

# FORCESELECT AGREES STRATEGIC ALLIANCE WITH EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS GROUP

**London, September 1 2011** – ForceSelect, the UK's leading military service leaver recruitment consultancy, has signed a partnership agreement with Employment and Skills Group (esg.) to provide a complete package of training and job opportunities for the Armed Forces personnel set to join civvy street in the near future.

As the Government confirms the first wave of military redundancies as part of the £5bn Strategic Defence Review, the landmark announcement will add a complementary training offering to the specialist recruitment business, providing service leavers with comprehensive support as they seek to build new careers. Soft skills such as interview coaching will be available alongside specific job training in sectors as diverse as business administration, healthcare, warehousing, storage and IT.

ForceSelect founder Hugh Andrée is determined to help the talented individuals leaving the Forces transition into successful new careers in British businesses and believes that this partnership gives them the tools to maximise their chances of achieving this.

Hugh Andrée said: "ForceSelect has grown immeasurably since it was launched last year and agreeing a partnership with esg. is a great opportunity for us to expand our services and extend our office network across the UK.

"These defence cuts are a huge blow to the UK's national security and with more than 17,000 service personnel set to lose their jobs in the next few years, ForceSelect thought it was vital that we enhance and extend our offering to provide as comprehensive a service as possible.

"UK companies should see this as an opportunity to recruit some of the best young talent this country has to offer. 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."

Under the terms of the deal, ForceSelect will open offices in Sheffield, Birmingham, Bournemouth, Cardiff and Manchester or Liverpool over the next three years, enabling them to assist a greater proportion of the growing number of service leavers across the country.

As part of its holistic approach, ForceSelect will continue to provide non-employment services such as mentoring, housing support and a schools programme.

Gavin Freed, esg. Chief Executive, said: "esg. is delighted to be signing such an important agreement with ForceSelect, who have proved themselves to be leaders in their field. Combined with esg.'s experience of providing both vocational and employability skills, we are confident that we can offer an exemplary resettlement package to service leavers.



“We will work with ForceSelect to provide these men and women with the skills and confidence they need to enjoy a second career in the civilian world at a time when more people are finding themselves unemployed than ever before.”

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 partnership deals with UPS, Red Lion Foods and Network Rail. It is keen to sign up with a wide range of large and small businesses across the UK across all business sectors.

ForceSelect offers 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 is 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 developed a school bursaries programme to identify service personnel and service leavers whose children would benefit from free school places in top independent schools.

As part of a wider corporate responsibility, the ForceSelect Foundation was 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](http://www.forceselect.com)

The Employment and Skills Group (esg.) is a fast growing, leading supplier of welfare to work and vocational skills services within the UK. It is a unique organisation that delivers services to tackle social exclusion and poverty by helping disadvantaged individuals and communities.

esg.’s head office is based in Sheffield and it operates from local offices across England and in Wales.

Working alongside its partners, esg. has touched the lives of over 40,000 people and their communities in the last year alone.

esg. empowers, inspires and enables people to realise their potential, and the group has over 20 years experience in the skills and welfare to work markets.

By helping the most vulnerable in society to improve their skills and help them move into jobs with a future, esg. can create a greater sense of social inclusion. This leads to better health, education, reduced crime and brighter futures.

For more information, please visit [www.esgroup.co.uk](http://www.esgroup.co.uk)



**For media inquiries, please contact:**

**David Alexander, Calacus PR, [david.alexander@calacus.com](mailto:david.alexander@calacus.com) +44 (0) 7802 412424**