

JUST THE JOB FOR SERVICE LEAVERS

Settling in Germany is made easier with the help of the Career Transition Partnership



● CTP team at the Regional Resettlement Centre in Herford, Germany, from left: Mandie Graham; Linda Saunders; Cathy Nicolson; David Duffy (Managing Director CTP, London); Maggie Gordon; Andrea Uemann; Anne Schedding; Vicky Rutherford; Peter Johnson (Chief Executive RFEA, London) and Tanja Douglas

MORE than 100 Service leavers made full use of an information day and job fair held by the Career Transition Partnership (CTP) in Herford, to learn about settling in Germany.

The third Information Day-Living and Working In Germany had more stands than before and a new venue – the Stadtpark Schützenhof – as the Divisional Conference Centre in Wentworth Barracks had become too small to hold the annual event.

Soldiers going through resettlement made up most of the visitors, but there were others who came to plan their post Service career move well in advance. Even a few ex-Service

people were seen networking with a cross-section of German employers.

At the CTP job fair was WO1(ASM) Mark James, who is leaving the Army this summer and has no doubts about staying in Germany, where he has spent 20 years.

He said: "I am married to a German, have built a home in Osnabrück and my kids go to school in Germany, so of course I want to stay. Besides, the UK is a [dump]!"

INTERNATIONAL

The soldier with 2 Field Company, 101 Force Support Battalion REME in Bielefeld, added: "There are a lot of firms here from different spheres in Germany, and many are interested in English-speaking workers, as a lot of business these days is international."

"The information day is a good way for the Brits to integrate with the Germans."

Presentations were made during the day by the AOK, the Agentur für Arbeit (job centre) and Customs and Immigration.

Col Duncan Capps, DCOS 1 (UK) Armoured Division, opened the event, held on March 2, with a small speech.

He said: "[The Germany information day] is extremely positive for us as the British Army is likely to be in Germany for another 30 years – so we are very keen to build up relationships between ourselves and potential employers within Germany."

"It is also good for those who would like to come and work in Germany. I am keen to get Service personnel who want to come and serve and live in Germany with their families."

Tpr Dougie Hird, 29, from 9/12 Lancers based in Hohne, still has 10 years to signing-off but is already thinking of his next career move.

"My being here is really an educational experience," he said. "I am looking at staying behind when I leave the Army but I still have 10 years left to serve," he said.



● Flanking recruiter Svenja Pollner of Weatherford are WO1(ASM) Mark James, left, with Sgt Andy Humphries, both of whom had an interest in the company

"I don't want to put all my eggs in one basket, so I am looking at both options but leaning towards Germany. It's a beautiful country, plus I have a German girlfriend."

Daniel Ziemann from the Agentur für Arbeit told *Sixth Sense* that Service leavers wanting to stay in Germany have as good a chance as anyone else in the job market.

He said: "Whether you are British or German, there is not much difference when you are looking for work, as it's all about qualifications – and you must be able to speak good German. This is most important for living and working over here."

RECRUITING

Service-leavers were able to test their language skills for free with the Goethe Institut eV on the day. CTP now offers German language resettlement courses in cooperation with Goethe Institut eV too.

Former soldier Mark Twidell left the Army many years ago

and now works for Steinhagen-based security company BESURE, who were recruiting at the event.

"You can't get better guys than ex-British Forces guys, who often have the right background for security work. But many don't realise it," he said.

Andrea Uemann, regional employment and training manager CTP, said she was happy with the third job fair of its kind.

"The day has been fantastic. We had more than 100 attendees – Service-leavers in the Forces on resettlement and veterans too," she said.

"Our goal is to keep getting bigger, with more exhibitors. CeBIT had 1,200 fewer stands this year but we have grown, with many new companies present, and others back again because of a good experience last time."

She added: "Some attendees came from the UK, as well as from all over BFG, to be here. It's all about networking and looking positively into the future out of the economic crisis."



● Looking for security people, from left, Marco Siebrasse and Mark Twidell of BESURE at the job fair

CTP team visits job fair at Bad Salzuflen

CAREER Transition Partnership once again was invited to take part in My Job OWL in Bad Salzuflen.

The Heford-based organisation used the opportunity to support Service-leavers and veterans in Germany at the job fair.

"It's always good to be present there – it's good for

making contacts with other companies and training providers in the region who may want to come to the next Germany information day, or who are useful for networking," said CTP's Andrea Uemann.

● For further information about resettlement, training and courses contact the CTP

on 05221 995 3388. For information on living and working in Germany, contact Andrea Uemann on Civ: 05221 995 3675 or Mil: 82 3675. Alternatively, visit www.myjob-owl.de for future job fair events to be held across Germany.

Or, why not check out the CTP website www.ctp.org.uk