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## Jobs

[Follow this link to the 20<sup>th</sup> February jobs bulletin](#)

## Sector news

### [The Covenant Fund – Families in Stress Grant Programme](#)

The Covenant Fund is running the Families in Stress Grant Programme again for the second year. We are holding an Open Session for any organisation that might be interested in applying on WEDNESDAY 05 April from 11.00 to 13.00. [Read more](#)

### [Healthwatch Norfolk Veterans Project](#)

This animation describes a Healthwatch Norfolk project (April 2015-16) to find ways of improving health and care services for military veterans with mental health conditions in Norfolk and Suffolk. The animation was produced by Creative Connection and the recipient of an NHS England's 'Celebrating Participation in Healthcare' grant 2016. [Read more](#)

## ABF The Soldiers' Charity



### [Soldier to take on epic desert race for ABF The Soldiers' Charity](#)

In 2017, Captain John Ford, Scots Guards, will be taking on one of the world's toughest physical challenges to raise money for The Soldiers' Charity. Captain Ford, will be competing in the Marathon des Sables, a 156-mile race held in the deserts of North Africa. [Read more](#)

### [Everest hero to tell his inspiring story at RGS talk](#)

Veteran Les Binns, who served for 13 years with the Light Dragoons and lost his sight in one eye after an IED explosion in 2009, will be returning to Everest later this year for a second attempt to conquer the legendary summit. [Read more](#)



Blind Veterans UK



**HRH The Countess of Wessex opens new facility in Llandudno supporting blind and limbless veterans learning vital “life skills”**

A new facility supporting veterans who have lost their sight, limbs, or both, has been opened by Her Royal Highness The Countess of Wessex GCVO at a military charity’s training and rehabilitation centre in Llandudno, North Wales.

Built in partnership between Blind Veterans UK and Blesma, The Limbless Veterans, this new “Life Skills” building will provide a rehabilitation environment to support essential life skills for independent living. The facility will support veterans who have lost their sight, limbs, or both, with a particular focus on supporting those who may be at risk of becoming homeless. [Read more](#)

**Suffolk blind veteran to take on mammoth 100k challenge for military charity**

A blind veteran from Bury St. Edmunds is preparing to embark on a 100 kilometre walking challenge for Blind Veterans UK, the national charity for vision-impaired Service men and women.

Colin Penaluna, 55, will be taking on the challenge for the second time with his guide, Russell Deamer, an advertising professional from Burgess Hill, Sussex, with whom Colin has previously conquered the immense challenge. [Read more](#)

Forces in Mind Trust



**New Forces in Mind Trust Grant: ‘healthcare navigator’ for need of Birmingham Armed Forces community**

Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (BCHC) has teamed up with the Defence Medical Welfare Service (DMWS) and the Tavistock Institute to pilot a new model of care to support our local armed forces community with a £97,507 grant from the Forces in Mind Trust (FiMT).

A newly-appointed ‘healthcare navigator’ will lead an initiative to raise awareness of the needs of the armed forces community among NHS primary care staff and develop a dedicated service to help serving personnel, veterans, reservists and their families access a range of health, social and third sector support. [Read more](#)

**New Forces in Mind Trust Funded Report: Changing ex-Officer community faces new challenges**

Forces in Mind Trust (FiMT), together with the Officers’ Association has today (1 March) released a new report, which provides a definitive demographic profile of the serving and ex-officer community. The Report states that there are over 26,820 serving UK officers, and an estimated 371,600 veteran officers in Great Britain, including 19,200 over ninety years of age. The Report projects that the number of veteran officers will fall by 55% in the next 20 years, because of the decreasing number of World War Two veterans. [Read more](#)





**New Forces in Mind Trust award: Bristol University to improve signposting to specialist support for domestic violence and abuse in UK military families**

A grant of £46,938 has been awarded to University of Bristol for a 15-month study to investigate domestic violence and abuse (DVA) in UK military families. The research will investigate what criteria might constitute specialist DVA provision for this group, and what service providers, if any, already meet these criteria, in order to help improve signposting to the service providers best placed to meet the needs of UK military families suffering DVA. [Read more](#)

**New Forces in Mind Trust award: King’s College London to research secondary mental health treatment for ex-Service personnel**

