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100 service leavers move into construction jobs

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Some 100 ex-service leavers have entered into careers in construction and engineering in the past two years, thanks to an industry-led initiative to plug the skills gap.

Following a 35 year career in the British Army, Nick Channer became the 100th former armed forces personnel to find a job through BuildForce, when he was hired by Wilson James.

Set up in 2016, BuildForce provides service leavers with 1-2-1 mentoring, identifying transferable skills within the construction industry.

Chair of BuildForce and Lendlease commercial director Angela Forbes said: "This is a fine example of BuildForce working brilliantly with our Service Leavers - attracting Nick's calibre and unique skillset strengthens our own Industry. We will continue to bring in the diverse talents of our Service Leavers into Construction and look forward to our next 100."

Meanwhile Channer added: "BuildForce made a massive difference to me during my transition and I would encourage other Service Leavers to approach the organisation, even those who may not directly be considering a career in construction – the span of opportunities is much wider than some might think."

Wilson James is an active founding partner of BuildForce, along with EY, Lendlease Morgan Sindall and the BuildForce Alliance of industry employers.

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