just because I earn 20 grand a year more? To stay in work that I don’t really enjoy so you know what lets just be poor and actually I want to be a mummy so there you go.

## C

That’s fair enough, you just said something that you don’t want to about falling behind?

## Kim

The more I think in terms of so what was I saying to you before you started recording that whilst I still my friends 3 or 4 ranks ahead and staff college whatever that is because I knowingly volunteered for that det or I haven’t volunteered for or I would be the first person to go to the bar put it that way I’ve worked late I’ve worked the hours but more in terms of I’d be I’d fall behind because I’d be torn so that whole I’ve got to leave at 5 o’clock because I have got to get my son I’m not torn between that and work because I clearly would want to get my son but I think I would find it more when I went back in I’d be on the back foot I would miss something I’d just be constantly playing catch-up. I don’t want to be in that position, does that make sense? 11.01

## C

So, there was no specific incident that prompted that decision it was family life opposed to ..

## Kim

Yeh I think it was I was at my 16-year point and I think I’d always in my head said 16 years, despite that faff when I thought I was going to leave. Yeh I thought 16 years, I never wanted to get like to 55 and never having done anything else. Not that there is anything wrong with that but I thought I’d be in a rut with that I wouldn’t be enjoying it no nothing and I think it is family life. I think going back to loosing my baby it has made me realise that how quickly it can be taken away from you so just enjoy every minute of it she says having put him in nursery this morning so she can have a cup of tea. (laughter) do you know what I mean.

## C

And obviously loosing your daughter in that way that really made you appreciate

## Kim

What I have got now without a doubt without a doubt it just makes me think, you have those horrible moments if he is not in the car so this is my god we are going to go massively down a rabbit hole but we lost her at 29 weeks she just came too early but a 29 weeks you are you are 10 weeks 8 weeks away from actually having a baby not that you have bought everything by any means but you are a little bit prepared and you drive along and think oh I will have a car seat in the back next month or whatever and then you don’t, and now this is something that sticks in my mind now when I look in the back seat and I see my son it is amazing and I love it but I look the other way and I think there should be two car seats there. And it’s a horrible thought and sometimes I get in the car because he is at nursery or with dad or whatever and I look round and I have that feeling in my tummy that I had when I looked round and I she wasn’t there, not that she ever was and fuck me that is a horrible feeling. So the whole point is if you can encapsulate it in that feeling of them not being in the car that sums up why I am not staying I can’t loose that again and that feeling of being in the car cause I don’t feel it anywhere else, I think maybe it’s because we’d had that car conversation that it stuck in my mind. Cause it’s a car. The first time I went out without my son I went out to pick up a chair, my mum and dad were down, he must have been about a month old I literally nipped into town for 15 minutes and good lord it was the most horrendous car journey ever because he was not there. There you go.

## C

It’s funny isn’t it how our mind.

## Kim

I think its because my husband and I had been in the car and we’d been looing at car seats and we’d been going we will have our baby next month it’ll be in the back seat in a car seat and it wasn’t and now that car seat I don’t know why it just sticks in my mind and I hate it I hate been in the car with a car seat and no child in the car. Anyway, its horrid isn’t it but your mind I don’t think about it any other way. You know I go to bed at night and turn the monitor off I do miss him terribly when he is in nursery of course I do I get on with my life. It is just the car it is the weirdest thing I even find myself now driving up to the nursery literally undoing my seatbelt before I get to the car park because I can’t wait to get him in the car, its odd isn’t it. I’ve clearly got issues.

## C

Well it was traumatic, cause I had a miscarriage and I was pregnant again before I would have given birth

## Kim

They advised us not to get pregnant again til after my due date so it was 6-8 weeks but the still advise that it is hard.

## C

I think it would have affected me differently on that due date had I not been pregnant.

