



'Spotlight on...' equality, diversity and inclusion

Ex-Forces Daniel secures returnship after one-week work experience placement

Daniel Sherlock joined on Monday 17th September 2018 as a work experience placement after leaving the forces, but quickly secured a 3-month contract due to his attitude, expertise, hard work and professionalism.

A qualified carpenter and joiner, Daniel had secured his trade through an apprenticeship when he was 16 and then went on to work for a variety of contractors undertaking fit out works throughout the UK. However, when recession hit and the industry turned, Daniel looked to his passion for wanting the join the forces to become a reality:



"I'd always wanted to be in the forces and the parachute regiment appealed to me just due to the scale of the challenge. The industry wasn't good, and this was the perfect moment to move over to the Para's."

Daniel stayed in the Para's for seven years, gaining various promotions to Section Commander, before looking to leave and return to the industry in a more settled and stable environment.

"I think the Para's gives you a brilliant mind-set and if you have the right mind set, then everything is achievable. I was in charge of a whole section of the platoon, so that involved missions as well as career development for the guys. The seven core values the Para's give you a real good cultural grounding to take forward. This is a new chapter in my life and a new adventure, so I'm really enjoying it so far. I wanted to be a bit more settled, with more stability for my family – we're due to have our first child so a settled career was a really important step."

There wasn't much time for rest between careers, as Daniel finished in the Para's on Friday and started with Morgan Sindall on Monday. This is partly down to the fact that another contractor deal for employment had fallen away, leaving Daniel without a job. Caroline Logan from BuildForce got in touch with Senior PM Dan Morrish, and quickly sorted a week's unpaid work experience to fill the gap, however, it was soon lengthened to a 3-month contract. BuildForce are a construction industry initiative, looking to attract the best military talent from the Royal Airforce, British Army and Royal Navy into the construction industry.

"I finished Friday, and then started with Morgan Sindall on Monday. An offer I had had fallen away and so I'd paid for some safety courses. However, when Morgan Sindall got in touch the work experience placement was too good an opportunity to leave, so I cancelled the courses and headed here."

Case Study: Morgan Sindall



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Daniel threw himself in at the deep end on our £19m Lexden SEN School project in Essex, undertaking site risk assessments, method statements, checking quality and helping with drawing assessments.

In Sept 2019, Daniel secured a full-time contract with Morgan Sindall as an assistant site manager and completed his level 6 NVQ in construction management.