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Unipart Helps Soldiers Gain Insights into Global Logistics Business

A group of Bicester based soldiers have had the opportunity to gain a unique insight into the operations of a global logistics company thanks to Unipart.

Six soldiers from 23 Pioneer Regiment , Royal Logistic Corps attended a specially designed two week course provided by Unipart Consumer Logistics at the company's global headquarters in Oxford in December.

Unipart, which is one of Europe's leading full service logistics providers, is among the first major employers in Oxfordshire to develop and offer such an innovative programme to the Armed Forces.

The 530 strong 23 Pioneer Regiment, which is based in Bicester, will disband as part of the Strategic Defence & Security Review. Covering a diverse range of roles, 23 Pioneer Regiment is the only regular pioneer Regiment in the British Army. It is able to provide a wide range of capabilities, many of which are transferable and attractive to civilian employers, through its specialist trained soldiers.

The aim of the Unipart course is to provide a group of these highly qualified soldiers with an insight into the commercial requirements of a logistics company that delivers services to major blue chip organisations such as Homebase, Vodafone, ASOS and Jaguar Land Rover.

As Carl Smith, Operations Manager for Unipart Automotive, himself a former member of the Royal Logistic Corps said "When I left the forces after 22 years' service I was very apprehensive about what to do and what to expect. When we had the opportunity to help these soldiers in their transition to civilian life I embraced it knowing that my experience would be invaluable to advise and guide. I am very proud to be a part of this very important program and I am sure all of us will find it rewarding in every area. "

The participants worked alongside Unipart's Operational Leadership Teams who gave them practical coaching in each stage of the logistics life cycle, whilst learning

about The Unipart Way – a philosophy which uses tools and techniques to promote efficiency, flexibility and outstanding customer focus in any process. They received feedback not only in the “hands-on” use of the Unipart Way, but also individual support and feedback to maximise their potential for life outside the Armed Forces.

Commenting on Unipart’s involvement, Paul Brooks, Sales Director for Unipart Logistics said “We are proud to be working alongside Skills for Logistics to provide an opportunity for members of our Armed Forces to develop real experience and knowledge that will give them an invaluable insight into life in a thriving global logistics business.

“We take our corporate responsibility programmes very seriously and we believe that this pilot project will provide insights and experience that may inform the way that many of our service people return to civilian life and take up important roles in commercial organisations.

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Editors’ Notes:

About The Unipart Group

The Unipart Group employs around 10,000 personnel worldwide and has an annual turnover of more than £1billion. It is a leading full service logistics provider and consultant in operational excellence.

Operating across a range of market sectors, including automotive, leisure, marine, manufacturing, mobile telecoms, rail, retail and technology, Unipart offers a breadth of services from third party logistics to expert consultancy.

All Unipart sites operate according to the Group’s proprietary version of Lean known as The Unipart Way. This is a philosophy of working underpinned by tools and techniques that inspires efficiency, flexibility and outstanding customer service in any process.

Unipart also offers expert consultancy in implementing Lean principles and in supply chain management across a variety of industry sectors.

The Group’s clients include Sainsbury’s, ASOS.com, Homebase, Vodafone, BMW, Three, Sky, Aston Martin, Jaguar Land Rover.