

AFTER ACTION REPORT		VETERANS IN PROJECT MANAGEMENT
CREDENTIAL PRINCE2® · PProjects IN Controlled Environments	US SALARY N/A. UK-origin credential, no reliable US benchmark	REPORTED AUG 25, 2026
REPORTING Stuart Bell, PRINCE2® · Royal Naval Reserve · Episode 002		

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY · EPISODE 002

Stuart Bell left school at sixteen with three passing grades and trained as a radio officer at a merchant navy college. He served five years in the Royal Naval Reserve and never deployed. PRINCE2 Practitioner came off an employer's training budget while he ran service transitions in financial services, and he left corporate life in 2012.

Strong method, thin US demand. Three years is \$1,878 via Foundation or \$1,477 via a CAPM against \$882 for a PMP, so the PMP is the higher-return US route. PeopleCert isn't a DoD COOL certifying agency, checked August 21, 2026.

CONDITIONS · CHANGED JAN 12, 2026

PeopleCert renamed the certificates to Version 7 in the week of January 12, 2026, which is cosmetic. The change that costs money is older: from January 2023 PRINCE2 renews every three years, Foundation included.

1 TASK AND STANDARD

TASK: qualify for and pass PRINCE2 at two levels. **STANDARD:** two exams at 60%, no experience at either.

PRINCE2 Foundation	No prerequisite at all
PRINCE2 Practitioner	One accepted certificate
Accepted certificates	PMP, CAPM, IPMA A to D, APM PMQ or PPQ, and more

A CAPM is on that list at \$300, open to anyone. It's the cheapest documented route to Practitioner and it skips Foundation's \$701 entirely.

2 ASSESSMENT – WHAT COUNTS FROM YOUR SERVICE

PeopleCert never asks what you did in uniform. Nothing from your service is required, and nothing from it earns you credit either.

- ☐ A PMI credential you already hold
- ☐ A clearance and coalition experience
- ☐ Manage by exception, which you already run
- ☐ Manage by stages, which is phased execution

Doesn't count: Your DD-214, your NCOER, OER, EPR or fitrep, your JST, and DAWIA or FAC-P/PM. None are on PeopleCert's accepted list.

3 RESOURCES AND RETURN

Foundation then Practitioner	\$701 + \$778, self-study
Plus, 3 years to renew	\$399 at \$133 a year
US median, the job	\$102,320, not the credential
Where it's asked for	NATO agency vacancies

BLS OEWS, Project Management Specialists, May 2025. It prices the job, not the credential. The second row is NSPA's own vacancy board, where PRINCE2 is named as an example rather than required.

4 OBSERVATIONS

SUSTAIN	IMPROVE
❑ Decide domestic or international first. If your career is US-domestic the PMP is the credential, and Onward to Opportunity trains for it. ❑ Route in through the CAPM. It's on PeopleCert's accepted list at \$300, needs no PMI membership, skips Foundation's \$701, and leaves you holding a PMI credential. ❑ Skip the accredited course. PeopleCert's FAQ supports booking direct as a self-study candidate, the biggest lever you have on the price. ❑ Buy the manual before Practitioner. The \$778 bundle leaves it out and the exam is open book, so the cheapest product omits what it assumes. ❑ Army Credentialing Assistance can't pay for it. CA funds credentials listed on Army COOL, and PeopleCert isn't an agency there.	❑ <i>If your employer pays for qualifications there's a budget every year, and if you don't use it you can't get it back. There's no cash alternative, so take as much as you can.</i> ❑ <i>Do it sooner rather than later. The clock runs anyway, and while you're in somebody else is paying. Skip the gym one evening and look at project management instead.</i> ❑ <i>Go back for the box you didn't check. Officer candidate needed five passing grades and I had three, so at 26 I sat the missing ones and threw in a couple of A-levels.</i> ❑ <i>Start with whatever gets you through the door. I had virtually no academics, and a Microsoft Office certificate got me the interview. ITIL and PRINCE2 stacked on top of it.</i> ❑ <i>Certify the work already crossing your desk. I took PRINCE2 because service transition sat on the boundary with projects and I dealt with project managers daily.</i>

5 REMARKS — REPORTING INDIVIDUAL	Stuart Bell, episode 002
– <i>Five years in the Royal Naval Reserve and I never deployed. I'm not going to pretend otherwise. What I took out of it was a set of habits rather than a career, and the habits are the part that transferred.</i> – <i>You already know how to do the work. What the certification buys you is the language, so when you tell somebody in the civilian world what you did, you're saying it in words they already use.</i> – <i>"Newly qualified" and "certified two years ago, and here's the evidence, we just called them something else" are the same work in a different order. Only one of them reads as ahead of it.</i> – <i>A certificate moves you out of a pile of ten thousand resumes and into meeting a specific requirement. Put the military experience in the words a recruiter is looking for and the pile gets smaller again.</i> – <i>I barely graduated high school and I'm not academic in any way. The underlying skills were there regardless. Certifying them is grabbing hold of something you're already doing and proving it.</i>	

NEXT STEP
Read the full PRINCE2® route, kept current Eligibility, the path, cost, renewal, and what a US veteran should know about funding it.

FULL ROUTE, KEPT CURRENT	EPISODE, TRANSCRIPT AND LINKS
https://veteransinprojectmanagement.com/certifications/prince2/training-guide/ Reported August 25, 2026 with episode 002, and unchanged since. Requirements were last checked August 22, 2026 and they do move: the full route above is maintained, this report is not. This is a guide, not advice, it isn't an official or government document, and PeopleCert had no part in it and did not endorse it. Where a training provider or a school is named, assume we may have a commercial interest in it.	https://veteransinprojectmanagement.com/podcasts/vipm/002-stuart-bell/