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# Demob... get a job

By JANE HAMILTON

Published: 19 May 2011

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**IT'S time to feel the Forces.**

More than 20,000 of Our Boys and Girls leave the Services each year.

And with Government cuts biting this autumn, a further 2,600 will be walking on to Civvy Street.

Statistics show more than half of ex-military staff land a job within two months of leaving the Services.

But here at Sunemployment we believe this should be much higher.

Why? Well, Armed Forces staff make the perfect workers. They're professional, motivated, organised and have integrity and loyalty.

Used to working alone or as part of a team, they're focused on getting the job done. And they're not afraid of hard work.

Top firms including Tesco, UPS, British Gas, BT, McDonald's and Sainsbury's have all recognised the benefits ex-Forces staff bring to their business and are fighting to sign them up.

And an innovative scheme from Jobcentre Plus is helping ex-Services staff find work with smaller local employers or even set up their own businesses.

Known as Armed Forces Champions, these special advisers are based in military towns and provide leavers with information on jobs and benefits that they may be eligible for.

And they work with employers across the UK to land roles for ex-troops. There are 48 Armed Forces Champions and each works closely with Ministry of Defence resettlement officers.

Carolyn Webster, Armed Forces Champion for Devon and Cornwall, said: "Leaving the Services is a big change for people, so it's important to show what else is on offer.

"I help them with things like writing CVs, tips for interviews and getting work trials so they can gain experience in other roles.

"I also work with local employers to highlight the benefits of employing those leaving the Services."

"It's really important to remember Services families too. Jobcentre Plus can help them find work wherever their partner is based, whether it's home or abroad.

"Then when they leave the Services we work with families to get training, find jobs and access childcare."

Maria Miller, minister at the Department For Work And Pensions, said: "We owe the men and women who have served their country a huge debt of gratitude.



Jobs for Heroes ... top firms lining up to employ ex-service men

## ForceSelect: Hire ex-service personnel

STUART EDWARDS, from The Sun's Jobs For Heroes partners ForceSelect, says companies should hire ex-Services personnel because they easily learn new skills.

He says they are dedicated and motivated self-starters used to working in a team and at ease under pressure.

Stuart says ex-Forces people should be proud of their military background and not undersell their abilities.

They should focus on skills they can transfer to a new career, he says.

Their achievements should be explained to employers because they may not be obvious.

They should also listen and learn and not be afraid to ask questions.

Taking time to understand the civilian workplace culture is also important, says Stuart.


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New job ... Steve Green



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"We will do everything we can to help them to find work and make sure they get all the

benefits they are entitled to if they are injured.

"With their skills and experience they have a great deal to offer employers."

BT Openreach is one firm to have realised the value of ex-Services staff.

They are recruiting around 200 former military personnel to deploy super-fast fibre broadband to homes and businesses.

The new employees will be part of a mobile engineering workforce called in to manage the company's toughest projects.

Openreach have been working with the Career Transition Partnership (CTP), set up by the MoD, and career managers Right Management to provide jobs guidance, training and employment support to those leaving the Forces.

Openreach chief executive Olivia Garfield said: "These people have served their country well and so deserve the chance of full-time employment with generous pay and pension provision.

"They are highly skilled, motivated and disciplined and have experience of complex engineering tasks in challenging environments."

Steve Green, from Yorkshire, left the Army earlier this year.

The 41-year-old, who was in the Army for 23 years, served in Bosnia, the Falklands, Germany and in the first Gulf War.

An electronics technician and armoured systems engineer, he started his training with BT last month and is now working in Andover, Hants.

Steve said: "I completed my first job on Wednesday last week. It was a bit like being a new recruit again. I really enjoyed it."

Armed Forces leavers or employers interested in recruiting ex-Services personnel should visit [ctp.org.uk](http://ctp.org.uk) or call 0121 236 0058. Or try [forceselect.com](http://forceselect.com).

Ex-Services staff can also find jobs by heading to their local Jobcentre Plus to find their nearest Armed Forces Champion.

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Ex service men and woman make great employees,they get their head down and get on with the job.Even come up with some bright idea's as well,to enhance the firm!.

3:58PM, May 19, 2011

[geordie2539](#)



Good for the Sun

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