

## Andrea Allen Case Study

Working through Pertemps as  
Admin Property Support



At Pertemps we work with Veterans service leavers and reservists who want to start a civilian career. We help them to find roles to fit around reserve duties or after their army career is over. However, our services are not only exclusive to ex-military personnel and reservists. We understand it is also difficult for the spouses, partners and family of Military personnel to find a job after years of travelling around different countries with no stable career. We want to provide these people with the right opportunities to progress in a long-term occupation once settled at home in the UK.

At the age of 19, Andrea Allen was married and ready to move to Germany where her husband, Robin, was pursuing a career with the British Armed Forces. While Robin was at the Army base, Andrea wanted to find a job for herself, however she couldn't speak a word of German, making the job search difficult. She tells us her story and how Pertemps helped her once she was back on UK soil...

*"It was quite a scary time when we first moved to Germany. I didn't know anybody and couldn't speak a word of German. We lived in Sennelager where Robin was a Gunner in the Army, and for a while I couldn't find work. When I did, I ended up in a variety of different roles including working in the NAAFI shop and a ladies' hospital doing the cleaning. I also did some work cleaning pots and pans.*

*We were back and forth between Germany and the UK for years. In this time, we had two children and Robin was promoted to Signal Sergeant. We lived between Wales, Nuneaton and London as well as Germany – wherever Robin was posted, we packed up and moved there. Thorney Island was one of my favourite places to live. I worked at House of Fraser for five years there where I was promoted to Assistant Manager. However, once again we had to move – we were never in one place for too long!*

*Fast-forward a few years and Robin was posted to Coventry where he worked in the 35th Signal Regiment, a British Territorial Army regiment of the Royal Corps of Signals. I worked for the TA myself as a receptionist for ten months before the regiment disbanded. I then spent six months looking for another job – I applied for everything but found it hard to get a response. My persistence paid*

*off in the end though as I got a job in Debenhams and ended up being there for seven years.*

*Although I enjoyed my job, I wanted to try something new. As Robin is now an Army Reserve Recruiter, he has connections to Pertemps and knew about the work the company does with ex-military and their families. Rebecca Thorn from the forces liaison team contacted me through Robin about a job at Pertemps Head Office in Meriden.*

*At first I was surprised as I didn't believe I'd have the qualifications or experience to work at Pertemps. However, Rebecca was extremely supportive and as soon as I went for the interview, the staff were so welcoming and really encouraged me to take the role.*

*And here I am today! I am Admin Property Support, so I take a lot of phone calls, deal with orders and support the rest of my team in their tasks. At first it was quite daunting as the job is really fast-paced, but I'm glad I'm here as my confidence has increased and each day I'm developing my skillset.*

*Throughout my life, I've never had a proper career or stability, but now I feel like I do have these things working for Pertemps. There is a great family vibe here, something I miss from living in the Army, so I certainly feel at home in my new role. To any other Army family members who want to start a new career, I say go for it!"*

Looking for a job?  
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