## Kim

So I don’t let myself think about that due date but on the 10 Jan which is the day she was born it is just a terrible day because she yeh but I don’t want to go into the details but I had an ectopic before that but I can’t even remember the dates now because I you don’t let yourself why would you unless it’s something significant. Its all a bit of a mess these children but the point the reason is it has taken us a long time, an ectopic, a still birth and this to get where we are and its you know we were talking about feeding, its hard work but it is not as difficult as being an MA to an Admiral at least you know its food, its hungry its tired you don’t have to mind read so its relatively easier than work.

## C

And yet earlier you said you are not ready to leave. You don’t feel quite ready to leave.

## Kim

More in terms, and I said this is my e-mail to the desk the thought of not putting my uniform on again is almost too much to bear but the thought of going to work 8 to 6 and being away for 6 months is harder so that is kind of that’s it does that make sense. And the thought of putting my uniform on its not because I like <><><> to death at PJHQ its all the ceremonial stuff its all the stuff that I joined in the beginning for which I don’t really do any more anyway. Cause that was the time of your life when you were a flight commander or doing whatever in a bar.

## C

So, what would you say is your most vivid memory of your service life and can you give an example explain why that one stands out. 17.02

## Kim

There are so many, there are just so many the most vivid example, probably when I was a DAMO a little baby DAMO either at Brize or I am trying to think of a specific example because that’s when you have the most interface with other people, probably when you are the most, as you know cause you did the jobs, when you are the most outgoing and you had to to do stuff. Gosh, to pin point one point in my service life that stands out oh my goodness, one incident, I can’t think there are so many I literally have a thousand thoughts in my head

## C

talk to me about DAMOing then why it was so

## Kim

That was cool, it was I think just because you were busy, you are busy and you are interactive and you played to your strengths skill of organisation and things like that, but when I was ADC that was a fab job that was great em cause then you were doing ceremonial stuff all the time and that was and you were super proud of that job and then being an MA in town was, I don’t know what is the one thing that stands out I am trying to be really gosh I am trying to think of one time when you are standing in your uniform and it all became …… there have been some I’m not struggling to think of good things because there have been so many bad. Ask me for a bad point in my service life

## C

It doesn’t have to be good it could be a bad one give me

## Kim

That is the whole point I can’t really think of bad examples. I was sick in somebody’s lift once but that doesn’t really count.

## C

You were sick in somebody’s lift?

## Kim

That was a bad thing but not the crowning moment of my service career. Maybe it goes back to doing the family thing, quite recently when I was on maternity leave I went to the woman at war thing at the national arboretum you know the <><>< service and my husband was supposed to come and he didn’t so rather than not go I took a 6 month old baby with me on 200-300 more women across all three services and there is me with a child. I was the only one with a baby so there was some with their husband so they stood out a bit more but erm it was fine and there was loads of veterans there and nobody batted an eye-lid and I just whipped my boobs out to feed him in my No 1s, that was that was a struggle but you know that stands out as just being do you know what cause that is most recent that is probably the last time I put my uniform on. But erm I don’t know. I might think of something as we are talking.

## C

Is there anything whilst you were serving about the life you were leading and what you were doing?

## Kim

Erm no not concerned me I remember coming back from Cyprus because I remember doing 2 and a half years out there I was quite looking forward to calming down I don’t mean that in that I was like mental but more it was just busy it was a busy job but it was a busy social life, I was 20 something single living in a battalion mess I was just a very hedonistic lifestyle not in a drink and drugs you were in Inanapa, Pathos, Limassol every weekend and there was stuff going on and you just through money and your liver were having an amazing life and I remember going back before Cyprus I remember my little flat in town with my friends we were we’d go into town on a Saturday morning for coffee and I longed for that quiet and calmness that came with that life I think cause I’d had a brilliant time but you didn’t have one or two best friends you had like 40 people in the mess and it was a different life. It didn’t concern me but I did think that is the one time I remember thinking I am looking forward to coming back off that out of area and stopping, stopping. It’s not because anything concerned me it was just I remember that was a point I felt I would like a step change now.

