**WHAT DOES A TIGER DO NEXT?**

**Networking:** Start communicating with industry sectors that interest you. Create a LinkedIn[[1]](#footnote-1) account and make connections, learn how to network and reach out to people. Connect with recruiters specialising in former armed forces. **Your network is everything**.

**Job Fairs:** Attend job fairs. Contact recruiters and potential employers ask what they are looking for?

**Industry Exhibitions**:Visit exhibitions of the industry you want to join, make contacts, learn more about the industry, seek out recruiters dedicated to industry. Network, meet people and find out what they want.

**Interviews:** Do they speak Military? Do you speak their language?

**CV and Cover Letter:**  Build yours. Send copies as unsolicited applications to companies that interest you, and ask for feedback. Mention that you are Veteran and a Tiger, it will help!

**Social Media:** Engage in social media, set up a profile, if you don’t already have one. You will find your mates there on-line, it is a useful information and networking medium. But, be careful what you post and what and who you associate your views and opinons to, some companies will look at your social media posts to better understand you…

**Reserves:** Many continue service in the Reserves. Reserve units can profit from your experience. You could benefit from maintaining contact with the life you have left.

**Gardening Leave:** Verify how many days of paid terminal leave you will be given. Do not waste it, and it will start sooner than you expect, so be ready.

**Civvy Mates:** It is probable that you have not seen old school friends. Find them and reconnect. Seek them out and catch up. They are usually still fun.

**Interests:** You may or may not have had time for many hobbies while in uniform. Reconnect with pastimes that relax, amuse and inspire you.

**Have fun:** Take the time and freedom to do the things you enjoy. Do whatever is fun for you, and try new things. A good work / life balance is essential!

**Travel:** Consider visiting parts of the United Kingdom that you have never seen before, visit the country that you have served. Take a holiday. You earned it.

**Clearance does not equal Job:** Many people assume that a security clearance equals guaranteed work and high pay. That does happen but is not certain. Security Clearance can help, but it not a skeleton key; except when it is.

**Workforce differences:** You dress, speak, act, and smell like the military. Even in the defence world, do not assume all employees are familiar with military mannerisms. Expect them not to get the military humour, no matter how funny it is.

They may not react to your tone, demeanour, and body language as your armed forces peers. Not everybody served, but they deserve respect. Issuing an order in your new job will not be the same as before. However, the man management skills that you have learnt will go a long way in the industry. Become well acquainted with those your colleagues.

**CivPop:** You may be the only Veteran and Tiger your co-workers or neighbours know. It is your responsibility to demonstrate that veterans are hard-working, responsible individuals, be proud. Don’t be surprised if they don’t know much about Belfast, Bosnia, Basra or Bamyan, or what indirect fire or an IED is. That is alright; they might know a lot of things that you do not – learn from them.

**Dress for Success:** Buy a good suit, get a couple. Project yourself, and just like a uniform, after a while, you will not notice you are wearing one. Look respectable and smart, wear your Veterans badge and regimental tie, it will work for you.

**Employers relevant experience and technical ability, not just a manager:** Many jobs require technical skills or expertise in addition to your leadership skills. Being a problem solver is useful, but getting to an interview on purely management experience can be hard. You are only as good as your last job to your next employer.

**Find somewhere to live:** You can pick where you work and live. You can live near your last posting, back home, or wherever you want. Conduct research, remember prior planning and preparation ……….. do not expect NAAFI to be waiting.

**Find someone in that area to help:** Because of the reasons above, it helps to have resources wherever you choose to live. Having willing friends and family eases the transition, remember that they have lives and families too, do not become their admin problem.

**Share your experiences:**  Tell your family, friends, and colleagues about your adventures. Write and share what stories and lessons you can. Join the Royal British Legion, forces charities, or another veterans groups. Support the PWRR Association, attend reunions.

**Spend time with your family, or start one:** If you are single plan on finding somebody. If you are married, the chances are that you were separated by deployments a lot. Make up for that absence keep your relationships strong. If you can find someone that thinks that jokes about military cooking are funny, they are a keeper but assume many will not.

**Find a Doctor and a Dentist:** Armed Forces Medical services are excellent but say goodbye. Learn about how health insurance works. There is no sick parade anymore, if you are not organised, a medical problem can be a setback.

**Financial planning:** Don’t rely on a twenty-two-year retirement cheque, it won't last long, start saving now, and learn about pensions. Your finances and future are your responsibility.

**PT:** Look after yourself, you will be happy and healthy.

**Grow a beard:** You know you want to…..

**Nobody cares:** Not literally, your employer or colleagues might like you and care about your work, they are not responsible for you. Domestic life is entirely your responsibility, sounds simple, but the simple things can be difficult.

**You are not owed anything:**You served and maybe even suffered, but civilians have the right not to know or not care what you have done. Many will acknowledge and thank you, but not all, and that is how the system works.

**Help:**An early departure from the armed forces can be stressful. You may have lost friends, family or health and you could be angry. All emotions are healthy but don’t let them ruin you. Do not destroy your reputation in your last months. If you have health or mental health issues, get help. If you have PTSD, start working on it now while you have resources and an understanding community.

**You are more than just a member of HM Forces:** You will soon be a Veteran, and will always be a Tiger. Leverage experiences to make an impact.

**Relax:** You have seen and survived worse. Enjoy yourself and enjoy life.

1. [www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)