



BRITISH AGGREGATES ASSOCIATION – PRESS RELEASE
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Quarry Industry Looks to the Armed Forces for tomorrow's Managers

The Quarrying Industry has united in the search for the quarry managers of the future by attending a unique careers event in Perth organised by the MoD's Careers Transition Partnership. The Employment Fair was attended by nearly 500 forces personnel, all researching new career opportunities as they approach the end of their active service. On-hand to promote careers within the quarrying industry were the major industry operators along with representatives from British Aggregates Association (BAA), Quarry Products Association (QPA) and Proskills.

The BAA and QPA together with Proskills have developed a relationship with the Careers Transition Partnership and identified very similar skills in ex-forces personnel and the quarry industry. With the majority of the MoD's delegates at the exhibition having developed excellent man-management skills, technical know-how and responsible attitudes, quarry operators had no shortage of impressive CVs to take home with them.

SME quarry operators typical of BAA members who represent this sector are now being encouraged to also attend forthcoming MoD careers fairs following the very positive experience at the event. The industry is struggling to find good quality candidates in some parts of the country to join our essential industry and future attendance at such events might help to resolve the situation. Industry representatives at the Perth Careers Fair had no hesitation in recommending the vast majority of the forces personnel to apply to the Industry's approved quarrying diploma through the University of Derby, with delegates reciprocating with very positive reactions to careers opportunities in the sector.

Richard Bird *"By working with the Careers Transition Partnership, the quarrying industry can now tap into an excellent source of potential managers for the future. Many of the interested candidates that we spoke with came with excellent transferable skills including man management, technical know how and practical H&S experience. Until the Employment Fair at Perth, most of them had never even considered quarrying as a possible career move because they were not aware of what we had to offer. Hopefully we can now all build on what turned out to be a most successful event".*

Romana Grant (Employment & Training Manager for CTP in Scotland) *"Our Service Leavers found it really useful to speak directly to an industry sector they might not have considered for a career before. It was clearly a win-win situation as they found that their skills matched many of the requirements of the quarrying industry, while the industry in turn seemed highly impressed by what our Service Leavers have to offer."*

Operators interested in finding out more about the schedule of careers fairs for 2007 should visit the Service Leavers website at <http://www.ctp.org.uk>. Employers with vacancies to fill can register with the CTP website, Employers Section and gain access to the on-line vacancy website, Rightjob, which allows employers to advertise vacancies free of charge and Service Leavers interested in vacancies can apply direct to the employers.

For more information on the industry's relationship with the Careers Transition Partnership, contact

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Notes to editors:

1. The British Aggregates Association (BAA) is the representative trade body for independent quarry operators www.british-aggregates.co.uk
2. The Association represents some 80 members across the UK producing 10% of national aggregate output from over 100 individual sites
3. The Association was formed to campaign for the interests of SME quarry operators, to protect the independent quarry sector from the increasing dominance of the major operators, and to oppose the ill-conceived Aggregates Levy.
4. BAA is represented on the industry Proskills Board, and the EPIC industry training Council Board.
5. The Association participates fully with all EU and UK consultations on environmental, economic, and health and safety legislation; and is an active member of the *Confederation of British Industry* (CBI) Minerals Committee, and the *Construction Products Association* (CPA). It operates its own mutual restoration fund for quarry restoration.