



This is the third Transition newsletter which is brought to you by 43(Wessex) Brigade. In addition to having a clear focus on the South West, it publicises the up and coming Transition events and provides a helpful insight into Employment, Education, Health, Housing and Welfare which we refer to as E2H2W. It is never too early to 'think Transition'. By doing so Service personnel will ensure that they don't miss out on opportunities to develop themselves that will make them even better soldiers and prepare them for a smooth transition back to civilian life when the time comes.



With one fifth of the Army already based in the South West, this region is a popular choice for Service Leavers to settle in and I hope those of you interested in making the move to civilian life here will have taken advantage of the 43 (Wessex) Brigade transition events.

The 'Living and Working in Wiltshire and Swindon' transition fair held in the Tidworth Leisure Centre at the end of June drew a huge number of visitors. With the intent of providing local job opportunities and, importantly, expert advice on everything from housing options to youth volunteer groups, I was delighted to see so many Service Leavers and families present exploring the stands, collecting information and sourcing answers to their questions.

In July, we joined forces with CTP at the South West Employment Fair in Bristol to provide additional information for those of you whose thoughts and interests stretch beyond the concern of finding a job. What was evident from both these events and contact with the business community is that Service Leavers are a prized resource that civilian companies value

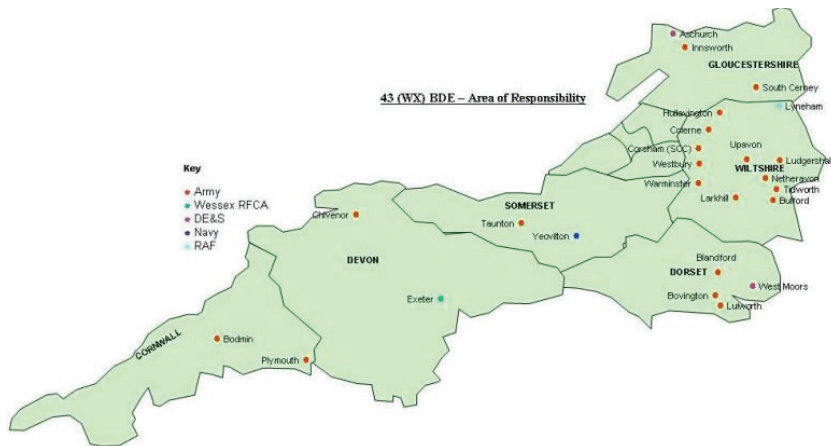
highly - be reassured in what you have to offer them.

I also noticed a healthy interest shown in the many opportunities for Reservist service. In 43 (Wessex) Brigade, we will be growing a new REME Battalion (Bristol) and are actively recruiting for other Reserve units where you can maintain a military connection and find respect and clear recognition for your Regular experience. With the expansion of the Reserves under FR20 and the new incentives for Regular to Reserve service there has never been a better time to join and I strongly encourage you to consider the Army Reserve.

May I wish you every success.

Brigadier Piers Hankinson
Commander 43 (Wessex) Brigade

43 (Wessex) Brigade Area of Responsibility



The Brigade area covers the seven counties of Gloucestershire, Bristol, Wiltshire, Dorset, Somerset, Devon and Cornwall.

It also includes the Channel Islands to the South and the Isles of Scilly to the West. Brigade HQ is located in Tidworth, Wiltshire. With over 500 units here, 20% of the Army is concentrated in the South West and the MOD is the biggest employer in Wiltshire. We aim to complement the resettlement service already offered to the majority of Service Leavers by adding a local focus where appropriate. For more information on making the transition to civilian life in the South West go to

www.army.mod.uk/structure/28219.aspx

Future Events (Dec 13)

05 Dec	Living & Working in Worcestershire, Herefordshire & W Mids	TA Centre, Worcester 1100 - 1500	HQ 143 (WM) Bde
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Living and Working Fair, in Worcester on 5 Dec. Open to all tri-service leavers, their spouses, and veterans. 143 Bde is laying on this fair, in co-operation with the Worcestershire Armed Forces Community Covenant Partnership and CTP, on Thu 5 Dec 1030 - 1500 hrs. It will take place in 214 Bty's new TA Centre/ARC, Dancox House, Pheasant Street, Worcester, WR1 2EE. Next door to the big Asda store. The main focus will be on resettlement into Worcestershire, Herefordshire and the West Midlands. The Local Enterprise Partnership, Chamber of Commerce and Job Centre Plus are actively supporting it. Several of the exhibitors are local and regional employers who are keen to have ex-forces personnel working for them. There will be actual jobs on offer on the day. Ask for further Joining Instructions from **143x-hq-g1-transition-so2@mod.uk**

Further details and more events can be found on the Transition Posters recently distributed and by going to the CTP webpage at the following link: <http://www.ctp.org.uk/>

Employment

Many Service Leavers like the idea of running their own business, but worry they lack commercial expertise or will find it lonely after the comradeship of Army life. Two ex-Army owners of award-winning businesses spoke at the recent Tidworth Transition Fair and illustrated what can be achieved if you have the confidence and determination to put your ideas into practice.

