

Luke Hester

Luke has more than 9 years of experience in the military and 2 years as a Product Test Engineer. He has expertise in testing and software development.

May 2024 - Present

Software Developer

Software developer with a focus on infrastructure and testing.

- Simplified the process of creating build pipeline scripts, improving efficiency by reducing boilerplate code. This was achieved with a Jenkins shared library that reduced the pipeline code to a single function call.
- Setup and introduced Docker containers to solve dependency issues in projects.
- Built a website crawler to test site access and dynamically provide site locators for UI testing saving manual efforts and improving reliability.

Feb 2023 - May 2024

Special Response Bomb Disposal Operative

Member of a team providing specialist technical bomb disposal response.

- Collaborated with the Home Office, Atomic Weapons Establishment and international counterparts in the delivery and execution of training exercises.
- Responsible for the design and production of bomb disposal training devices used to validate UK advanced bomb disposal operators, FBI and other overseas counterparts. This involved understanding the threat picture and conceptualising devices that would test operators at the right level. The devices ranged from fully mechanical, to a combination of discreet electronics and software based components.
- Designed and produced a monitoring system for training devices. Display GUI and logic written in C. It replaced previous systems as the GUI and user defined input allowed for increased flexibility, usability and troubleshooting.

Feb 2021 - Feb 2023

Operations Centre Ammunition Technical Support

This role was varied, with many responsibilities in the HQ of bomb disposal for the UK, which included providing explosive safety governance to the UK military.

- Processed requests and allocated expert explosive safety advisers in support of UK and overseas deployments.
- The information required for planning and tracking the deployment of personnel was being double entered into two systems leading to errors. Seeing the opportunity for

improvement, a system combining MS Teams, Planner and Power Automate was built and rolled out increasing efficiency and reducing errors.

- Working within the bounds of the restricted military IT system, Power Automate and SharePoint Lists were utilised to create a database for tracking and storing munition incident reports and sending automatic deadline reminders.
- The process for requesting explosive experts for deployments involved a dated PDF form and a long email approval chain, resulting in last minute deployments. Using MS Power Apps, a web app was produced that replaced the whole process providing a improved experience for the requester, shorter request timelines and greater transparency for personnel planning. This was recognised and work was conducted with contractors in Army HQ to integrate it into another Army platform.

May 2019 - Feb 2021

Product Test Engineer

Responsible as the test lead for planning and executing testing on a Windows & Linux based software suite, hardware and firmware.

- Created python scripts to automate processing and analysis of data streamlining previously manual processes.
- Designed and prototyped a test data storage utility to allow for companywide sharing and minimise collection duplication. The utility was composed of a SQL database combined with a Python frontend.
- Setup, troubleshoot and tested range of hardware including inertial navigation units, LiDAR scanners and GPS cards.
- Gained a deep understanding of a new product by conducting Agile, in development testing. This led to being best placed to create a customer training package on the tool, presented to worldwide automotive engineers.

Sep 2018 - May 2019

Unexploded Ordnance Specialist

Client facing role providing advice, guidance and the real time risk mitigation of unexploded ordnance.

- Independence and confidence was demonstrated by traveling nationwide to deliver the service, including presenting briefs to clients.
- In order to advertise my business in a lean manner, I taught myself full stack web development to design, code and host my business website. This ignited my passion for software development.

Sep 2017 - Sep 2018

Mine Clearance Diver

Dive team member providing underwater bomb disposal.

- Completed the mentally and physically arduous clearance diver course, gaining HSE certification, rewarded with the ability to work as an offshore diver.
- Worked as part of a close-knit team, relying on each other to correctly setup and maintain safety critical equipment whilst under intense pressure, including complex systems like therapeutic compression chambers.

Jan 2013 - Sep 2017

Ammunition Technician

Conducted technical training that resulted in being a subject matter expert in the full lifecycle of ammunition through to destruction.

- Operations supervisor, responsible for managing and co-ordinating Bomb Disposal call outs in mainland UK, requiring effective communication to provide accurate advice and guidance to senior military and civilian authorities.
- Serving as the second-in-command of a high-threat bomb disposal team, piloting Remote Operated Vehicles for bomb disposal tasks and performed routine maintenance on them along with troubleshooting issues.