

Soldiering On Awards Awards Night

SOUVENIR BROCHURE



Wednesday 27th September 2023
PARK PLAZA WESTMINSTER BRIDGE HOTEL, LONDON

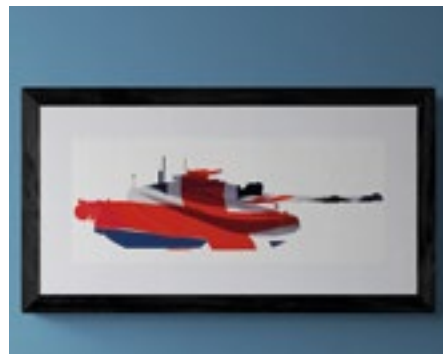
#SoldieringOnAwards

Silent Auction

Supporting Your Awards Tonight

Whether you're looking for tangible keepsakes or memorable experiences, this auction has something for everyone. Discover contributions from veteran owned businesses, Armed Forces memorabilia, exciting adventures and unforgettable days out.

All monies received above the reserve price contribute to the running costs of these Awards and are gratefully received. To peruse the auction and raffle items, please scan the QR code to visit the online auction site, where you can place bids and buy raffle tickets.



The Soldiering On Awards is underwritten each year by X-Forces Enterprise (XFE) on behalf of the Armed Forces community. As a registered Community Interest Company (CIC), a not-for-profit social enterprise, XFE is a strategic delivery partner for a variety of Armed Forces community activities and most specifically for supporting any members of the community interested in a career in self-employment or business ownership. All proceeds of this silent auction will go towards the hosting costs of this Soldiering Awards 2023 Awards Night that recognises the deserving achievements of so many. Tonight's Silent Auction is organised by Impulse Decisions.



A very warm welcome from Awards Patron, The Rt Hon. the Earl Howe GBE PC

Welcome to 2023's Soldiering On Awards grand finale. After months of waiting, we can celebrate incredible achievements by extraordinary people from all across the Armed Forces community.

It has been an amazing year for nominations, both in number and in quality. Of course, the bar is set extremely high by the nominees, finalists, and winners who have gone before, yet somehow, each year sees more and more examples of outstanding endeavour.

Hearing the stories and the lived experiences of each of our finalists here tonight is indeed humbling, all the more so since they share a common goal – changing lives for the better. This is what makes the Soldiering On Awards so very special and the over-arching awards ceremony for the military community.

Of course, all of this would not be possible without our wonderful supporters, two of whom are new to the Soldiering On Awards family this year – Centrica and Right Management. We have also welcomed new additions to the Independent Judging Panel, and it is thrilling to see former winners lending their insight and experience to the judging process.

I urge all of you here tonight to share the stories of our finalists far and wide – they may very well inspire others to achieve great things worthy of nomination for the 2024 Soldiering On Awards!



Tonight's Schedule

Welcome to the 13th Soldiering On Awards.

This is the night of the year for the Armed Forces community to join together and celebrate outstanding achievements, accompanied by great food, wine and entertainment. Join us in raising a toast to all our finalists!

- 17:30** Drinks Reception
- 18:45** Celebration begins
- 19:30** Dinner
- 21:15** Awards and Entertainment
- 22:50** More Entertainment, Networking and Bar

#SoldieringOnAwards



Menu

Starter

Trio of: Presser of Chicken, Wild Mushroom & Figs

Smoked duck breast with pepper cream cheese & roast peach; Presser of roast vegetable with basil dressing.

Marinated Vegetable Rolls

With artichoke puree, grilled aubergine & asparagus. (vg)

Main

Duo of: Blade & Jacobs's Ladder Beef

Olive oil mash potatoes, yellow carrot purée, butternut squash purée, rich veal jus.

Sundried Tomato, Mozzarella & Basil Risotto (v)

Dessert

Almond Sponge

Almond feuilletine crunchy base, chocolate and orange zest ganache, espresso Chantilly, salted caramel

Wines

Sauvignon Blanc, Los Tortolitos
Pinotage, Journeymaker

Awards Night Host



Jeremy Vine

Jeremy Vine's daily programme, The Jeremy Vine Show on BBC Radio 2, is now the most listened-to radio news programme in the UK, having overtaken BBC Radio 4's flagship Today — not that Jeremy likes to mention that much. He also presents a daily topical programme on Ch5, as well as Eggheads and the BBC election graphics.