## C

So, what now, approaching resettlement what is on your mind at the moment, is there anything playing on your mind at this point?

## Kim

No, I think I don’t have I don’t want to stay because there is no job being offered that I want to do. I wouldn’t want to stay as a squadron leader and that is not because I think I am any better but I have done everything that I want to do what I’d like is money, its just money isn’t it. Not that we need it god that sounds really arrogant you know we have a nice lifestyle, clearly, we can make some adjustments and not lose the roof over our heads, we can still eat because I’ve got my pension but I think other than that. Do I worry that in a few years’ time or make the decision and left I will suddenly go it’s alright put him in childcare 8-6 sort of thing and there are days where I work occasionally now and he does full days in childcare and I don’t think about him because I am working why why am I leaving? But actually that is one day maybe two days a week and it is not sustained long days and everything it is the odd day and I am buzzing at the end of it because I have done stuff but it is not the thing is have I made the right decision will I come to that conclusion in a few months I know when I have my level head on I have made the right decision. Yeh money. 24.42

*(interview paused to put the dog out)*

## C

Right so just picking up on that again, so financially there will be some adjustments.

## Kim

Yeh there will be some adjustments but there is a roof over our heads because I have got my lump sum and my pension and we haven’t got the biggest house with the biggest mortgage because we knew we were sensible. We bought this when I thought about leaving, when I was pregnant last time, I was pregnant with my daughter when we bought this so we know before we were getting into it and financially I think well it is a comfort safety net isn’t it. Because it means you can do what you want you don’t really have to think about it yeh and the other thing was have I made the right decision and I know I have and you have the odd day where you have a brilliant day and you work really hard but I miss my son, will I miss the life style probably not because I am not even a member of the mess you know. So <><>< there was no mess before that was Waddington but I didn’t really go in the mess at all because we lived at Cranwell on the patch so I didn’t I missed the mess but I didn’t join the mess at all and haven’t even thought of it.

## C

So, if you had a magic wand is there anything you would change about your military career?

## Kim

I think I would probably of done more fun jobs does that make sense I seem to have just seem to have done 2 or 3 type PJHQ tours and I’ve done alright but I wonder if I’d done slightly less busy pressured whatever job allowed me to be a bit more personality driven as opposed to those jobs where you are just mental and I wonder if I would have done better or I would be leaving or not leaving I would be promoted or whatever if I’d worked jobs were I wasn’t worked to capacity if I’d done any because the jobs I have done have been brilliant but I have been at capacity doing them all cause they were those kind of jobs. What would I have done differently well nothing because I wouldn’t have met my husband, had my son be where I am now. So I think if I was in a place now where I wasn’t happy I would want to change my path but because I’m happy with where I am with my lot not that I am not going anywhere else but in terms of where I am right now I am happy and if I had to change something in my past that would change this I wouldn’t do that. Does that make sense.

## C

It does, ok I am going to quiz you on something because at one point you are saying you haven’t had to work hard

## Kim

Well no I haven’t had to work hard its more well I have worked hard what I mean is, I’m trying to put these into words I’ve worked really hard at but at the same time I could have worked harder. I could have ben a bit more, I don’t know how to put it into words, there have been busy jobs that haven’t allowed you to do all the sport and, some of them have and some of them haven’t but more professional is probably a better way of putting it. If I’d been maybe a bit more professional but that’s not the right word for it either. Its hard to put into words erm I just what’s the question or I’m just going to ramble otherwise?

## C

Its ok it’s just that it’s a little bit contradictory in your saying that you don’t feel hard on occasion

## Kim

On occasion, so some jobs the JFLogsC for example I didn’t work very hard at all it was a none-job and I hated every single second well not every single second it was just uggh. It was playing at war and training and exercises, training and exercises for training and exercises sake and I just cause it was rubbish and when I went to J5 and id didn’t breath for 2 years because it was mental so I loved it and at Waddington I worked really hard for the Squadron but I didn’t play the game and all the other stuff that people did to get on the top 10 on the station because that is just my interest was with the Squadron I enjoyed it for what it was busy, but busy because I made it what it was. Does that make sense.

