



Transition Newsletter

Issue 4



Transition is a through career offer of support, assistance and education to provide information for soldiers to prepare for their inevitable and potentially premature return to civilian life. Transition should provide Service Leavers (SL) and their families with sufficient awareness and information to make the cultural and emotional change successfully and adjust from being a part of HM Forces to being an individual contributing to civil society.



Although Transition to Civilian Life is a comparatively new initiative it is already providing excellent and valuable information in support of Service personnel and their dependants.

For Transition to Civilian Life to be truly successful it requires a degree of planning and preparation which cannot be done effectively in the months before discharge; it requires active personal attention throughout your military career. So it is imperative that everyone develops an ongoing awareness and understanding of the journey back to civilian life and ensures that the necessary preparations are made.

I would like to highlight three things that will assist your ultimate successful return to civilian life:

- Become as well-informed as possible, as early as possible.

- Take every opportunity to develop your skills in-Service and maintain records of them.
- Embrace and accept your eventual return to civilian life, discussing it openly with your family and collectively planning for it.

I encourage you to regularly access the Transition web pages on: [www.army.mod.uk/Welfare & Support/ Transition to Civilian Life](http://www.army.mod.uk/Welfare%20and%20Support/Transition%20to%20Civilian%20Life) which provides invaluable advice and a wealth of regional information that will assist you to make the most of the advice and support the Army will offer you.

Major General RMB Nitsch CBE
GOC Sp Comd

How to establish early links with Boroughs and Local Authorities

Boroughs and Local Authorities are keen to know the numbers of Service Leavers (SLs) and dependants that might settle in their areas. Many would like to contact SLs with a letter of introduction and inform them of housing initiatives, employment opportunities, schools available for their children and offer the chance to discuss special health and welfare requirements. To achieve this it is essential that Service personnel make sure that their JPA records are kept up to date which includes where they plan to live when they leave the Army. Location is one important factor amongst many others when transitioning to civilian life and some SLs will not know where they want to reside permanently until after they have been discharged. However, updating your JPA records as accurately as possible may establish extremely useful links that provide valuable information, support and opportunities.

Top Tip: Constantly consider the location you may wish to reside in after your military service so you will be able to input this information onto JPA at the earliest opportunity and with a high degree of confidence. This will inform your Local Authority or Borough and other service providers and support organisations of your intentions. All Local Authorities and Boroughs have good websites and some have an Armed Forces page to assist you. **Don't miss out. Update your JPA record.**

Enhanced Support to Early Service Leavers (ESLs)

An ESL is defined as a Service person who has been discharged compulsorily from the trained or untrained strength or discharged at their own request from the trained or untrained strength having completed less than 4 years service. The current Career Transition Partnership resettlement contract has been amended to include support to ESLs which will be provided by the Future Horizons Programme (FHP). Support will include assistance with preparedness to return to civilian life and over-coming barriers to employment in order to gain a route into education, training or sustainable employment. Registration should be made through unit resettlement staff and will be delivered from three locations as follows:

Delivery Hub	ESL Cohort	FHP contacts
Catterick	All UK based Army units incl AFC Harrogate.	Tel: 01748 836436 Fax: 01748 834956 Mob: 07756 546471 Nicole Blair
Pirbright	ATC Pirbright and units based in the Aldershot, Winchester, Colchester area and all UK based RAF units	Tel: 01483 475526 Fax: 10483 475526 Mob: 07975 944736 Jackie Pryce
Plymouth	All RN and RM units and all military units based outside of the UK.	Tel: 01752 553143 Fax: 01752 553143 Mob: 07794 656862 Tracy Murphy

The University of Wolverhampton has established a Business Start-Up Programme designed specifically for Armed Forces Dependents to provide them with the transferable skills and support required to start and maintain a business that will not be restricted to a geographical area.

‘Supporting the Unsung Hero’ is delivered by experienced business advisers from the Black Country Chamber of Commerce at the Wolverhampton Business Solutions Centre.

The programme runs for 10 months and comprises:

- Information and advice on self-employment.
- A four day Business Start-Up course
- A seven-month individual and group mentoring programme.

The programme is available to Dependants of serving Armed Forces Personnel, Reservists and Veterans at no cost.