Jeremy was named Speech Broadcaster of the Year at the Sony Awards in 2005 and 2011 and won Interview of the Year for the famous “head-in-hands” moment with Prime Minister Gordon Brown shortly before Mr Brown lost the 2010 election.

Vine has also presented BBC1's Points of View and was one of only four anchors in the history of Panorama, the world's oldest current affairs show. The others are David Dimbleby, Richard Dimbleby and Sir Robin Day.

Jeremy studied English Literature at Durham University, and in 1986 began his career as a trainee reporter at the Coventry Evening Telegraph, in the days of manual typewriters and hot metal presses. After that he was a BBC news trainee, Today reporter (the Yugoslav war and sheep racing in Dorset), political correspondent during the nineties, Africa correspondent based in Johannesburg, and Newsnight presenter — the most frightening assignment of all, working alongside the legendary Paxman.

His autobiography It's All News to Me tells the vivid story of his first 25 years at the BBC. A review in the Daily Telegraph said:

“Jeremy Vine is the perfect diarist, because he is an exhibitionist who doesn't mind looking stupid. So he has written a brilliant memoir detailing his adventures at the BBC, from political correspondent to the Today programme to number three at Newsnight to his present job on Radio 2. Vine is silly and joyful and he has written a silly and joyful book, which I adored.”

Jeremy was also on Strictly Come Dancing in 2015, where he scored a 2 for his Cha-Cha-Cha. He is married to Rachel and they live with their two daughters in west London, who he went on Strictly to show off to.

“Everything that goes on with Soldiering On Awards is so inspiring. Hearing all the stories and meeting the incredible finalists really is the highlight of my year.”

Tonight's Performers



Christina Johnston

Christina, known as “The Nightingale,” captivates audiences across the globe. At 17, she earned a scholarship to London’s Guildhall School of Music and Drama, and in 2012, she made her operatic debut at Prague’s State Opera as Queen of the Night in Mozart’s *Die Zauberflöte* and Adele in Strauss’s *Die Fledermaus*.

Her career has since flourished at European and Russian Opera Houses, portraying roles like Olympia in Offenbach’s *Les Contes D’Hoffmann*, Zerlina in Mozart’s *Don Giovanni*, and Katerina Cavellieri in *Amadeus* with The Prague Shakespeare Company.

Christina has sung for prominent figures, including the President of the Czech Republic, the President of the People’s Republic of China, and EU Presidents. She was chosen to perform during China’s World War II commemoration and Israel’s Day of Jerusalem broadcast in Hebrew.

Her voice graces film scores, notably in “Interlude in Prague” (2019), “Battleship Island,” and the groundbreaking “Wonder Woman 1984” (2021), the first operatic aria in a DC Comic film. She’s been featured at film festivals alongside esteemed composers like Joe Hisaishi, James Horner, Patrick Doyle, Craig Armstrong, Elliot Goldenthal, and Michael Giacchino.

Christina’s accomplishments also include her debut CD, “Blessing,” with The City of Prague Philharmonic Orchestra, a Christmas EP with Matthew Sheeran, and an invitation from José Carreras to join his Farewell Tour in 2019. Her charity single “A Million Tears” for the Purple Poppy Appeal, supporting the War Horse Memorial, received backing from Queen Elizabeth II and 52 Commonwealth countries, and reached No1 on the Classical charts in February 2022.

The last two summers, Christina has joined Russell Watson on his outdoor concerts with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, and in 2023, she embarks on a tour of France and makes her Canadian debut.



Tonight's Performers

The Corps of Drums of The Royal Logistic Corps

The Corps of Drums has a proud history dating back to 1799 when one Drummer from each of the five companies of the newly formed Royal Wagon Train was authorized to replace trumpeters.

Buglers and Drummers undertake a two year tour with the Corps of Drums before returning to their trades ranging from Drivers to Port Operators.

