

Veteran Profile Ben Winters



Snapshot

Name:	Ben Winters
Military Service:	16 years
Military Career:	Logistics Officer, RAF
Joined Fujitsu:	2018
Fujitsu Career:	Project & Programme Manager

Military Background

With 16 years' service as a Logistics Officer in the RAF, Ben Winters has enjoyed a wide and varied military career. From being the RAF Liaison Officer for Western America, responsible for dealing with the aircraft that transitioned through the Pacific region, and dealing with those logistics arrangements. To heading up the Logistics Squadron at RAF Benson, responsible for managing the team of people who were tasked with delivering Puma aircraft to support ongoing training efforts in Afghanistan. Ben embraced every challenge he was faced with.

But with a wife and three young children he knew he needed to introduce more stability to family life, especially as the children approached school age. So, Ben started to make provision for his career away from the RAF. *"Towards the last 4 years of my service I completed a Masters Degree in Project & Programme Management, partly because that's what interested me, but also with one eye on my future career,"* reasons Ben.

Civilian Transition

Once Ben had taken the decision to leave the RAF, and with his Masters Degree secured, he took full advantage of the various transition services available, carefully planning his exit. *"I was able to complete several useful courses that the Careers Transition Partnership (CTP) was offering, including a three-week Builders course which I knew would be useful when the time came to move out of Military quarters. I've managed to put this to good use as we've recently renovated our house,"* explains Ben.

Other CTP services that Ben was able to take advantage of included their Industry Open Day, regional careers fairs and careers advisory sessions, including CV development. However, it was former Military colleagues who had joined Fujitsu that alerted Ben to the opportunities that were available there. As Ben was keen to stay within the Defence sector, to utilise his existing skill set, knowledge and experience it proved to be an irresistible opportunity: *"Fujitsu ticked all the boxes, and the fact that they were so highly recommended by former Military colleagues who I could trust made it a no-brainer!"*

Life at Fujitsu

Ben joined Fujitsu during his Terminal Leave Period from the RAF, effectively starting his new career as a Project Manager before his old one had lapsed. In this role Ben is responsible for delivering a wide range of IT projects for the MoD, both in the UK and overseas, as part of the Global Connectivity programme.

Upon joining, Ben became one of the first to embark on Fujitsu's new Military Transition & Talent Programme (MTTP) initiative, aimed at increasing the support that Fujitsu offers high-calibre individuals as they transition from military to industry employment. *"MTTP has given me time to bed-in and adapt to my new surroundings. While the Mentoring Programme aligns an individual with a Senior Executive who is operating in a similar field but isn't my Line Manager or responsible for my appraisal or assessment,"* explains Ben.

While Service Leavers usually bring a great deal of transferrable skills to the commercial workplace, it is often the case that they lack comprehensive commercial and financial acumen.

The Military Transition & Talent Programme seeks to address this, and is something that Ben has found extremely useful: *"In the RAF, I was responsible for millions of pounds worth of military assets, but I was never accountable for the P&L, nor any commercial negotiations. So, bridging this gap in my skills is going to be tremendously beneficial, both for me personally and Fujitsu,"* he concludes.



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Why Fujitsu?

For over five decades Fujitsu has been a major supplier to the MOD, Government Departments and intelligence communities. As a result, Fujitsu has over 5,500 security cleared UK staff and the experience to deliver and manage both generic industry offerings, and those tailored to specialist needs at Official, Secret and Above Secret classifications.

Our extensive experience working within Defence and National Security has enabled us to recognise the significant contribution that veterans and reserve personnel bring to the commercial sector. For many years, Fujitsu has helped Service leavers to transition from military to civilian life. Thanks to our close working partnership with Career Transition Partnership (CTP) and CTP Assist we provide the opportunity for veterans to develop rewarding careers within our organisation.

Today, 15% of Fujitsu's security cleared staff who work in our Defence & National Security business originate from a Services background. They fulfil a wide variety of roles from Project Management, Security Architects and Customer Solution Architects, to 1st, 2nd and 3rd Line support roles, Service Engineers and Test Analysts.

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