



Compressed air homecoming



Chris Ferriday
Business Line Manager,
Atlas Copco

After eight years in the RAF, Chris Ferriday, Business Line Manager at Atlas Copco has found his second home in the compressed air industry.

Now, with 20 years' experience in a civilian role, here's how Chris found his ideal career outside of the military environment.

Said Chris:

"I loved my time in the Forces, but like many of my comrades, when the time came to leave, I wanted to leave quickly.

This usually means taking whatever role you can; in my case, as a service engineer working on access platforms. Sure, it paid the bills, but I didn't particularly enjoy the role, and it was certainly no match for almost a decade of military training."

Chris left the company for a role assessing insurance claims, working alongside an ex-army officer who instantly recognised his potential, followed by another sales role, where the interviewer had seen active service in the Belgian army.

Said Chris:

"Both of these jobs were very customer focused and clearly my employers recognised the people management and organisational skills that I could bring to the business from my time in the military.

However, in the RAF, I'd really enjoyed the technical aspects, and I found I was missing this. I decided I'd like to find a suitable role that would blend my engineering experience with my management skills."

Background

Chris joined the RAF at 17, coming straight from college into trade training at St. Athan in Wales.

Progressing to ground support equipment technician, Chris spent time at RAF Odiham camp supporting Chinook helicopters, followed by a two-year stint in Cyprus before returning to the UK at RAF Waddington in Lincolnshire.

As luck would have it, Chris was approached by Atlas Copco and the rest really is history. He joined the business as a compressed air sales engineer for the West Midlands and hasn't looked back.

"I'm now Business Line Manager for the Process Cooling division, a role where I really get to use many of the life skills I gained in the military – such as working with lots of different personalities, meeting deadlines and managing my team.

My daughter is following in my footsteps and is an apprentice service engineer for Atlas Copco, so you could say that compressed air runs in the family! I genuinely wouldn't go anywhere else!"

"As soon as I joined the compressed air industry, I knew I was in the right place. It's not just the right fit for my skillset; there's also structure which is important to me."