The Corps of Drums are in very high demand for their unique Black Light Drum Display. These displays have taken the Corps of Drums across the Globe, from displays in Northern Ireland and Germany, to performing alongside the US Army's 'Hellcats' Corps of Drums based at West Point Military Academy, New York. The Corps of Drums most recent tours took them to Thailand and Turkey to support The Queens Platinum Jubilee celebrations at the Embassy.



Tonight's Performers



Ryan Truzzi-Franconi

Ryan Truzzi-Franconi is a clarinetist and saxophonist based in North Devon. He started his musical journey at age 11, later studied music at college and then, at age 18, he joined the prestigious Royal Marines Band, successfully completing three years of military and music training in 2014.

Following training in Portsmouth, Ryan was drafted to the Royal Marines Band, Scotland, based in Rosyth and within three months, he deployed on the hospital ship RFA Argus as part of Op Gritrock, the Royal Navy's medical, musical, and humanitarian response to the Ebola Crisis.

Over the course of his 11-year military service, he enjoyed musical highlights including performances at the Royal Albert Hall, the Edinburgh Military Tattoo, and a two-month tour of America and Canada with the Scots Guards' pipers, drummers, and highland dancers. He also took part in endurance challenges like the Royal Marines 88-mile Lymestone to Poole race and the Spean Bridge Commando Speed March.

In 2022, Ryan was medically discharged and has since pursued a career as a solo saxophonist, performing at weddings and events whilst furthering his music study and indulging his passion for jazz.



Tonight's Performers

What The Funk

What The Funk are renowned for their high octane blend of funk, soul, jazz, disco and R&B creating a night you won't forget.

Passionate about harmony, melody and irresistible bass lines, the core of WTF is the powerful vocals of Army Reserves Capt Dr Andie Johnson-Mitchell, backed by an eclectic mix of experienced musicians. Collectively, their gigging experience is unrivalled!

From the raw funk of James Brown to the hip-hop, dance-pop of the Black Eyed Peas and Bruno Mars, What The Funk will get you dancing and grooving your way onto the dance floor to celebrate the Soldiering On Awards 2023.



Harry Gordon, Combined Cadet Force Piper

Cadet Gordon returns to the 2023 Soldiering On Awards after his tremendous debut in 2022.

Harry, age 15, is an active member of ACF Pipes and Drums and plays in the various cadet ensembles that perform around the UK. This summer, he performed with the 494th Fighter Squadron and the 2nd Battalion Ranger Regiment in the Houses of Parliament, and took part in the 2023 World Pipe Band Championships with the Gordon's School Pipe Band.



A message from the Co-Chairs of Judges; **General the Lord Dannatt GCB CBE MC DL** and **Debra Allcock Tyler, CEO, Directory of Social Change.**

The Soldiering On Awards never disappoint. The people and organisations presented to the judges never fail to inspire. The judging process itself never gets any easier!

The rigour, passion, and dedication our judging panels bring to the Soldiering On Awards each year is a constant source of inspiration to us as Co-Chairs. Giving each and every nomination the objective consideration it deserves takes hundreds of hours.

First, our Category Judges cast their experienced eyes over the nominees and pass their observations on to the Independent Judging Panel. We then fiercely debate the selections and, ultimately, eventually, arrive at three finalists in each of the twelve categories.

Each year, the finalists' stories of selflessness, dedication, and endeavour, move us deeply. The process is truly a rollercoaster ride of emotions. Our profound thanks go to our judges who give so freely of their time and commit so fully to the task at hand.

Lastly, but perhaps most importantly, we must recognise the nominators, without whom there would be no awards. These individuals take the time to recognise the work of others and inspire future nominators to bring to light next year's amazing stories.

You can read more about the judges on the Soldiering On Awards website and their pictures are on the next pages, so please do look out for them tonight and thank them personally.

Enjoy your evening, enjoy meeting our finalists, and have your tissues at the ready!



