

DEFENCE CUTS MAY BOOST BUSINESS BUT WILL COST LIVES SAYS FORCESELECT

London, April 5 2011 – ForceSelect founder Hugh Andrée believes the latest round of military cuts will ultimately cost lives, and is determined to help the talented individuals leaving the Forces transition into successful new careers in British businesses.

Yesterday Defence Minister Andrew Robathan said that 1,600 Navy personnel and 1,000 Soldiers are to be laid off in the first round of redundancies from the Armed Forces as part of £5bn defence review cuts.

Around 25 per cent of the Army's redundancies will be officers and personnel will include 150 members of the highly regarded Gurkhas Regiment. There are plans to axe 17,000 military jobs by 2015.

ForceSelect Founder Hugh Andrée said: "As a former Army officer myself I am extremely concerned by the announcement of cuts which were made yesterday.

"These cuts will reduce operational effectiveness and will have a negative impact on morale and which, at worst, could cost lives. The rebalancing of strength, to be achieved by 2015, could result in our Armed Forces becoming nothing more than a part time fighting force as more flexible terms of engagement are introduced.

"Command, control and leadership will be undermined due to the loss of so many officers, while the vital support given to our forces by the RAF will also be compromised."

ForceSelect is the UK's leading ex-military recruitment consultancy and Andrée confirmed that the organisation will do everything it can to help those service leavers who are looking for a new career on civvy street.

Andrée added: "I am meeting with a senior RAF figure next week to discuss employment opportunities for 200 RAF trainee pilots. UK companies should see this as an opportunity to recruit some of the best young talent this country has to offer.

"I know of one senior level Army officer who is choosing to leave a career he loves due to the pressure of working consistent seven day weeks in an over committed, under resourced Army which is having a very negative effect on morale. The government has to realise that laptop surveys will ultimately cost lives.

"ForceSelect has already seen a significant increase in candidates at all levels and the Ministry of Defence's loss is the private and third sector's gain."

ForceSelect was set up by Hugh Andrée in response to the lack of advice and support he received when he left the Army in 1997.

Ends

NOTES TO EDITORS

ForceSelect was set up in 2009 by former Army Officer Hugh Andrée to provide military service leavers – currently estimated to be around 22,000 each year – with the best and most appropriate career opportunities within UK businesses.

ForceSelect believes that Armed Forces leavers are efficient, reliable, disciplined, and self-motivated candidates who can contribute positively to Britain's society and workforce.

All ForceSelect staff have served in the military including Managing Director and former Artillery Officer Lucy Wood; Director, best-selling author and SAS hero Andy McNab DCM MM; and Non-Executive Director and former Chief of General Staff General Sir Michael Jackson GCB CBE DSO DL.

ForceSelect has recently agreed partnership deals with British Gas, UPS and Sainsbury's. It is keen to sign up with a wide range of large and small businesses across the UK across all business sectors.

ForceSelect is implementing a mentoring and support programme to provide advice and guidance to individuals having left the Armed Forces, enabling a seamless transition from service life into civilian employment.

ForceSelect is developing a national network of volunteers who are willing to give up some of their time to help ex-service people living in their area. This mentoring will be offered to every service leaver placed in a new job and will cover areas such as accommodation, financial matters, medical matters and the different culture of civilian life.

ForceSelect has also agreed to work with a top London independent school to identify service leavers whose children would benefit from free school places. Once this scheme is established in 2011, ForceSelect plans to roll it out nationwide through the Independent Schools Association.

As part of a wider corporate responsibility, the ForceSelect Foundation has also been established to contribute towards service charities each year.

ForceSelect will contribute a proportion of its profits to the Foundation as well as organising a range of fundraising activities.

For more information, please visit www.forceselect.com



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