## C

It does but I am really going to I really want to explore this playing the game because

## Kim

I think more in terms of what I mean I think is doing now for example I’m being paid to not work but I do have a job on paper but I feel bad (5.35) but I’ve never done this before just being at home and not actually gone into work but I’m still actually getting paid. That is playing a massive game and I suppose you play the game over those three years, one year pregnant, one year on maternity and one year now, the one year pregnant was in town during the SDSR and was crazy but I still took London for what it was and had a good time. I think going back to the whole mindset thing of this is still just one big office sim but you know its not real I always <<>< between my real friends and my air force friends and I don’t mean that <><> sometimes it’s not real.

## C

It doesn’t feel real?

## Kim

It doesn’t but then the ones who think it is real are probably the ones who are doing a little bit better. I’ve not really thought about it before you should have sent me the questions in advance. I’m just rebelling I’m thinking about things I’ve never put any effort into thinking about before

## C

The whole point is to explore it and not give you time to think about it.

## Kim

I’m tying myself in knots. But you do play the game you think it’s not real it’s a giant office sim, there are times when I have just gone fuck fuck me this is hard work for no effort.

## C

To no avail

## Kim

Yeh, you know I have flogged myself in some jobs absolutely, coming back after the death of my daughter, going to London and doing 14 hour days and still being 8 and a half months pregnant being an MA to a 2 star during the SDSR and that fucked me off no end that I then went backwards on the promotion board and that really annoyed me so this is this is the crux actually, something that really annoys me about the Air Force something that really stands out so on the board so I was 12th on the board, 10 th on the board they took 9, promotion is not, but I wouldn’t stay for promotion because the jobs that came up were rubbish but em 10th on the board but then the last board I left with a good <><><><><><> but what I am trying to say is what the desk didn’t do which I now know they could have done, is put a caveat on there, so this as I said before it’s a good report, but actually there were exceptional circumstances. I could not have got a better report so please don’t think I am saying they didn’t mention this and this but that report was written, take that in the context of she had gone back to work after the death of her daughter, only took 4 months off and threw herself into the MA job, and it was the SDSR and this and it was that and she was 8 and a half months pregnant when she left. Take all that into consideration and you have gone backwards on the board. When the desk apparently can just say I want to flag up something here to put that report into context and had it been a shit report maybe he would have put it into context and said but because it was a good report he probably didn’t feel like it needed but it still made me go backwards which made me so cross cause I just want I just want the board to cause one of the other comments was that there wasn’t enough of an upwards trajectory between reports, well I wasn’t at work for 4 months of those.(9.09) but why didn’t the desk point that out, explain that. I’m not going to putting a service complaint or anything like that, no, because that just comes across as bitter. I’m fucked off about it but, I’ve forgotten where I was going with that one,

## C

The injustice I suppose the unfairness in terms of

## Kim

Yeh but not the injustice and unfairness in that I am going to bitter about it for the rest of my life, I haven’t thought about it for ages but more it just makes me think you know uhhh I worked really really hard and again had I come back off that 4 months maternity leave and taken the desks advice and taken a nice quiet job at Air Command or RAF whatever ease yourself back into work I mean I <><>< could have done really well, where as I didn’t I did a mental job, had no capacity and did commensurate, did alright you know because that is where I was but actually did I shoot myself in the foot by doing that? But then mentally for myself probably not because actually I loved it and it didn’t give me the chance to think. Not in the way that I was bottling stuff up more just that I would have been more cross if I had lost her and then ended up doing clothing IPT or something, oh my god my life would have been over in two respects. Does that make sense?

