

**Daniel Mckeown, 38**

**Served with the Army (Royal Corps of Signals)**



**Post Office Role: I.T Security**

**Background:**

I joined the military in 2005, serving in the Army with the Royal Corps of Signals for six years. It was great to be able to travel: in total I did 2 tours of Afghanistan, 1 tour of Northern Ireland and also spent some time in Africa and Oman. In the end, my decision to leave the Army was driven by wanting to take on new challenges and experiences.

**What was leaving like?**

A bit of a shock! But you meet a wide range of people when you're in the Forces, and that gives you a really good support system. They're always on hand to give you good advice and point you in the right direction with regards to 'next steps'.

**What did you first do when you left?**

I spent six months working for UK Defence, and then almost six years working in Afghanistan and Libya. When I returned to London, I went to a recruitment company, FDM, who run an ex-military programme that specialises in Project Management IT training, and they suggested looking at the Post Office for my next role. I was attracted to the job because it offered me the chance to take responsibility for some really interesting projects straight away and offered future career progression.

**What kind of skills did you have from your time in the military that are helping you in your new job?**

- Leadership/Management skills – During my time in the military, I was often put in charge of leading team of people with a wide range of backgrounds. The military has helped me acquire the skills necessary to fuse together different personalities into an effective team
- Good interpersonal skills - the military makes you understand the importance of working collaboratively, and this has transferred into areas such as dealing with suppliers and new team mates. It's definitely true that we're stronger together!
- Ability to make decisions and solve problems – constantly working to tight deadline and in difficult environments helps me now when I'm working under pressure and trying to meet deadlines.

**Are you enjoying your new role?**

Absolutely - I've moved into the IT Security Department and every week there is something new to work on, which makes it interesting and keeps me on my toes! Post Office has been very supportive, and I've met a wide range of people who have been welcoming and supportive in my transition into civilian life.

**What more do you think employers could do to support ex-military new joiners?**

I do think that there is a lack of understanding within businesses today as to what skillsets ex service personnel actually have and how they would benefit from employing veterans. It would be brilliant if there were collaborative programmes that gave ex-personnel a chance to showcase their skillsets to prospective employers, so that businesses might have a better understanding of how best to utilise those leaving the Forces to benefit their businesses.

**What are you enjoying about civilian life?**

Aside from being able to enjoy a much better variety of food, it's so nice to be able to see family and friends on a more regular basis and I am really looking forward to my first Christmas back in the UK for a while!

**Would you recommend working for the Post Office to others leaving the military?**

I'd definitely suggest they consider it. Since my arrival here, I've found the Post Office team to be welcoming and always ready to lend a hand. There's a real team ethos here and ex service personnel would find that they would fit seamlessly into this environment.