

# BEEN THERE DONE THAT...

## Gary Druce

**G**ary Druce left the Royal Marines in 1992 after six years' service which included tours of Norway and Northern Iraq. He then travelled



abroad for a couple of years before returning to the UK to study for a philosophy degree. Following this he moved into the adventure travel industry where he remained for four years before he was mobilised as a Reservist to serve in Southern Iraq in 2003.

'I have always interspersed my career with security work. Recent operational experience made me eligible for CP work in Iraq, and this was the direction that I wanted to take,' he said. 'However, through other security work I came into contact with Omega Solutions Group, a security and telecommunications company preparing to take advantage of recent opportunities created by communications in hostile environments. The company believes that it is much easier to train a soldier to work in telecoms than it is to train a telecommunications expert to become security conscious.'

The company trained Druce in telecommunications rigging, including rooftop safety & access, advanced and rescue climbing, RF hazard & awareness, and first aid at height. More recently he has attended specialist courses on microwave broadband internet. 'I've been with OSG for almost two years now and my transition to telecommunications engineer has been 'hands-on', yet backed-up by the right sort of courses. Ironically, most the company's work is now in the UK which is fine by me.'