

Veteran Profile

David Gray



Name:	David Gray
Military Service:	24 years
Military Career:	Royal Navy, Catering Services Manager
Joined Fujitsu:	2023
Fujitsu Career:	Junior Test Analyst

“I know I’ve made the right decision. I’m looking forward to developing my skillset even further, and management is my ultimate aspiration.”

Military background

Having joined the Royal Navy as a Junior Cook in 1999, David Gray has risen through the ranks during his successful and varied 24-year Naval career. Following his initial placement in HMS Raleigh, he then went on to serve in the Gulf on the flagship aircraft carrier HMS Illustrious. Promotion to Leading Hand on HMS Lancaster followed, before becoming one of the Leading Chefs back on dry land at Admiralty House in Portsmouth. Further stints at sea followed aboard HMS St Albans following his promotion to Petty Officer in 2010, and a return to HMS Lancaster where the ship deployed to infiltrate illicit narcotics trade in 2013, with the additional role of being the Senior Flight Deck Officer. His last time at sea was a NATO deployment to the Black Sea aboard HMS Duncan as a Chief Petty Officer.

These tours abroad were punctuated by two further placements to HMS Collingwood where David joined a Classified Naval Intelligence building as the Security Facilities Manager in 2014. He then returned to become a Leadership Instructor in 2019. “This is when I realised that I wasn’t making the most of my skills, or my passions for technology and innovation,” explained David. During this time, he applied for and passed his Admiralty Interview Board making him eligible to commission as a Naval Officer. He later re-joined HMS Duncan during a refit, and was granted an Extension of Service, but in October 2021, he submitted his notice to leave in an attempt to further his career and seek new personal development opportunities.

Civilian transition

While unsure of the specific route his career would now take, David knew he wanted to pursue opportunities in computing and technology. With this aim, he engaged fully with the Careers Transition Partnership (CTP) to equip him with the necessary skills he would need, along with the job seeking advice and guidance that would help him find his next role. “The first event I attended was a CTP employment fair in Southampton, which is where I first met Fujitsu. We discussed the range of opportunities available, and I left them my details,” he explained.

David wasn’t a stranger to Fujitsu though as he was involved in maintaining Fujitsu equipment in the latter-stages of his Royal Navy career. “And my father-in-law also used to work for Fujitsu as a Tester, so I knew what they did!” David continued his engagement with CTP, firstly embarking on their popular Resettlement Workshop to help with job-seeking basics like CV writing and interview preparation, along with broader civilian transition preparedness. And he followed this with an in-depth IT Networks and Security training course, which is just one of a whole range of retraining course options offered by CTP.

Life at Fujitsu

Following his initial meeting at the Southampton employment fair, Fujitsu then offered him a role as Junior Test Analyst. Working within its OEHE team, David joined a team of six testers in January 2023, responsible for a secure platform for the integration of information services. “The working environment is completely different to what I’ve been used to, but the team I’m working with and the support I’ve received from Fujitsu throughout my induction cannot be faulted!” he enthuses.

David is clearly relishing his new challenge and settling in well to his new career with Fujitsu: “it’s relatively early days, but I know I’ve made the right decision. I’m looking forward to developing my skillset even further, and management is my ultimate aspiration.”

Why Fujitsu?

For over 50 years we have innovated with the MOD, Government Departments and intelligence communities, co-creating new technologies and capabilities. As a result, Fujitsu has around 4,000 security cleared 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.



Contact

Bridget Ward, Head of Business Operations
Jays Close, Viabes Industrial Estate, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG22 4BY
Tel: +44 (0) 7867 837199
Email: Bridget.Ward@fujitsu.co.uk
uk.fujitsu.com