A grant of £158,999 has been awarded to King’s College London to conduct an 18-month feasibility study exploring the type of mental health problems UK veterans experience who actively access secondary mental health care, their pathway through treatment, the outcomes of the treatment they receive, and their socio-demographic profile. The project will compare and contrast these findings with non-veterans (ie the general population) who access the same services, as well as UK veterans who access veteran-specific mental health care services. [Read more](#)

**Forces in Mind Trust’s first two Specialist Fellows celebrate the end of their Fellowships on Clore Social Leadership’s Fellowship programme 2015 and 2016**

The Forces in Mind Trust (FiMT), established to help ex-Service personnel and their families make a successful transition back to civilian life, formally celebrated the achievements of their first two Specialist FiMT Fellows on Clore Social Leadership’s Fellowship Programme at a dedicated event marking the end of the 2015 and 2016 Fellowships. [Read more](#)

30<sup>th</sup> March - Forces in Mind Trust – Invitation to Sector Briefing in Portsmouth

31<sup>st</sup> March - Forces in Mind Trust – Invitation to Sector Briefing in Andover

Future for Heroes



**More Courses from Future for Heroes**

More terrific news for Future for Heroes: ABF, The Soldiers’ Charity has recently approved another consecutive year’s funding for their needy veterans who choose to attend our personal change programme. This continued support is fantastic – a huge thank you to The Soldiers’ Charity. [Read more](#)

Gurkha Welfare Trust



**Our team in Nepal: a day in the life**

Dambar Thapa is currently working on one of our major school projects in a remote part of western Nepal. Siddartha Lower Secondary School was destroyed by the earthquakes in 2015. By November 2016, we’d begun work on new, quake-resistant buildings for its 140 pupils. [Read more](#)



## Heropreneurs



### Heropreneurs receives Points of Light award

A successful businessman from Beaconsfield has set up a charity to help entrepreneurial members of the Armed Forces pursue their dreams. Peter Mountford is the chair of 'Heropreneurs', a charity that helps current and former service personnel start their own businesses. [Read more](#)

### 8th March – Heropreneurs goes to the Movies

Heropreneurs is a charity that inspires, networks and mentors aspiring entrepreneurs from the armed forces community. Tony served in the army for over 14 years and since leaving has been involved in the physical nittygritty of films; currently working as a supervising location manager. [Read more](#)

## HighGround



### From the Forces to the fields of Devon

A charity that helps current and former military personnel transition from the Forces to employment in the rural sector has announced a new programme in Devon. HighGround will be delivering Rural Weeks at Bicton College for the first time, starting in March, followed by a further three Rural Weeks in spring. [Read more](#)

## Mission Motorsport



### Mission Motorsport – 5th Birthday

The Forces' Motorsport Charity, Mission Motorsport, is celebrating its 5th birthday. Over the past 5 years, Mission Motorsport has helped 850 Wounded, Injured, and Sick serving personnel and veterans, and will celebrate its achievements with a track day at Goodwood Motor Circuit. [Read more](#)

## Naval Families Federation



### Transition Project – Naval Families Federation

NFF is running a two year project to gain a better understanding of the transition process and the challenges that surround it. So if you're leaving the Royal Navy or Royal Marines and you have at least 9 months left until your final day of service, please give us a call today. [Read more](#)

## Not Forgotten Association



### Concerts Provide Health Benefits For Care Home Residents

Research shows that music can have a powerful therapeutic effect on those living in care, particularly on older people with dementia. Since it was founded for 'the comfort, cheer and entertainment' of servicemen injured in WWI, The Not Forgotten Association has organised annual concert programmes in ex-service care homes across the UK. [Read more](#)



SkillForce



### **The Duke of Cambridge Launches Groundbreaking UK First – New SkillForce Prince William Award Programme To Give Children Confidence and Resilience For Life**

The Duke of Cambridge is launching a groundbreaking new award programme run by SkillForce in his name today [March 1st] to help schoolchildren build character, confidence and resilience. The SkillForce Prince William Award is the first award scheme of its kind. Delivered by the national education charity SkillForce, it targets younger children from six-years-old as well as teenagers. [Read more](#)

SSVC



### **The Military Tech Show returns with S2 on Forces TV. Wednesday's @ 7:30pm**

In a brand new series of The Military Tech Show, we explore the latest and most exciting developments in defence and security technology. During the next six episodes highlights include rare access to the German Aerospace Centre outside Munich where scientists are using radar for detecting land mines; an exclusive behind the scenes look at the work of NATO's Centre for Maritime Research and Experimentation in La Spezia, Italy. [Read more](#)

