

Veteran Profile

Cas Whitenstall



Name:	Cas Whitenstall
Military Service:	14 years
Military Career:	Communication Information Systems Specialist, Royal Navy
Joined Fujitsu:	2022
Fujitsu Career:	Security Consultant

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Military background

Having completed her basic training in the Royal Navy in 2000, Cas Whitenstall was forced to leave the service after less than a year as she struggled to come to terms with the death of her father. As she took time away to re-evaluate, she was then rocked by the loss of her mother. But despite this trauma, Cas was determined to use these life events as her inspiration: “My parents saw me thrive in the naval environment, so I decided to use the Navy as the focal point for my future,” she reasoned.

Cas re-joined the service in 2008, working in the Communications schools based at HMS Collingwood, the Communications centre based in HMNB Portsmouth, and Semaphore Tower based in HMNB Portsmouth. She then joined her first ship - HMS St. Albans - a Type 23 Frigate. And then on recommendation, joined Fishery Protection Squadron (FPS), managing her department onboard HMS Tyne, and rotating round to manage departments onboard HMS Clyde, HMS Mersey and HMS Severn. Among many taskings, FPS works closely with the Marine Management Organisation (MMO).

Following this, Cas was posted to a type-45 destroyer as a leading hand communicator with responsibility for her department, and liaison with global organisations like NATO. “It was great to experience the various ship types and understand how they each operated. It was also great to see the world, including the Caribbean, the Falkland Islands, South Africa, Iceland and the Middle East,” she recalled. Back on land, Cas’s final posting was at Navy Command on Whale Island in Portsmouth where she was an Information Manager working for 4th-generation logistics responsible for security and information sharing.

Civilian transition

Unfortunately for Cas, her Navy career was cut short by a medical discharge at the start of 2022, and she was forced to plot her next career move. She began her job-hunting by uploading her CV to LinkedIn, and received a number of job offers, but one role in particular stood out. *“I’d come across Fujitsu during my time in the Navy at Whale Island. My role there involved liaising with the Fujitsu team who managed the hardware, so I gained an understanding of what they did, and started to learn a little bit about who they worked for,”* she recalled.

As part of her civilian transition, Cas took advantage of the MOD's Enhanced Learning Credits Scheme (ELC) which promotes lifelong learning amongst members of the Armed Forces. The scheme provides financial support for higher level learning of a nationally recognised qualification at Level three or above. *“I completed the Level 3 Coaching and Mentoring course with the Career Transition Partnership (CTP), and I’m moving on to do my Cyber Security Degree at Winchester University, all as part of my resettlement,”* explained Cas.

Life at Fujitsu

It's still very early days, having only joined Fujitsu one month ago, but in her new role as Cyber Security Consultant, Cas is based at HMS Collingwood, the Royal Navy's largest training establishment. *"While it's great to see some old Navy friends, everyone around me at Fujitsu has been really supportive. And despite the familiar surroundings, it's massively different to what I was used to, but in a really good way,"* explains an excited Cas.

The skillset Cas brings to Fujitsu is highly transferrable from her Navy career, but she is keen to continue to broaden these skills further having already signed up to several courses to allow her to do so, as part of the comprehensive induction and onboarding process. And Cas is revelling in her new life at Fujitsu having already represented the hockey team - playing against the Royal Navy!



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.



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