

# MATTHEW BLAIR-VINCENT

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## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Former Parachute Regiment soldier and current Army Reservist, now transitioning into a cybersecurity career. I am seeking an entry-level role (SOC Analyst, Threat Intelligence, or Incident Response) where I can bring my analytical background, discipline, and problem-solving skills.

I am extremely motivated about this career change and dedicate much of my spare time to hands-on labs and training, particularly with Immersive Labs, as well as TryHackMe and the Google Cybersecurity Certificate. I am also preparing for CompTIA Security+.

My military and international security background gives me a unique perspective on risk, intelligence, and secure operations, while my current focus is on building the technical foundations to thrive in a cybersecurity role.

## CORE SKILLS

- **Security Operations (SOC):** Log analysis, threat detection, incident reporting, SIEM workflows
- **Cybersecurity Training:** Google Cybersecurity Certificate (in progress), TryHackMe, Immersive Labs, CompTIA Security+ (studying)
- **Threat & Risk Analysis:** Reconnaissance, HUMINT, OSINT, infiltration ops → transferable to threat hunting & adversary analysis
- **Information Assurance:** MOD Defence Information Management Passport & Protecting Information (secure handling of classified data)
- **Leadership & Instruction:** Qualified instructor (BTEC L3 Education & Training, ILM Team Leading); experience training multinational teams
- **Languages:** English (native), French (fluent)

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### Royal Artillery Reserves | Present

British Army

- Support unit training and exercises while maintaining readiness and discipline.
- Apply analytical and leadership skills gained from previous intelligence and reconnaissance roles.
- Continue professional development with focus on cyber readiness.

### Parachute Regiment – Reconnaissance & Tactical Intelligence | 2007-2016

British Army

- **Herrick 8:** Rifleman on frontline operations in Afghanistan.
- **Herrick 13:** Intelligence Cell – produced reports, briefings, and risk assessments to support operational planning.
- Collected and analysed intelligence from multiple sources, identifying patterns of insurgent activity.
- Conducted reconnaissance patrols and HUMINT collection, providing commanders with actionable intelligence.
- Promoted to Lance Corporal; trained and mentored junior soldiers.
- Completed specialist training: Tactical Intelligence (Afghanistan-specific), Ground Sign Awareness Instructor.
- Awarded the Operational Service Medal (Afghanistan with clasp).

### Endangered Species Protection Agency (ESPA), DRC & South Africa | 2016–2020

Endangered Species Protection Agency

- Delivered anti-poaching training to ranger units in French across the DRC, covering tactics, awareness, and operational resilience.
- Conducted undercover infiltration operations against illegal wildlife trafficking networks in South Africa, applying HUMINT and OSINT to map trafficking routes and identify key actors.
- Coordinated with NGOs and international partners, producing intelligence reports to support enforcement operations.
- Enhanced local ranger capacity and built strong cross-cultural training partnerships.

## **Sea Company – Founder & Coordinator | 2021–Present**

### **South Shields Surf School**

- Founded a veterans' surf therapy group in partnership with South Shields Surf School.
- Expanded membership to circa 100 veterans, with weekly surf and beach-based sessions.
- Secured £25,000 grant from the Veterans' Foundation to expand operations and outreach.
- Designed and delivered free surf lessons, peer-led recovery activities, and community integration programmes for veterans facing PTSD, depression, and social isolation.
- Built a self-sustaining culture of resilience and leadership among participants.

## **Oceander CIC – Co-Founder & Director | 2022–Present**

### **Oceander CIC**

- Co-founded a social enterprise providing accommodation and support for homeless people in Sunderland.
- Oversaw safeguarding, compliance, and GDPR processes to ensure secure handling of sensitive client information.
- Built partnerships with councils, charities, and community organisations to expand support networks.
- Managed property development, budgets, and staff recruitment.

## **Property Business – Owner/Manager | 2020–Present**

### **Springtide Property Ltd**

- Manage buy-to-let property portfolio and tenancy agreements.
- Oversee contracts, finance, and secure digital documentation.
- Apply project management and compliance skills transferable to cyber roles.

## **CLEARANCES AND QUALIFICATIONS**

- Held Security Check (SC), Counter Terrorist Check (CTC), and NATO Secret clearances during service.
- MOD Information Assurance Training – Defence Information Management Passport & Protecting Information (secure handling of classified/sensitive data).
- Tactical Intelligence (Theatre-Specific, Afghanistan) – intelligence collection, analysis, and reporting.
- Ground Sign Awareness Instructor (2015) – advanced tracking and pattern recognition.
- BTEC Level 3 Award in Education & Training (2018) – qualified instructor.
- BCS Level 2 Certificate in IT User Skills (ECDL Extra, 2016).
- ILM Level 2 Award in Team Leading (2010).
- OCR Level 2 Certificates in Adult Literacy & Numeracy.
- Operational Service Medal (Afghanistan, with clasp).

## **TRAINING & EDUCATION (REFINED)**

- Immersive Labs (Ongoing): Hands-on SOC and incident response labs (suspicious email analysis, registry key hunts, malware detection, digital forensics).
- Google Cybersecurity Professional Certificate (in progress): Core cyber foundations including networking, Linux CLI, security operations, and incident response.
- TryHackMe: Practical labs in log analysis, Wireshark filtering, suspicious email analysis, and basic penetration testing.
- CompTIA Security+ (studying): Preparing for certification in core security principles and best practice.
- Additional modules completed: Networking, Linux Command Line, Secure Fundamentals, Ethics & Laws, Cyber Safety.