

Early Access to New Deal for Partners of current or ex-members of HM Armed Forces

New Deal is a programme that gives people on benefits the help and support they need to look for work, including training and preparing for work. Eligibility for New Deal is generally based on how long someone has been unemployed and claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA). In some cases early access to New Deal can be agreed.

As of 26 January 2009 the partners of serving or formerly serving members of the Armed Forces are eligible for early access to New Deal under the following conditions:

Partners of current HM Forces: the partner must be claiming Jobseeker's Allowance in their own right.

Partners of ex-HM Forces: this applies to the partner of a person who has served in the regular Armed Forces for longer than three months in the last three years, providing that the person and the partner are both named on the same joint claim for JSA, or the partner is claiming JSA in their own right.

Former members of HM Forces: A former member of HM Forces who is receiving JSA is eligible for voluntary early access for New Deal provided they served in the regular forces for more than three months in the previous three years.

Further information on New Deal can be found at:

http://www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk/JCP/Customers/outofworkhelplookingforwork/Getting_job_ready/Programmes_to_get_you_ready/New_Deal/index.html