Meet the 2023 Independent Judging Panel



General the Lord Dannatt GCB CBE MC DL
Co-chair of Judges



Debra Allcock Tyler
Co-chair of Judges, CEO, Directory of Social Change



Julie Baker
Head of Enterprise and Climate Engagement and Partnerships Commercial & Institutional Banking NatWest Group



Neil Jackson
Chief Executive Officer, MoD Defence Relationship Management, Ministry of Defence



David Richmond
Independent Veterans Advisor and Vice Chair of the Veterans Advisory Board



Jessie Owen
Director, Office for Veterans' Affairs



Helen Helliwell
Director, Armed Forces People Policy, Ministry of Defence



Brigadier (Retd) Robin Simpson
Professor of Military Primary Healthcare and Veterans Health, University of Chester



Martin Taylor
Co-Founder and Deputy CEO, Redwood Technologies Group



Nick Pope
Chair of Cobseo



Brigadier Karl Harris CBE
Director Land Command and Staff College



Sarah Atherton MP
MP for Wrexham and Member of the Defence Committee

Our thanks to Landmarc for
their generous sponsorship of
this evening's drinks reception.



“The Soldiering On Awards serve as a powerful platform for spotlighting the exceptional accomplishments within our Defence community. It is with great pleasure that Landmarc joins in supporting this momentous occasion. We are fully committed to celebrating the remarkable individuals and their outstanding contributions to our Armed Forces. Their dedication and achievements exemplify the very best of our Defence network, and we are honoured to be part of this evening's celebration.”

***Major General (Ret'd)
David Southall CBE***



Meet the 2023 Category Judges



Adrian Peters
CTP Ops Director



Craig Beaumont
FRSA
Chief of
External Affairs,
Federation of
Small Businesses



Daniel Elser
Director of Grants
& Quality, The
Royal British
Legion



David Smith
Owner, CrossFit
Spitfire;
Soldiering
On Award
Winner 2018



Caroline Cooke
Head of Policy,
Forces in Mind
Trust



Douglas Badham
Partner, Curzon
Consulting



Nick Wood
MSc FHEA
Armed Forces
and Uniformed
Services Manager,
York St John
University



Gina Allsop
Soldiering
On Award 2022
Inspiration Award
Winner



Duncan Bruce
OBE
Vice President
Customer
Experience -
Global Strategic
Clients Group,
Oracle



WO1 Paul Carney
Army Sergeant
Major



Tom McBarnet
Chief Executive,
Forces in Mind
Trust



Karen Tracey
Director, Dunelm
Leaders



Mark Miller
Business
Development
Director – UK
Defence, GKN
Aerospace



Laura Blair
Head of Ex-
Forces Pathway,
Centrica



Lisa Marr
Director
Colleague
Engagement -
Chief Security
Office, Barclays



Christopher Allen
Independent



Darren Elsey
Regional
Operations
Manager,
Landmarc



Sip Powers
Director of
Extreme Outdoors;
Soldiering On
Award Lifetime
Achievement
Award Winner
2022



Clair Mowbray
Director of
Learning
Delivery and
Transformation
at Capita's Fire
Service College



Sheena Valentina
Co-owner of
CrossFit Spitfire



Scott Davies
National Security
and Defence
team, Cisco
Systems UK&I



Sally Orange
Inspirational
Speaker,
Army Cadet
Force National
Ambassador,
SOA 2020 and
2022 Winner



Sarah Woodward
Commercial
and Marketing
Manager, Pets at
Home Limited

centrica

WE POWER THE FUTURE
YOU POWER US



"Centrica removed a lot of the apprehension that all service leavers feel. The support and positivity has been fantastic."

Dan Weddle joined the Centrica Armed Forces Pathway after leaving the Royal Navy in 2022



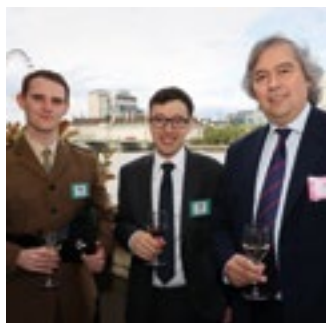
centrica.com/careers

"Centrica is delighted, humbled, and honoured to support this year's Finalists' Reception at the House of Lords. It is a privilege for us to be involved in this common purpose, celebrating the outstanding finalists who have shown determination, entrepreneurship, resolve, and selfless commitment.**"** **Laura Blair, Centrica**

2023 Finalists' Reception, hosted by Awards Patron Earl Howe and special guest Jeremy Vine at the House of Lords.

Supported by Centrica







The Finalists' Reception was held in July 2023 and gave the opportunity for the finalists, sponsors and judges to meet in a relaxed and informal environment, celebrating all of their amazing achievements.