## C

It does in a way you were still pushing and hoping for promotion through that job

## Kim

More and promotion yes but more that I could go back to I’ve always done jobs that are really really busy I’ve never been one to take the crap job because that makes it easier I’ve always taken the hard job but not probably worked as hard as I probably could have in it. Does that make sense?

## C

Yes.

## Kim

I think that is what I mean (big sigh)

## C

Am I exhausting you.

## Kim

I think I am going to have a drink after this.

## C

It rakes stuff up and I do appreciate that.

## Kim

Its not bothering me talking about stuff I’m conscious that I have just been on transmit.

## C

That’s the point. So, if you had to describe military life to anyone who has never experienced it how would you do that?

## Kim

I would say its brilliant because it is it is. It it something totally unique you, its unique its as fun and as exciting as you want it to be. Its yeh its still a god way of life its I I its not the career, the lifestyle it once was but then probably when we were baby junior officers there were 20-year-old 20 years down the line going back in my day. And new people joining up don’t know any different

## C

So, when you said a life style what do you mean?

## Kim

I think you you could be an RAF wife or a couple and go from station to station to station and your kids go to school with military kids and actually you can still make it that life style you can still go to happy hour on a Friday you can still go to the Halloween discos in the mess, we’ve never done any of that I guess because I’m married to my husband and we have had the 2 messes and therefore never gone to either. We’ve bought our own house and he’s been away and whatever. So the lifestyle actually if I look back to being a baby junior officer, looking at my older people where I am now you would have lived on the patch you would have had all the party supers, all that stuff all that life style tat appealed to me then, we don’t do any of that now that we are in a position to do so not because it doesn’t appeal but because I am at a different place in my life. But that sort of life style is not a bad one and its really quite a nice way of life. And actually had I left Afghanistan and not met my husband and met another officer and then we would have been co-located because of our jobs and we only had the officers patch and the officers mess and actually your life would take you down those officer wives coffee mornings where there is nothing wrong with marrying a sergeant but we have just never have gone to his mess never gone to my mess. Got our own house cause we don’t want to live on the patch and we’ve had children late and whatever its just not where I find myself but <><><><><><>

## C

You have already described it really, how you find yourself now, what is different?

## Kim

From wat I expected it to be?

## C

To sort of staying in the military, you have kind of half left already.

## Kim

Oh, yeh without a doubt.

## C

You are in your own home

## Kim

I’m living in my own home, I’ve just had a year’s maternity leave, before that I was 2 years in London where I didn’t wear uniform at all, I was commuting. Since I left Waddington in 2000 and January 15 I don’t feel like I’m in the Air Force, not because I felt abandoned by it but because I could have been doing anything.

## C

So, when you finally made that decision to leave how did that feel?

## Kim

It was exciting I think, I didn’t feel like I was pushed into it so after I did that 3 year piece I knew I needed to let the desk know by Christmas past so I was I went onto maternity leave I was coming back and I was going to go back to Wittering I was going to do an A4 Force Head Quarters job at Wittering which just put me in a billet well not a post a year in advance from <><><>< and actually I’d said Lincolnshire I’d just had the baby lets go for that and I was thinking about it and I was thinking about it and I thought its going to be a dull job and I’ve never taken a dull job option because that would be horrendous plus I was thinking more about the childcare and I just said to the desk the thought of not wearing my uniform is too much to bear but the thought of going back is horrendous I want to go. It wasn’t even a massive sense of relief it was exciting it was I’m going and but it has just been what it is and I have gone on my CTW and stuff and I’ve got swept up in all these transferable skills and these amazing jobs an this in the city and all these crazy things ad I’ve had to stop. The reason I am leaving is to stop all this craziness, I’m not trepadatious about it. It is what it is,

## C

So, what happens next do you think? What you have still got a while before you are actually out. What is it?

## Kim

September next year

## C

So, what happens in the next 10 months?

