

CASE STUDY

Armed Forces Veterans: Amanda Richardson, Offshore Materials and Logistics Coordinator

Amanda Richardson, based on the Well-Safe Defender plug and abandonment rig, is a 'Matco'.

Amanda shares more about her armed forces past and why she opted for a role in decommissioning with Well-Safe Solutions.

What was your role in the armed forces?

I joined the Royal Corps of Signals when I was 16. I started at the British Army Apprentice College in Harrogate as a Radio Technician (now known as a Systems Engineer), where I earned my BTEC National Diploma in Engineering.

I was then posted to Northern Ireland for three years where I was promoted to Corporal. I then became a Skill at Arms instructor and was based at Bassingbourn, leading new recruits through basic military training.

What was your first role immediately after your service?

I left the Army in 2001 after six years and worked at a car garage in sales administration.

Tell us a bit more about your career progression to date.

Before starting offshore in 2021, I'd had many different experiences. I did a degree in accounting and, while a student, worked in pubs, betting shops and call centres. After I graduated, I had a successful career in procurement. I fell out of love with that career as I became more senior – and when lockdown hit, I was increasingly unhappy.

I left that behind to work offshore. Being offshore reminds me so much of being back in the Army and I once again enjoy my work. It's really refreshing and I'd definitely recommend this career to ex-forces personnel.

What attracted you to Well-Safe Solutions?

I was working ad hoc and moving from rig to rig when Well-Safe Solutions and a drilling company both offered me a permanent position. I chose Well-Safe Solutions as the decommissioning industry offers more security than drilling.

A few colleagues from a rig I had worked on previously had also joined Well-Safe and said it was a good company to work for with a good crew.

Why Well-Safe Solutions?

- Decommissioning is a fast-growing sector with decades of international work ahead.
- We provide a direct route into the industry, tailored to benefit armed forces veterans and their skillsets.
- Others have successfully made the switch - why not join the team?



Hard at work on the Well-Safe Defender!



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Which skills from your forces career have you been able to apply in your new role?

There's a lot of similarities between working offshore and the military: you're working away from home; it's a male-dominated environment and there's a lot of rules, particularly related to safety - military personnel are used to rules!

The ex-forces personnel are usually happy with the accommodation because you've almost certainly had worse in the forces. You work long hours but have a good laugh along the way. Like the military, working offshore isn't just a job, it's a way of life.

Did you face any challenges when entering the decommissioning sector? If so, what were these?

I've been lucky - as I had previous experience with decommissioning work, I was able to adjust quite quickly. Compared to drilling, there's more security and longevity, so you definitely aren't as worried when a contract finishes.

What would you say to anyone in your position who is looking to transition from the forces into a decommissioning role?

Go for it. Don't be afraid to make the jump, even if you don't get what you're after straightaway. Speak to your military/offshore contacts and keep knocking on doors. I've spoken to colleagues offshore who've felt lost when they left the forces, but then felt right at home once on a rig.



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Well-Safe Solutions is a proud signatory of the Armed Forces Covenant and currently holds the Bronze Award of the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme.

Bronze award holders are armed forces-friendly and are open to employing reservists, veterans, cadet instructors and military spouses/partners.



Well-Safe Solutions Ltd
C4 Building, Gateway Crescent,
Gateway Business Park,
Aberdeen, AB12 3GA

T: +44 (0) 1224 548 400
E: info@wellsafesolutions.com

WELLSAFESOLUTIONS.COM