Stoll



### **Stoll runs free English classes for Gurkha Veteran community in Hounslow**

Stoll is offering free ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classes to support its Gurkha residents and their families improve their English and engage more confidently with the wider community. The first pilot course is currently running at Stoll's Countess of Wessex House for two hours a week for 12 weeks and will come to an end in April. [Read more](#)

Support our Paras



### **Military Charity Discount Entry to the PARAS'10**

The PARAS'10 is the ultimate endurance challenge, based on the fabled P Company selection week test: 10 miles as a Run or 'Tab' – in boots and 35lbs Bergen. [www.paras10.com](http://www.paras10.com) This authentic military challenge is now in its 6th year at Colchester (Sun 21 May) and 10th year at Catterick (Sun 03 Sept). Take part as individuals or in teams of 4 – with trophies at stake for both Run and Tab. There's even a PARAS'2 for Kids 8-14 – a 2 mile fun run with trophies up for grabs in three age groups. The Red Devils drop in to make a great day out for the family. [Read more](#)





## 2017 – the centenary of The Women's Royal Naval Service

2017 marks the centenary of the formation of The Women's Royal Naval Service. On Wednesday 8th March, a number of specially invited guests will be present as HRH The Princess Royal launches the WRNS100 centenary and opens an exhibition at the National Museum of the Royal Navy Portsmouth entitled "Pioneers to Professionals: Women and the Royal Navy". [Read more](#)

## Useful Dates

- 4<sup>th</sup> March Colchester – Pub Quiz for ABF The Soldiers' Charity
- 19<sup>th</sup> March - Mayor of Bournemouth's Military Musical Celebration
- 24<sup>th</sup> March 2017 - Soldiering On Awards - National Recognition for the Armed Forces Community
- 30<sup>th</sup> March - Forces in Mind Trust – Invitation to Sector Briefing in Portsmouth
- 31<sup>st</sup> March - Forces in Mind Trust – Invitation to Sector Briefing in Andover
- 5<sup>th</sup> April - The Covenant Fund – Families in Stress Grant Programme
- 16<sup>th</sup> May – Demobbed: the Reality of Veteran Mental Health in the UK
- 28<sup>th</sup> May – 3rd June SSAFA's short breaks
- 4th-8<sup>th</sup> June - Taxi Charity trip to Normandy
- 5<sup>th</sup> June - AFF to host symposium in partnership with the King's Centre for Military Health Research
- 29<sup>th</sup> July – 4th August SSAFA's short breaks

Throughout the year - Peace Education Programme (PEP) at Stoll

## Employment, Education and Training

- Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March - Tidworth Job Fair 2017
- Follow this link for all the latest Futures for Heroes courses
- Follow this link for the latest Heropreneurs events
  - Heropreneurs Networking Event – 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017
- Follow this link for all the latest Officers' Association events
  - 21<sup>st</sup> March – OA Employers Knowledge Swap – Translating Military Skills – London
- Follow this link for RACPD course dates and details
- LifeWorks and LifeWorks Families Course Dates 2017 Updates
- X-Forces
  - For the latest X-Forces events follow this link
- Recruit for Spouses
- RBLI
  - Upcoming dates of RBLI's employment support programme for veterans
  - Upcoming dates of RBLI's employment support programme for the spouses and partners of Armed Forces personnel

## Health & Wellbeing

- Warrior Programme – Families' Residential Courses
  - Tues 21<sup>st</sup> – Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2017 – Newton Abbot, Devon
  - Tues 25<sup>th</sup> – Thurs 27<sup>th</sup> April 2017 – Newton Abbot, Devon
- 16<sup>th</sup> March 2017 - Veterans' Mental Health – The Wider Perspective – conference at Kings' College supported by FiMT



## Cobseo: Useful dates

- 24<sup>th</sup> May Cobseo Executive Meeting - Mountbarrow House 1000 -1500
- 11<sup>th</sup> July Cobseo AGM – TBC
- 4<sup>th</sup> October Cobseo Executive Meeting/Away Day – TBC
- 6<sup>th</sup> December Cobseo Executive Meeting - Mountbarrow House 1000 -1500

