



A second family



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Jason Chapman
Business Development
Manager, Atlas Copco

After 14 years in the Army, Jason Chapman found settling into civilian work hard.

With six jobs in the first 12 months, the Royal Engineer veteran, now turned Business Development Manager for Atlas Copco, explains how the compressed air industry finally helped him feel at home.

Said Jason:

"Army life gave me structure. I gained a broad spectrum of knowledge and technical skills but when I retired, I just couldn't find the right place to put these skills to good use.

I had a string of jobs over the first year and I even tried setting up my own business, but nothing could replace the camaraderie and the sense of working together as a team. Like a lot of veterans, I was probably quite poor at promoting myself and explaining how my talents could be put to best use in a civilian workplace.

I started to find my feet a little when I joined engineering consultants, WS Atkins, working my way up to become project manager. Finally, I'd found a role where I felt comfortable – aligning my team and planning jobs. It bought back a lot of the enjoyment I'd felt in the military."

Another stint working for an M&E contractor put Jason under a lot of pressure so when he was approached by an agency that was recruiting a service manager role for Atlas Copco, he thought it was worth a try, even though he knew nothing about compressed air.

Jason continued:

"I was a bit daunted heading into the interview, but I needn't have worried as the interviewer was ex-Navy and was much more interested in my people management skills than what I knew about air compressors!

Background

Jason joined the Army at 16, initially in the Junior Leader regiment, based in Dover. A successful apprenticeship in Electrical Engineering saw Jason posted as a Royal Engineer. Roles range from combat engineer, to bridging and construction roles to military aid to civil communities (MAC-C) in peace time scenarios across various theatres of operations for more than 12 years.

Put simply, the skills we learn in the Army – keeping a clear head or finding a solution to fix a problem – are all transferable. It's so rewarding to be putting everything I learnt in the military to good use."

"11 years and three roles later, I honestly can't see me working anywhere else. The compressed air industry has become my second family, and I truly believe that compressed air and military experience go hand in hand."