For further details, contact Lianne Bradbury, the Armed Forces & Uniformed Services’ Co-ordinator at the University of Wolverhampton, Email: mod-enquiries@wlv.ac.uk or visit www.wlv.ac.uk/supportingtheunsunghero

Further information, the Transition DVD, Handout and contact details for each region can be found at the following website: <http://www.army.mod.uk/welfare-support/23590.aspx>



Employment vacancies in Northern Ireland (NI)

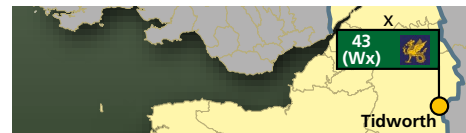
The NI job market has suffered a severe downturn since 2008. However, since 2012 the number of job vacancies notified to jobcentres has increased by 21% to 2013 which is encouraging. Sectors with the greatest number of vacancies in 2013 were Public Administration, Education, Administrative and Support Service Activities and other Service Activities including computer repairs and general household goods and personal support services. A decrease in vacancies has been noted in Information and Communication, Finance and Insurance, Construction, Real Estate and Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing. As at October 2013, the greatest proportions of unfilled vacancies were in Wholesale and Retail, Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles, Human Health and Social Work and Accommodation and Food Services activities.

The greatest number of job vacancies is in the Greater Belfast area, although job vacancies have increased in 19 out of the 26 Local Government Districts, with the two largest increases in the Omagh and Newry & Mourne districts. In 2014 the expected growth of employment is in:

Logistics (Transport / Distribution / Warehousing / Stores),
Security (General Security / CCTV / Retail / Driving)
Administration (General Admin / Receptionist / Human Resources / Personal Assistant / Admin Support)
Manufacturing (Operative / Engineer / Managerial / Business Executive / Planner / Quality Control)
Engineering (Engineer / Project Management / Surveyor / Quality Control / Consultancy)
Information Technology (Developer / Managerial / Engineer / Support / Consultancy).

To view the current list of job vacancies in NI visit www.jobcentreonline.com or contact NI Regular Forces Employment Consultant at www.ctp.org.uk to access Right Job, which advertises current vacancies across all employment sectors.

Source: Department of Employment and Learning STATISTICAL BULLETIN Vacancies in Northern Ireland – 2013 (Revised October 2013)



Interested in settling in the South West?

The most popular destinations for Service Leavers are the large conurbations (Bristol, Bournemouth/Poole and Plymouth) and those with a traditional military connection such as Salisbury Plain. Defence is one of the main drivers of the local economy incorporating defence contractors, service support suppliers, consultancy services and MOD civilian staff. The military around Salisbury Plain will increase by 4000 under the Army Basing Plan by 2020 with over £800M of infrastructure development to be invested over the next few years. This will generate additional jobs in a region which already has high rates of employment. Other large businesses incoming to the region are the TJ Morris retail distribution centre at Amesbury creating over 1000 jobs and the Hinkley Point Nuclear Plant on the Somerset coast which will create jobs in construction, project management, engineering, security and facilities management.

Business Start-Ups in Wiltshire

Got a great business idea, but need a little help to get it launched? Already running a small business and ready to take the next step?

Then, ‘The Enterprise Network’ in Wiltshire can help you with:

- Free expert business support and advice.
- New business incubation sites at Ludgershall, Salisbury, Wootton Bassett and Trowbridge offering hot desks and affordable office space.
- Meeting and conference facilities.
- Business networking.
- Access to funding.

Wiltshire Council is boosting the local economy by encouraging local people to start their own businesses. They are particularly keen to help Service Leavers and partners who like the idea of being their own boss but need practical help to start or grow a business. The scheme offers lots of no-strings benefits including free advice from the Wiltshire Business Support Service (WBSS) and grants of up to £1500. Details can be found on:

www.wiltshirebizsupport.co.uk and www.theenterprisenetwork.co.uk or by contacting SO2 Transition, HQ 43 (Wx) Bde on Tidworth Mil (94342) 4190.

The Veterans Welfare Service (VWS)

The Veterans Welfare Service (VWS) is part of the Service Personnel & Veterans Agency (SPVA), the MOD's provider of support to Veterans. VWS is an official Government body and not a third sector charitable organisation. The VWS operates across the UK and Republic of Ireland giving advice, guidance & support to Veterans and those eligible to claim for SPVA pension and compensation schemes and their dependants. The VWS also supports the seamless transition from Service to civilian life, assists bereaved families and responds to key life events that present welfare needs.

