



Armed Forces Covenant Case Study 3

About me

I'm originally from Teesside and, apart from a brief flirtation with thinking I might become a marine biologist, I think I always wanted to join the Army.

My parents wouldn't sign the forms to allow me to go in at 16 so, having had enough of education, and with a mixed bag of qualifications, I began working at a major local employer on a general engineering Youth Training Scheme until I turned 18, at which point I enlisted in the Intelligence Corps as a Private soldier.

I served for 30 extremely enjoyable and rewarding years in England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Germany, Croatia, Bosnia, Iraq, Afghanistan, Nepal, and even, fleetingly, the USA in several different intelligence and security roles. As my career progressed, I became more security focussed, supporting Defence, Police Forces and wider government in security and counter terrorist operational roles.

My career path

I applied for somewhere in the region of 35 jobs online over a six-month period, then saw the advert for my current job. I applied and was offered the role which I started a month after I left the Army.

This is my first job since leaving the Army and I've been doing it for just over 2.5 years. Service leavers are often told that the first job they land after leaving won't necessarily be their 'for ever' job but this seems like a good fit.

It was just luck. When I saw the job advert for a Security Officer I almost overlooked it, imagining it would entail checking passes and operating a vehicle barrier. In fact, it was one of the only job descriptions I read that seemed to have been written by someone who understood the role and it played to my skill set. The fact that it was in the renewable energy business was almost incidental but as I researched the company the thought of being part of something so beneficial really appealed.

My advice to anyone looking to get a job in the industry would be to network as much as possible. Make sure your CV reflects your skills and experience in easily understood civilian terms and doesn't undersell you. This is an immensely diverse industry in terms of job roles and the people you will meet. Embrace it!



My current role

I am the Security Officer responsible for developing and implementing policy, procedures and standards for our onshore and offshore wind, solar and battery business units. I conduct threat assessments to determine the level of security risk a project will be exposed to during construction and throughout its operational lifespan. I also advise on travel and event security.



Transferable skills

My experience of all aspects of security has been invaluable and allowed me to hit the ground running. I am often working on multiple projects in multiple countries at any one time so self-discipline, self-reliance, time-management and punctuality, flexibility, the ability to juggle and a sense of humour are all important.