If you are interested in starting up your own business many local authorities also offer help with business start-ups e.g. Wiltshire Council have a project specifically aimed at those with a military connection offering flexible office space, free business advice and substantial grants (£1million to award by Mar 14). For details, see

www.theenterprisenetwork.co.uk or your respective local authority website.

Online careers fairs, run by CTP, are a new venture using virtual environments where you can meet and talk to employers live. Two events were held in the summer and there will be more to come, so look out for dates in the future where you can discuss employment and training opportunities with company representatives direct from your desk or home computer.

Have you considered continuing your military career on a part-time basis? As part of the growth of the Army Reserve, a number of incentives have been put in place to encourage those leaving the Regular Army to continue to serve as reservists. If you enjoy the camaraderie and challenge of military life and want to retain these aspects in civilian life, you can find details of how to apply at **www.army.mod.uk/join/20185.aspx**

Health

Maintaining a healthy lifestyle is important, not just while serving, but after leaving the Army when PT sessions and team motivation are not around. One of the first things to do post-discharge is to register with an NHS doctor and dentist so that your medical provision continues.

There is more to health and fitness than just going to the gym which is why units run regular health fairs to raise awareness of the wider issues. The TIDNBUL Garrison Health Fair will take place on 5-6 Feb 14 at the Tidworth Leisure Centre from 0930-1400 hrs. There will be stands covering all aspects of health (eating, weight, exercise, sexual health, mental health etc) with an assortment of alternative therapists and organisations who deal with both serving and veteran personnel.

Details will be advertised to local serving personnel and families nearer the time.

Welfare

The Army Welfare Service (AWS) is a confidential welfare support service for servicemen and women and their families wherever they are located.

Within the Chain of Command, the Unit Welfare Officer (UWO) is often the first point of contact for serving personnel who need assistance with welfare issues. Both of these agencies have a range of contacts who are able to provide support and ensure that you continue to receive assistance, if needed, once you have left the Army. In addition, there are many ex-Service organisations which exist to provide support for veterans should you meet obstacles after discharge.

Your Regimental Association is a useful starting point and there are a number of national and local groups that will provide help across a range of issues if you contact them and explain that you are an Army veteran.

The main point of contact for veterans is SPVA at **www.veterans-uk.info**.

Veterans-UK Helpline 0800 1692277

Education

43 (Wessex) Brigade is supporting the establishment of a new University Technical College (UTC) in Salisbury. The South Wiltshire UTC will provide a high quality science and engineering based curriculum to students aged 14-18 and is due to open in 2015. As an increasing number of Defence Industry contractors are based in the surrounding area, the college aims to provide students with relevant and transferable technical skills to help them find employment within this growing sector. A number of high-tech companies locally will play an active part in creating this training ground for young scientists and engineers of the future by providing placements and/or internships, guest lecturers and advising on what skills are required by the commercial sector. The UTC will be based in central Salisbury within travelling distance of Salisbury Plain and Andover.

Do you enjoy instructing, but think you can only be a civilian teacher if you have a degree? Not true. 'Troops to Teachers' recognises that Service Leavers have great skills and experience to bring to teaching and offer a programme to Service Leavers in the two years before, and after, discharge. The Troops to Teachers non-graduate programme (only available in England) is specifically designed to build on the skills non-graduate Service Leavers already possess. The programme is school-based, there are no fees and you'll be paid a salary of £11,200 during both years of training with your salary increasing after training. For more details, see **www.ctp.org.uk**.

Housing

If you don't already own a home, finding somewhere to live after leaving the Army can be one of the biggest challenges. The most crucial point to realise is that the housing process takes time whether you wish to buy, rent or apply for social housing. Do start the process well before you leave - early contact with housing organisations is vital. Your first move should be to contact the Joint Services Housing Advice Office (JSHAO) at **www.gov.uk/housing-for-service-personnel-and-families** who offer free and unbiased help on what is available. They provide one day briefings as part of the resettlement process which spouses and partners are welcome to attend. The next JSHAO briefing in 43 (Wessex) Brigade will be on Tue 26 Nov 13 at the RRC Tidworth.

The average price for a semi-detached house in the South West is approx £163K and considerably higher in urban areas. However, there are many housing developments planned and being built, as well as schemes to assist those wishing to buy, particularly for the first time. South West Homes is the Government appointed agent for the new Help to Buy scheme in this region. Their details can be found at **www.southwesthomes.org.uk** giving information on this scheme and other means of affordable housing. You may also wish to check out Haig Homes - a charitable trust that lets homes at affordable rates and has a number of properties across the country, including the South West. Details are at **www.haighomes.org.uk**.

Armed Forces Community Covenant Signing

The aim behind the Armed Forces Community Covenant is to encourage local communities to support the Service community in their area and promote awareness among the public of issues affecting the Armed Forces Community. Within 43 (Wessex) Brigade, covenants have recently been signed with Torbay, North Somerset, Bath & North East Somerset and South Gloucestershire Councils and plans are in hand to sign with Bristol City Council. With the exception of Scilly and the Channel Islands, community covenants will then be in place across the region demonstrating the high standing and respect the military is held in across the South West.