The VWS works collaboratively with Armed Forces, alongside in-Service Welfare providers, statutory / voluntary organisations and charities. This ensures Service Leavers, Veterans and their families receive appropriate information and assistance to access required services and benefits. Help and guidance is provided through either telephone contact or a dedicated visiting service via a national network of Welfare Managers. Continuity of support is maintained as long as is required and the services of the VWS are available for life.

VWS Welfare Managers work Tri-Service, within the Defence Recovery Capability teams, working within Personnel Recovery Unit & Personnel Recovery Centre and Regional Brigades providing a joined up service to support those leaving the Services and beyond into civilian life.

The VWS can be contacted via the new Veterans UK Helpline on free phone number **0808 1914 2 18**. Lines are open 07:30 – 18:30 Mon-Thurs and 07:30 to 17:00 Friday. Outside of these times, callers can leave a voice mail, can email to: **veterans-uk@mod.uk** and for those with an urgent need or in crisis, can choose to be connected to the 24/7 help lines provided by Combat Stress or The Samaritans.

On 1st April 2014, the Service Personnel & Veterans Agency (SPVA) will merge with Defence Business Services (DBS) and will operate under the branding of MOD Veterans UK. Further information can be found at **www.veterans-uk.info**

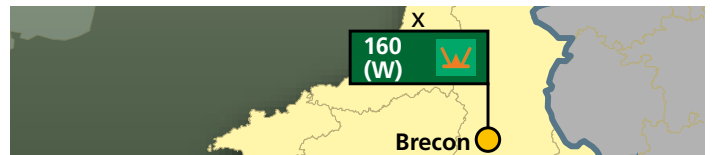


Opportunities in Scotland

Opportunities for SLs in Scotland are positive. Thirty two Local Authorities have signed Armed Forces Covenants, each running slightly different schemes, but all are committed to ensuring that SLs and their Families settling in Scotland are not disadvantaged. Edinburgh City Council offer all SLs a place on the Housing Waiting List backdated to your Enlistment date. It is essential that SLs have their MOD letter to vacate military accommodation in order to meet the statutory "Homeless" definition that requires the Council to take action. For more advice on the Housing situation or Family Education. Check out the updated 51 (Scottish) Brigade Transition pages at: **www.army.mod.uk/Welfare&Support/Transition**

The employment situation is also improving with more companies recruiting. SLs are sought after for their range of skills and experience. The "Hot Spot" of opportunity is Aberdeen, where the Oil & Gas Industry and its vast supply chain needs a huge range of skills, from storemen, drivers, engineers and project managers. Experience in Health and Safety or Facilities Management, Logistics and Supply will stand you in good stead. 90% of "Oil" jobs are on-shore.

Glasgow City Council and the Glasgow Veterans Employment Project are offering grants of up to £8500 to any employer in the Glasgow City area who creates a job for an Ex Forces applicant. Other Councils offer a guaranteed interview. The Citizens Advice Bureau have set up the dedicated "Armed Services Advice Project", with excellent local advice and support on Housing, Employment and other support. Check out : **<http://www.cas.org.uk/partnerships-services/cab-service-partners/armed-services-advice-project>**



Considering a move to Wales?

The Welsh Government is committed to ensuring that SLs are not disadvantaged when they settle in Wales. They have a comprehensive package of support for those serving or leaving the Armed Forces to live in Wales. Wales consists of 22 Local Authorities (currently), each responsible for Education, Employment, Housing, Health and Welfare. The list of the authorities can be found at **<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/localgovernment/localauthorities/?lang=en>**

Service personnel considering making Wales their home might wish to gain useful information from the following websites:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/people-and-communities/safety/armedforces/?lang=en> – The Homepage on the Welsh Government Policy regarding the Armed Forces Community in Wales.

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/housing-and-regeneration/?lang=en> – Welsh Government policy on housing including some useful publications. Whether you are renting, buying or looking for additional support this is a great starting point.

<http://business.wales.gov.uk/> – Business support to people starting, running and growing a business in Wales. Includes information, advice and guidance delivered online, over the phone through the Business Wales Helpline, and face to face through our Business Wales centres.

