

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.
- Completed **Tactical Intelligence Course (TIC Alpha)** before deployment – trained in information collection, pattern analysis, mapping, and report writing under operational conditions.
- Collected and analysed intelligence from multiple sources, identifying patterns of insurgent activity.
- Conducted reconnaissance patrols and HUMINT collection in Patrols Platoon (3 PARA), applying observation, terrain analysis, and threat recognition — directly transferable to threat hunting and vulnerability reconnaissance in cybersecurity.
- 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 **privately commissioned investigative work** in South Africa on illegal wildlife trafficking networks — primarily a journalistic project using HUMINT and OSINT techniques to document trafficking routes and key actors. Liaised with partners such as the **South African SPCA** for welfare-related interventions.
- Produced reports and briefings to support awareness campaigns and conservation stakeholders.

- 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 and vulnerable individuals.
- Oversaw safeguarding, compliance, and GDPR processes to ensure secure handling of sensitive client data.
- Leading the organisation through the **Cyber Essentials Plus certification process**, improving IT governance, endpoint protection, and access controls
- Managing and advising on the **IT and network installation** for the new facility.
- Built partnerships with councils, charities, and community organisations to expand support networks.
- Manage budgets, recruitment, and operational risk.

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

- **Security Clearance:** Active **Security Check (SC)**, **Counter-Terrorist Check (CTC)** and **NATO Secret** – current through Army Reserve 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.
- **Combat Infantryman (PARA), Reconnaissance (LRCC) and 2IC Section Commander.**
- 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.