The 2023 Soldiering On Awards Finalists' Reception was kindly supported by Centrica

centrica



NatWest

Rosie Ginday Miss Macaroon

“**NatWest helped
us grow
so we could
support
more young
people in
need**”

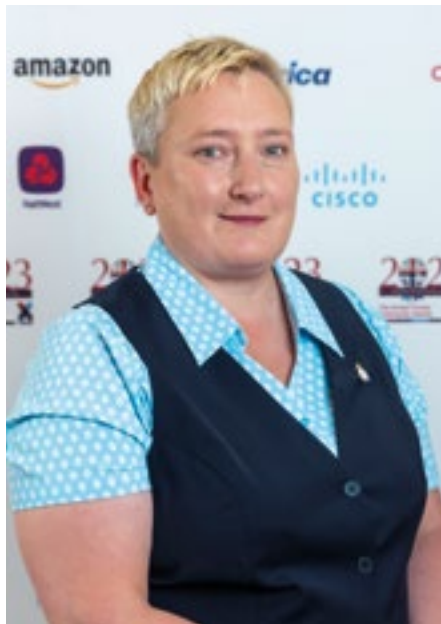
TOMORROW BEGINS TODAY

“NatWest proudly partners in celebrating the Inspiration Award, honouring the Armed Forces community finalists who have triumphed over challenges, injury, or disability. Their remarkable achievements inspire us all.” **Julie Baker, NatWest Group**

Inspiration Award

In partnership with NatWest

An award to honour a person that has overcome significant challenges, injury or disability, and whose ongoing or past outstanding achievements are an inspiration to others within the Armed Forces community. The judging panel selected a shortlist of three finalists and the winner was decided by public vote.



Jacqui Swan-De La Maziere

Jacqui Swan-De La Maziere is a former Royal Navy Radio Operator, who joined the Armed Forces with the aspiration of a lifelong career and the opportunity for advancement. Her dreams were shattered in 1992 when she was interrogated and dismissed for being gay.

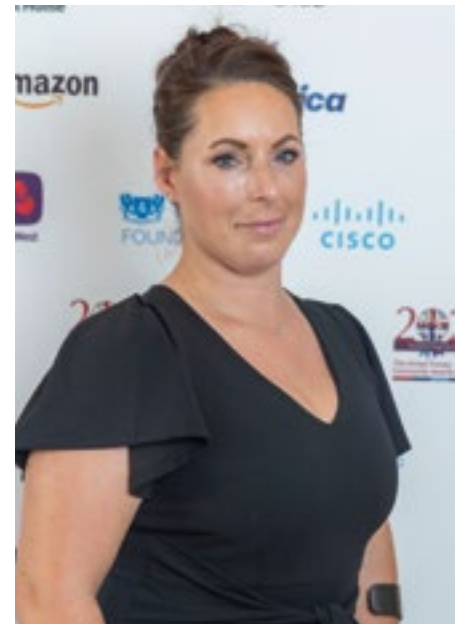
Jacqui went on to organise petitions to parliament on the issue of restorative justice, writing newspaper articles and appearing on TV.



Mark Harding

In 2010, LCpl Mark Harding's platoon came under Taliban fire and he was shot by a sniper. The bullet severely injured his spinal cord causing paralysis from the neck down. Mark battled through his recovery and achieved his goal of walking again.

He has also given back to those in need, by undertaking challenges and events, raising thousands of pounds for ABF The Soldiers' Charity.



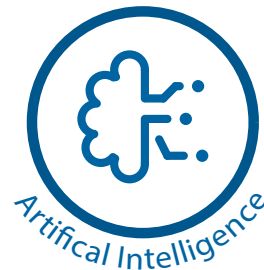
Natasza (Tash) Telfer

Natasza Telfer's career in the Royal Horse Artillery was sadly cut short after her last tour to Iraq. Following injury, she was told that she wasn't going to recover.

She lives with unimaginable pain in both legs, both hips and back, is unable to walk unaided, and weathers the demons of PTSD. However, she manages to bring a bright light and infectious laugh to everyone she meets, and is an integral part of the Purple Warriors charity supporting impaired veterans.