<http://www.adviceguide.org.uk/wales.htm> – Citizens Advice Bureau Wales.

<https://stats.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue/> – Useful database of information on the area you might be thinking of settling in. Anything from crime rates and schools to tourist attractions.



Forces Help to Buy scheme

The eligibility criteria and policy for the new 'Forces Help to Buy' (FHTB) scheme has been published in JSP 464 Ch12 and is summarised in the Army Briefing Note 23/14.

This new pilot scheme, which will launch on 1st April 2014, aims to help Regular Service personnel and their families with the cost of buying a home. The FHTB has funding of more than £200 million to be allocated over 3 years. The scheme allows an application to be made for an interest-free loan of up to 50% of salary (capped at a maximum of £25,000), repayable over 10 years.

Those leaving as a result of tranche 4 of the redundancy programme will qualify for a Forces Help to Buy Tranche 4 (FHTB-T4) which will be launched on 12th June 14 and is covered in JSP 464 Ch13.

For the duration of the FHTB pilot, the existing Long Service Advance of Pay (LSAP) scheme will be frozen. Personnel with an existing LSAP arrangement can also apply for a FHTB loan, with the outstanding LSAP amount being consolidated into one arrangement under FHTB.

For further details and advice on options for home purchase, you can contact the Joint Service Housing Advice Office by email: **AWS-JSHAO-MAILBOX@MOD.UK** or by phone on **01980 618925**

Transition Events Programme

Date	Event	Location	Sponsor
12/03/14	Living & Working in the North West	St Helen's Rugby League Club	42 (NW) Bde, Lt Cdr Lee Paddock RN, 07557 587118
07/05/14	Education & Employment Fair	Memorial Hall, Bovington Camp, Dorset	43 (Wessex) Bde, Maj Adrienne Winchester, 01980 656490
14/05/14	Education & Employment Fair	Perth, Scotland	CTP and 51 (Scottish) Bde, Maj Gene Maxwell, 01313 103759
09/06/14	Adult Learner & Transition Roadshow	Tern Hill	143 (WM) Bde, Major Nigel Hill, 01743 262606
16/06/14	Adult Learner & Transition Roadshow	Bramcote	143 (WM) Bde, Major Nigel Hill, 01743 262606
17/06/14	Adult Learner & Transition Roadshow	Stafford	143 (WM) Bde, Major Nigel Hill, 01743 262606
18/06/14	Adult Learner & Transition Roadshow	Lichfield	143 (WM) Bde, Major Nigel Hill, 01743 262606
25/06/14	Living & Working in Oxford	Sir Edward Brooks Barracks, Abingdon, OX13 6HW	145 (S) Bde, Maj Jodie Kennedy-Smith, 01252 347775
26/06/14	Transition Fair	Thiepval Barracks, Lisburn	38 (NI) Bde, 02892 263906
03/07/14	Living & Working in Wiltshire	Tidworth	43 (Wessex) Bde, Maj Adrienne Winchester, 01980 656621
10/07/14	Transition Fair	Cardiff	160 (Wales) Bde, Maj John Symmons, 01874 613290
17/09/14	Living & Working in Hampshire	Princes Hall, Aldershot	145 (S) Bde, Maj Jodie Kennedy-Smith, 01252 347775
18/09/14	Living & Working in London	Barking Learning Centre, Barking, IG11 7LU	London District, Major Iain George, 0207 414 2376
24/09/14	Transition Fair	RA Barracks, Larkhill (TBC)	43 (Wx) Bde, Maj Adrienne, 01980 656490
30/10/14	Employment & Transition Fair	DW Stadium (Wigan Athletic FC)	CTP & 42(NW) Bde, Lt Cdr Lee Paddock, 07557 587118
18/11/14	Employment & Transition Fair	International Centre, Telford, TF3 4JH	CTP & 143 (WM) Bde, Major Nigel Hill, 01743 262606
22/01/15	Transition Fair	Thiepval Barracks, Lisburn	38 (NI) Bde, 02892 263906
25/06/15	Transition Fair	Thiepval Barracks, Lisburn	38 (NI) Bde, 02892 263906

Additional Transition events and details will be added periodically. For up to date information refer to:
[www.army.mod.uk/Welfare & Support/Transition](http://www.army.mod.uk/Welfare%20&%20Support/Transition)