

SIXTH SENSE

THE BRITISH FORCES' NEWSPAPER

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**Make a fresh start -
6-page career guide
starts on p18**

**YES you can
WIN concert
tickets - p5**

**The beefiest
job going -
see p3**



5-man team takes on mammoth fund-raising challenge

FLIPPIN' TYRED



A TEAM of superfit PTIs faced the ultimate test of strength and stamina after taking on a mammoth eight-mile tyre-flipping challenge for charity.

The event, which took place at Princess Royal Barracks, Gütersloh, saw the team flip the massive 120kg tractor tyre a whopping 7,025 times, raising over £1,450 for Wishing Well, a UK-based international children's charity.

by Christina Marshall-Jeenes

● Continued on page 5

● The five-man team - PTIs SSgts Daz O'Donnell, Mark Allan, Matt Arthur, Sgt Carl Amery and top right, WO1 Jay Tyler - with the massive tyre before the challenge began



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RESETTLEMENT FEATURE 2011

EXPERTS IN HERFORD

DO NOT wait! is the key message from the Career Transition Partnership (CTP) offering resettlement courses and advice to all Forces leavers.

Maggie Gordon, Regional Manager at CTP urges all personnel who are getting ready to leave the Forces to be prepared and act as soon as they can: "If you're coming to the end of your time in the Services, you normally have two years to complete your resettlement. However, if you have been made redundant you have less time to utilise the facilities that we offer: Act fast!"

CTP is run through an independent company Right Management Ltd, which is funded by the MoD to offer Service leavers important advice and guidance on making the transition from military to Civvy Street as smooth as possible.

SKILLS

Although not compulsory, once into your resettlement phase you are entitled to attend the Career Transition Workshop (CTW). This is a three-day seminar which offers a beneficial starting point for anyone leaving the Services.

"The CTW isn't just about giving you a template to write a good CV. We ask you to look at all the skills you have developed throughout your time in the Forces. A lot of people don't think many of their skills are transferrable and we help to identify them and encourage people to successfully sell themselves," explains Maggie Gordon.

"We ask people who attend the workshop to begin by presenting a 30-second commercial about themselves. We find that this helps attendees to realise the many skills they have. It then allows people to map out their resettlement plan including which sector they would like to enter and decide what courses they may need to do."

by Charlie McClelland

"I often hear statements like: 'But I'm just a truck driver'. But not many truck drivers have driven in numerous different countries or in extreme weather conditions. These are all skills Service personnel take for granted because it is part of their everyday job."

Other important aspects of the workshop include teaching attendees important telephone skills, interview techniques and salary negotiation.

SALARY

"We try to get you to think like an employer, what do I want from this job role? Also important is salary negotiation. We look at what area leavers are planning on settling in, the average cost of living, bills that they may not have previously had to pay."

"These things are all important because perhaps the job they are looking at isn't going to pay enough to support their family. That is where we can recommend courses that they can use to develop their skills. Or perhaps look at different areas where we know that jobs are readily available."

"There is so much that we can help with, from personal development to course guidance or even pointing you in the right direction over financial issues or housing," continues Maggie. "Plus, once we have developed an information file with you, all of your development plans and information stays on a main system."

"So if you settle somewhere in the UK and need continued support, one of our 10 regional settlement centres will have all your information on hand to continue your development."

Your first step to begin mapping your future is with your Service Resettlement Advisor, IERO. Discuss how to utilise your learning credits and think about courses that you might want to enrol on before time runs out.

"Resettlement is part of life-long learning. However, many personnel don't use these opportunities and don't come to us

No matter how or when you leave the Armed Forces, contact CTP and get professional help before that next big step



● The CTP Herford team, from left to right: Maggie Gordon (Regional Manager), Paddy McLaughlin (Administrator), Sue Wragg (Information Research Coordinator), Anne Schedding (Associate Consultant/Trainer), Andrea Uemann (Regional Employment and Training Manager) and Mandie Graham (Consultant/Trainer)

until the end of their career and sometimes it's too late for longer courses," explains Maggie.

"If you are looking at doing a Foundation degree or level 4 qualification, don't leave it to the last minute. Quite often because of other commitments such as exercises there just isn't time to do some courses towards the end of your resettlement."

FUTURE

Maj Andrew Whiteside, Rhine Support Unit, is due to complete 31 years in the Service and has his future mapped out at this point.

"I spent several years in Kuwait with the British Loan Service Team and I thoroughly enjoyed my time spent there. So when I was offered a position as the HR manager for the school in Kuwait it was a decision I didn't have to think long about."

"It is a huge move for me and my family but we know the country and we think it is a great opportunity."

However, how has the three-day workshop benefited someone with such a clear future ahead? "You never really know what is around the next corner and the workshop has armed me with beneficial tools on CV writing and interview techniques as well as how to

transfer military speak into civilian life," says Maj Whiteside.

"I was also keen to enrol on a management course and the team at CTP has advised me on the best one. I wanted to register at Manchester Business School studying Advanced Management."

"Unfortunately due to my limited time frame there wasn't space available so I will be doing a similar management course in Bristol."

'Whatever your future plan, the key message is not to sit still and wait for it to come to you. Go get it and make it happen!'

Other huge benefits of being in touch with the CTP include industry days and regular communication with large employers.

Andrea Uemann, Regional Employment and Training Manager explains: "Our role here includes keeping up to date with large companies and we have a sub contractor, Regular Forces Employment Organisation, which has a large database of jobs which is available to all Service leavers."

EVENTS

"Aside of that we hold regular employment events and industry days. For example, BT held a huge employment day and we put forward many people from our database who fitted the roles they were after. It was a huge success."

"We can advise people with preferred suppliers for vocational training courses such as Engineering Management among numerous others. What is also important is being able to guide people on their preferred industry and what roles are available at the time."

"It is not uncommon for personnel to have spent most of their career in Germany. It is therefore not surprising that they decide to settle here on leaving the Forces," says Maggie Gordon.

"First and foremost it's vital to have a strong grasp of the German language and that is why we run CV writing courses in German. You must be fluent in order to get a management position in a German company."

Andrea Uemann continues: "80 per cent of personnel already have property here but we can point you in the right direction to get the best advice."

"We also have good contacts with German employers and social security to help get you set up. In fact, where ever you decide to put down your roots we will endeavour to give you the best advice."

"Whatever your future plan, the key message is not to sit still and wait for it to come to you. Go get it and make it happen!"

Finally, a date for the diary; the next Industry Awareness Day will be held on November 29 at the Divisional Conference Centre, Wentworth Barracks, Herford.

● Get in touch with any member of the team at CTP, tel: 05221 9953896 or take a look at their website: www.ctp.org.uk



● Getting the most out of the Career Transition Workshop, from left, WO2 Mark Anston, Maj Andrew Whiteside and Sgt Alex Crawford