

CASE STUDY



THE INKERMEN GROUP

EX-TASK STUDENT DEPLOYED WITH THE INKERMEN GROUP

Quest4Courses
March / April 2012

Security and close protection, including maritime security

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Lee Merritt



After six years in the Household Cavalry Regiment, Trooper Lee Merritt took the decision in 2006 to leave the Forces. During his time serving with the Royal Armoured Corps, Merritt served in Windsor, Germany, and Oman and Iraq – highlighting his most notable achievement as the time he spent in Iraq in 2003 during Operation TELIC, one of the largest deployments of British Forces since the Second

World War. Merritt became unable to continue working with the CVRT (combat vehicle reconnaissance tracked) after losing the hearing in his left ear, and attended his CTW to begin the process of migrating into civilian employment. He found that the workshop helped him to understand the expectations of ex-Servicemen working for civilian companies, as well as offering advice on CV writing and interview preparation techniques. Merritt went on to attend a Security Systems Engineer training course, aimed at resettlement personnel, before training as a Close Protection Officer with TASK International in 2011. The Close Protection course provided Merritt with the essential skills necessary to become a CPO, and covered a wide range of practical exercises including operational planning, reconnaissance, surveillance, vehicle tactics and anti-ambush drills. He describes the course as 'fantastic – the teaching skills and methods were great, and I would say that 80% of the course was practical, on-the-street learning', which has certainly been important when securing CP work in this competitive environment.

On leaving the Forces, Merritt started working as a chauffeur for a major blue-chip company in London, before going on to train with TASK International to achieve his BTEC level 3 qualification in Close Protection. On successful completion of the course, he went on to be employed by TASK's parent operational company, the Inkerman Group. Merritt has since worked with the Inkerman Group as a CPO on a number of deployments, working with clients

throughout the Middle East to secure business assets, protect and train their personnel, and act as 'pathfinders' for those who are aiming to re-establish their business interests in the region following the latest developments and unrest. Gerald Moor, CEO of TASK International, comments that 'at TASK we work hard to ensure that the CP courses are practical and train individuals to be ready for CP deployments as soon as they become SIA licensed. We review students' progress throughout their training and actively recruit from TASK CP Courses to Inkerman deployed teams, wherever we can.'

Merritt is now enjoying life as a self-employed Close Protection Officer; he likes the flexibility and variety of clients that he has the opportunity to work with. He says he 'is living the dream, travelling around the world and earning more money being a freelance subcontractor', and likes the fact that he 'could be in North Africa as a team member in a crisis management team looking after personnel, looking after an Arab prince's house as part of a resident security team, or looking after valuable cargo on a merchant vessel in and around Sri Lanka'. Merritt credits the skills he acquired in the Army, which he applies to his civilian employment, such as discipline, time keeping, professionalism and self-pride at all times, and believes the most important part of being a self-employed CPO is to 'network and make a name for yourself for being reliable and good at what you do, and remember that you are representing the client and their company at all times'.

- ENDS -

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The Inkerman Group is a specialist business risk, intelligence management and investigation company. It provides a wide range of services and works with clients to counter or mitigate threats to their businesses and organisations.

INTELLIGENCE – PROTECTION - INVESTIGATIONS

Risk and crisis management
International risk assessment
Evacuation and country re-entry procedures
Personal protection services
Crisis management training
Kidnap for ransom, prevention, response
Product contamination and extortion

Tracking and travel safe services
24/7 operations centre
Specialist event security
Specialist security guarding services for high net worth individuals and Corporations

Corporate intelligence
In-country risk reporting
Fraud investigation
Money laundering prevention advice
Counterfeiting and intellectual property
Personnel, pre-employment screening
Digital forensics and electronic data recovery
Electronic Security Sweeps
Due diligence – companies and individuals
Asset tracing
Surveillance
Security integration and surveys

Based in London, Ashford Kent, and Meerbusch Dusseldorf, Germany, and formed in 1996, The Inkerman Group consists of professional and highly experienced staff with a wide range of skills and expertise from military, government service, police and business backgrounds.