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“Redwood Technologies proudly partners in celebrating the Healthcare and Rehabilitation Award, recognising the exceptional dedication of the Armed Forces community in promoting health and providing compassionate care. Their unwavering commitment to healing and well-being inspires us all.” **Jonty Shipley**, Redwood Technologies

Healthcare and Rehabilitation Award

In partnership with Redwood Technologies

An award to honour a person or team that has demonstrated a major commitment and contribution in support of the physical or mental welfare of serving or former members of the Armed Forces community. This may be through healthcare, therapeutic treatment or rehabilitation services and support.



Dr Aamer Khan

Dr Aamer Khan is a world-class skin specialist who provides free-of-charge medical treatment, including reconstructive surgery, to severely wounded veterans, particularly those with facial disfigurement or burns.

Dr Khan is available 24/7 if a veteran needs him – free of charge. With this dedicated, selfless approach, Dr Khan has - on several occasions - prevented veterans from taking their own lives.



Blind Veterans UK Brighton Centre

After over 80 years of proud service, Blind Veterans UK will be closing the doors of their iconic Brighton centre this year. The charity will be moving to a new home along the Sussex coast that they have purchased from the RAF Benevolent Fund.

The care and rehabilitation provided has transformed the lives of tens of thousands of visually impaired veterans over the eight decades the charity has had a home in Brighton.



Anthony de Putron Gauvain

Having left the Army, Tony Gauvain trained to become a qualified therapist and established the charity PTSD Resolution in 2009.

Tony has run the charity as CEO and Chair and receives no payment for the time he gives. He set up a UK-wide network of 200 registered therapists, sourced trustees who were passionate about veteran mental health, and raised the money to pay for the therapy required.



PROUD TO SUPPORT SERVICE LEAVERS



Talent Solutions
Right Management
ManpowerGroup®



The Ministry of Defence
partnering with Right Management

Right Management has worked in partnership with the Ministry of Defence for 25 years, delivering highly successful resettlement programmes through the Career Transition Partnership.

We are immensely proud to be the **official provider of resettlement**, providing career transition, training and employment support to leavers of the Armed Forces.

We recognise the crucial role families play in the move from military to civilian life and the importance of supporting the armed forces community.

We are proud to support the Family Values Award and would like to congratulate this year's winners and finalists – **you truly are an inspiration.**

Visit our website at **ctp.org.uk**

“Right Management is proud to support the Family Values Award, recognising the crucial role that families play in the Armed Forces community. We salute the unwavering support, sacrifice, and strength of these families, who demonstrate the true meaning of resilience.” *Adrian Peters, Right Management*

Family Values Award

In partnership with Right Management



An Award to honour a person, family or group whose selfless commitment, dedication and support for others in the Armed Forces community ensures that they are cared for, supported or helped. This selfless act is therefore a shining example to society.



Phoenix Heroes CIC

Phoenix Heroes CIC focuses on mental health support and wellbeing initiatives by creating veteran and Armed Forces communities through outdoor activities such as carp angling, football, and family days.

The team has committed over 32,000 voluntary hours to creating a strong peer support environment for hundreds of people across the UK, delivering 110 events and bringing together over 1,000 veterans and families.



Military Assistance Social Hub

The closure of a local veterans' support centre in Bridlington three years ago was a blow to the local Armed Forces community, but the gap it left behind inspired the creation of the Military Assistance Social Hub (MASH).

MASH has since grown to include groups in Bridlington, Beverley, and Withernsea. Together they provide a regular meeting place and activities for former military personnel, as well as their families and friends.



Mutual Support

Mutual Support was founded 31 years ago to provide support for military personnel, veterans and their dependants living with Multiple Sclerosis.

It supports, free of charge, a membership of 1200 people, run wholly by volunteers who retain the enthusiasm and dedication from their military background. They provide a range of services, including two annual, funded, respite and wellbeing weekends.