## Kim

So, in the next 10 months RAF 100 will rap up a bit and I will do a bit more with that one imagines work back from my leaving date I will probably go about July I reckon. We are trying for another baby and have been for a while because the idea of again this last year back and if I could have left come back off maternity leave pregnant to work as little as possible this last year I would have done but it has not worked out for us yet or at all if ever. So, we will se if I get pregnant in the next month or so and work back I’ll be out in like March. So that could happen its an option if not its hanging around in July time and then its going on your terminal leave its no different to what I am doing at the moment, maybe a little less work. That’s it have another baby that is where we are going which is fine, excited about CTW and doing my CV and everything like that. I’m not putting a huge amount into it but

## C

Cause you want to stay at home?

## Kim

A little bit, I do need to work but it is not the whole career and I think that is kind of where a little bit CTW or CTP falls down a bit because they take you out and put you into these transferable skills (1852) these amazing jobs but the other briefings they offer you are retirement there is none of this inbetweeny bits when I was sitting at my little desk with people on CTW there was a pilot who was off to do pilot stuff and another pilot who was off to fly for the airlines and there was a couple of Army type captains, cause I was at Cottesmore, who were talking about city jobs. And I just thought I’d quite like to write a book or I would quite like to maybe do project management two or three days a week for the Woodland Trust based in Grantham, maybe management of a National Trust property you know that type of thing which is a job it’s a career of course it is but it is not the whole so CTP is geared to a second career or it is geared to retirement piece for the older ones. So, the bit in between where you think I don’t want a job behind the counter in Laura Ashley I don’t just want a job but I don’t want that massive career like have you heard of two to three days.com that kind of thing.

## C

So, what are you doing your resettlement?

## Kim

I’m doing the 5-day charity management awareness course because actually I would like to work something like the national trust the woodland trust or save the children a charity doing something like project management I volunteer in a care home one day a week anyway I have done that for a while I did that on maternity leave they are a charitable trust. So, I like that charity sector I like that so I am doing that I am doing the school bursar course again quite interested I think it will offer flexible working. Its like managing a squadron but you are OC Logs and managing a squadron was an amazing job and I’d quite like to manage a squadron in real life as a bursar. So that is the 2 courses I have signed up for I probably if at all. But I went to the one day where you have your interview with your career consultant, I took my son with me, I did it the wrong way round with dates, and I took my son with me literally nursing a 6 month old and he was playing on the floor and the woman, the woman was brilliant but she’s suggests I go and do the advanced diploma in company management which is like the 6 week thing at Manchester University and smash together the ELCs and get that level 8 diploma and company director and I sat there are you looking at what I am telling you I am sitting here. But with your command experience you have got and PJHQ and when you put all your skill sets together this is what my little computer is telling you to do and I was like 6 weeks at Manchester uni doing the diploma great to get the company director thing but no! Just No and you can do your Prince2 and your AMP and your Lean 6 sigma and your black belt whatever, you are not listening to me. They are putting your skills in the Air Force and putting them into civilian accreditation yeh that is great but I don’t want civilian accreditation for my 18 years logistics experience, I want I’d like to I read to old people in a home. I want to do that how do I get paid to do that, that would be quite nice actually. That is not because I have got no ambition that is because I like doing that.

## C

So, what do you think is going ot be the biggest change?

## Kim

Financially I think. I think because I am not stepping out of uniform to do nothing. I am going to use maternity and this year it will just be the financial piece. It won’t be suddenly not having to get up and put my uniform on. Because I don’t get up and put my uniform on now. So, it will be financial.

## C

Very last question.

## Kim

Oh, it we are ever friends after this you must be thinking oh my god how dull is she. I’m boring myself.

## C

Is there anything else you would like to add?

## Kim

No, I hope I have not come across as bitter and twisted because I haven’t been promoted because I am not. I hope I have not come across bitter and twisted because I harped on about Mary and I think life owes me anything where I am right now I am quite happy. I love it and there are things I would change but hindsight is a you know a horrible thing and you can’t do anything about it. I am where I am, I love where I am, it made me who I am. (24.42)