

Supporting military leavers into construction careers



Devon & Cornwall Police



Willmott Dixon offer work placements, mentoring, and construction careers advice and guidance to support people leaving the Forces in their transition to civilian life.

Signatories of the Armed Forces Covenant, Willmott Dixon are committed to supporting the Armed Forces Community. There is a strong Military presence in the South West and we very much value the transferable skills Service Leavers and Veterans bring into the industry.

Willmott Dixon's Wales & the West region therefore work closely with the Royal Marines Charity as well as BuildForce.

This is a collaborative, industry-led programme that aims to inspire and enable Service Leavers and Veterans to transition to sustainable employment in the construction industry. We joined the BuildForce Alliance in February 2019 providing industry advice, mentoring and work placements to their candidates.

The Challenge

Around 14,000 people leave the Armed Forces each year, equipped with highly valuable military skills like teamwork, punctuality, leadership and motivation.

Many Military Leavers are not aware of the opportunities available within the construction industry, despite the fact that there are many overlaps which make construction an attractive sector for Forces Leavers and also enable them to use their skills most effectively.

The Response

Willmott Dixon engage with military charities and organisations to assist people from the Forces to make the switch to civilian life and raise their awareness of the opportunities the construction industry offers.

Whilst building the new Police Station at Middlemoor, we attended the Armed Forces Resettlement and Careers Fair at the Commando Training Centre in Lympstone in 2018 and 2019, as well as the Armed Forces Insight Day in Exeter, speaking to over 100 Service Leavers about career opportunities in the industry.

We facilitated work experience placements at Middlemoor for two Former Royal Marines who were interested in a career in construction and wanted to explore the role of Building Manager.

During the placement subjects like Construction Health & Safety, Supply Chain Coordination, Commercial Management, Planning and Programming, and many more were covered.

The Results

The site team were very impressed with the mindset, work ethos and transferrable skills the two candidates showed while on site. The Forces Leavers on the other hand were thankful for the opportunity we provided.

"I just wanted to thank everyone involved in my work placement last week; I was made to feel welcome by all at Willmott Dixon. It was an invaluable experience that will help me make important decisions about my future."

Nick Whitaker
Former Royal Marine

Nick has since started a Degree Apprenticeship in Civil Engineering which he is very excited about.



Transferable Solution

Willmott Dixon will continue to inspire and enable Service Leavers to take up a career in the Construction industry and support the Royal Marines Charity and BuildForce with their work.

