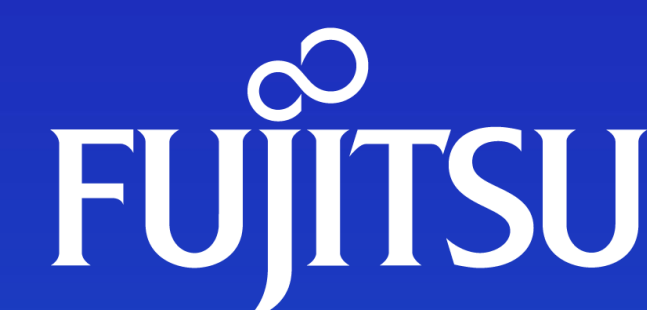


Veteran profile

David Gray



Name:	David Gray
Military service:	24 years
Military career:	Royal Navy, Catering Services Manager
Joined Fujitsu:	2023
Fujitsu career:	Network Operations Manager

"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 worked as the Security Facilities Manager in 2014. He then returned to HMS Collingwood 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.

In November 2023 he applied for a promotion within Networks and is now a team lead for the delivery of Specific Site Designs to the Customer. David is clearly relishing his new challenge and has settled in well to his new career with Fujitsu: ***"I am constantly learning and improving my skills and know joining Fujitsu was the right decision. I'm looking forward to developing my skillset even further as a manager and hope to be a capability lead in the near future."***

Why Fujitsu in Defence & National Security?

Our world is being disrupted. But together with you, Fujitsu ambition is to build a brighter, more sustainable future for us all.

We want to work together to navigate this digital disruption collaboratively, and explore solutions to the evolving threats we face today. Together, we can exploit technology that will drive high-impact improvement, transform our digital future, and help to make us more sustainable in every way.

We can do this by harnessing technologies such as AI, machine learning, digital twin, quantum, and high-performance computing. Our vision uses the power of everyone, bringing together our integration capabilities and knowledge in managed services with cognitive and advanced technologies that will drive your digital transformation. By elevating people higher up the value chain allows the smartest ideas to emerge to tackle tomorrow's big challenges today – whatever they may be.

With our technological inspiration and business vision from Japan, we touch the lives of millions of people around the world every day. For over 60 years, we've been working at the highest levels of security demanded by militaries, governments, and industry to ensure the UK's most critical infrastructure operates smoothly, 24/7.

We've continually had to adapt to a changing world, and we will keep evolving in the face of future threats. We are diverse, creative, talented, and different. And we are committed to building new possibilities for everyone. By connecting people, technology and ideas, we are making the world more sustainable by building trust in society through innovation.



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