



Character and determination



PROUDLY
SUPPORTING
THOSE WHO
SERVE.



Ian Best
Business Line Manager,
Atlas Copco Group

A positive attitude and highly transferable skills made Ian Best's (Business Line Manager at Atlas Copco Group) transition to a civilian role seamless!

Ian shares how his experience from the Royal Navy has led to him pursuing a fulfilling career in industry.

Said Ian:

"The Harrier jump jet was an incredible feat of British Engineering and I loved working on the aircraft. When the fleet was sadly retired, I knew I needed to find a new career that could still give me the same excitement.

For many veterans, finding meaningful employment outside of the Forces is a real challenge. Many employers simply don't recognise the military skills we possess, and I know many of my peers found it hard to settle.

I count myself as fortunate that I had an easy transition. I found work straight away in the offshore industry, carrying out surveys for future platforms and cable routes – a role I held for six years."

But Ian was keen to use his skills in other ways, playing to his people management and organisational skills. So, when he saw a role advertised for an internal sales engineer with Atlas Copco Group, he was quick to apply – and was accepted.

Ian soon proved his value to the organisation and in 2018 was promoted to Business Line Manager, while also successfully completing a Business Management degree through the Open University, funded by the company.

Ian continued:

"I would say to any veteran looking for a new career, don't worry so much about the skills

Background

Ian joined the Royal Navy the day after his 17th birthday, completing his basic training at HMS Raleigh in Torpoint, Cornwall before undertaking a two-year apprenticeship in aeronautical engineering. As a qualified aircraft engineering technician, Ian was fortunate to work on Harrier jump jets until the aircraft was retired in 2010 – leading Ian to pursue a new challenge outside of the military.

you can demonstrate on paper. The character, determination and flexibility that we are all taught in the military are incredibly valuable to a potential employer.

Working in the compressed air industry has certainly enabled me to use many of these traits. Working with a team and all pulling together to get the job done... Retaining a laser focus to make sure important tasks are completed on time and with high quality and precision.

Industry really values these skills, so be proud of what you can bring to the role!"

"My experience of civilian employment has been very good and, while I know the transition isn't easy for everyone, I'm a firm believer in focusing on the positives."

