

James Neal CMgr MCMi GCGI
Vice Chairman - The Armourers' Association

I joined the Army on 15 February 1998 and completed an intensive basic training course at Army Training Regiment (Pirbright) from March to May that same year. After completion of basic military training I attended my Armourers Basic Training course at SEME Bordon.

In May 2000 I arrived at my first unit, Queens Royal Hussars, Germany, deploying on exercises Ulan Eagle and Med Man and then on tour to Op AGRICOLA 14. On return from operations we were immediately deployed on the fireman's strike in the UK, Op Fresco.

After this I was promoted to LCpl and posted to 1st Battalion Royal Regiment of Wales, Germany and deployed on Op TELIC 3. Upon return I attended Class 1 training, SEME Bordon and on successful completion returned to Paderborn, Germany, 1st Battalion Princess of Wales Royal Regiment remaining there until 2006.

On promotion to Cpl I was posted to 12 Regiment Royal Artillery, Sennelager Germany. Here I was selected by trawl to return to Iraq on Op TELIC 11. Once back I was promoted to Sgt and selected for Artificer training after a brief posting with 4Bn REME and a deployment on Op HERRICK 10.

Upon completion of Artificer training and promotion to SSgt I moved back to Germany for the last time at Fallingbommel, 2CS Bn REME. During this time I was selected to deploy as a Weapons instructor to Op SHADER and teach the local soldiers weapon maintenance in support of the fight against Isis. Upon return I was selected for promotion WO2 (AQMS) and posted to Army HQ Training Development Team as the analyst on Recovery Mechanics.

Now promoted to WO1(ASM), with the role of Armourer Analyst in the same department and seeing many name changes. One of which sees us under the newly formed Land Warfare Centre, Equipment Support Requirement Setting Team based at the REME home of MOD Lyneham.

Currently I am employed by Raytheon UK as an analyst working on the many contracts they have with the military.

A very keen hockey player, playing for the Corps Mens side and as time has gone by the Corps Veterans team. I also coach at a local club teaching under 10 children the sport whilst also for the club.