**CIVILIAN – NOW THAT’S A NAME I HAVE NOT HEARD IN A LONG TIME (part 2)…THE REALITIES OF BEING A CIVVY**

* **Nobody understands your history – they want to know about it, but you can get tired of talking about it.** After 23 years in the Army, I was fortunate enough to have a job that transitioned my military knowledge to the civilian role very well. But people wanted to hear my stories and experiences. “How many people did you kill?” it is a question that should not be asked of Veterans, but always is. Sometimes I think that it illustrates the gulf between Civilians and Veterans, but fortunately, not everybody asks that, and the gulf, although there is one, is not so great. Regardless, all of those questions can get incredibly irritating. Just smile, be courteous, and mind your manners. As a Veteran, be proud and represent the Armed Forces in the best way.
* **You simply can’t talk to people the way you did before.** Well, you could talk to people the same way, but it would be detrimental. At a very early stage in the process of leaving, you must get your head into transitional thinking. We forget that we really do have to mind our manners, let people speak with a smile on our faces, and then politely make your point. This, and many others are not habits easily broken, but it’s crucial, so I suggest starting as soon as possible. But did you give orders during you service in as a Tiger, that were blindly followed? Probably not, man management is an advanced science in the Army, and no less so in the civilian work environment. Be open to input from colleagues regarding an assignment. After all, your co-workers are those who will perform the task so making them a part of the solution and getting their buy in is essential. They could have information regarding the best way to approach a task or might make suggestions that will save the company time or money. Don’t neglect basic manners when assigning tasks. Follow an order with a simple “please” and show appreciation for a job well done. Doing these things is important if you want your civilian colleagues to feel valued and motivated.
* **Being a Veteran is an achievement, not a qualification, it does not guarantee anything.** There is this giant misunderstanding and ridiculous banter that when you become a Veteran, you will get paid an absurd amount of money for your skill-set. For the vast majority of us, it will be necessary to get some education under your belt, find a job, and even start again at the bottom of the food chain. This is a harsh reality.

Will Civvy Street ever be enough for those who have served in the Army? How do you compare and contrast the gravity of operations to balancing profit and loss statements (P&L) in a corporate environment?

A civilian career probably will not be enough to define former Veteran Tigers; the gravity of the civilian sector will likely never be the same as experiencing operational deployments. Civilian life does require a bit more creative thinking to connect the dots of the larger, corporate vision and how your day-to-day tasks play a role in it.

I think that the weight of civilian work will likely never compare with life in the regiment. Veteran Tigers may never feel like their corporate mission measures up to their time in the serving the country. But as a Veteran, you should be aware of the example you are to many.

Slang for civilians, derived from Cockney rhyming slang - Strawberry Mivvi…Civvy