When the sky isn't the limit
Imagine how far you might go



GKN Aerospace is proud to support
the **Soldiering On Awards 2023**

Good luck to all of tonight's nominees

At GKN Aerospace we are shaping the Future of Flight. With our innovative technologies and unique global network, we provide our defence customers across the world with systems and components that make aircraft fly faster, further and greener

MAKING THINGS FLY

“GKN Aerospace proudly supports the Business Start-Up Award, celebrating the courage and entrepreneurial spirit of the Armed Forces community. We admire the commitment to follow their dreams and drive to succeed which is an inspiration to us all.” *Mark Miller, GKN Aerospace*

Business Start-Up Award

In partnership with GKN Aerospace



An award to honour an individual or group of individuals linked with the Armed Forces community who have started a successful new business venture within the last two years (since January 1st, 2021) and who still retain a minimum of 50% interest in the venture.



The Chocolate Soldier

The Chocolate Soldier provides high quality handmade chocolates to order, using ethically sourced raw ingredients, and strives towards a sustainable goal by using packaging that is either made from recycled material or is at least fully recyclable.

In the first six months of trading activity the company produced over 4500 individual chocolates.

Founder, Phill Jones, has achieved this while preparing for his transition and serving full-time as a WO2 in the Defence Academy.



AlphaOne Electrics

Recognising the growing demand for sustainable energy and the poor Electric Vehicle infrastructure in Cornwall, RAF veteran Daniel Sylvester formulated a plan.

With the help of a Start Up Loan, he invested in retraining to qualify in installing EV charging points and launched AlphaOne Electrics with this specific focus.

Now with a team of five, including two veterans, Dan is having a positive environmental impact in Cornwall.



Carma

Inspired by a friend helping veterans with PTSD through nature-based therapy, Jim Holland wanted to play a part in helping both fellow veterans and the environment.

He founded Carma in May 2021, whose mission is to 'remove 1bn tonnes of CO2 from our atmosphere'.

Carma provides businesses and consumers with simple and affordable methods of making a social and environmental impact by buying trees planted by veterans with PTSD.

LSEG Foundation is proud to partner with the 2023 Soldiering On Awards

Recognising the outstanding individuals who have served their country and those who support the Armed Forces community every day.

To find out more, visit LSEG.com



“With the impact of Armed Forces community businesses continuing to grow across the country, the Business Scale-Up Award has never been more relevant or important. Congratulations to all this year’s entrants from the LSEG Foundation team – your entrepreneurial drive and innovation never fails to impress.” **Brigitte Trafford**, LSEG Foundation

Business Scale-Up Award

In partnership with LSEG Foundation



An award to honour an individual or group of individuals linked with the Armed Forces community who have started a successful new business venture more than two years ago (before January 1st, 2021) and who still retain a minimum of 50% interest in the venture.



Crimsham Farm CIC

Crimsham Farm CIC was conceived and established to provide safe access to green space and therapeutic services. After several months, they realised that grants and funding were not a secure means of income, so they branched out into education.

They registered as an Independent Alternative Provision with the local education authority and rapidly became the leader in their field, with the next step being registration with OFSTED.



Sir Fix-a-lock

Paul Montgomery founded Sir Fix-a-lock whilst serving in the Army. This meant that when his military career officially ended, Paul was ready to hit the ground running.

He had established a strong client base and with three years profit under his belt, he had been able to invest in everything he needed, including a new van and thousands of pounds worth of tools.

He is ready to grow and move on to the next phase in Sir Fix-a-lock's development.



Tin Trousers

Tin Trousers began life providing striping up and alterations to uniforms, working from the spare bedroom of Erin Sutcliff's married quarter.

Now in their current home in Gosport, the company has grown to employ other military spouses like Erin among its eight-strong team, all of whom are determined to maintain the very highest standards of workmanship, with their services now available across the Solent Area.

Cisco, proud partner of the 2023 Soldiering On Awards



The bridge to possible

“Cisco proudly supports the Business Community Impact Award, celebrating Armed Forces community businesses making a positive difference to society. Together, we applaud their remarkable contributions.” **Adele Every**, Cisco UKI

Business Community Impact Award

In partnership with Cisco



An award to honour an individual or group of individuals linked with the Armed Forces community who have started and are still running a business, charity or social enterprise that has made a significant positive impact on the lives of people within the Armed Forces community. This impact should be evidenced within the last three years.



Crimsham Farm

The 'little farm with a big heart', Crimsham Farm in West Sussex is a specialist alternative provider of support for children with Special Educational Needs.

A large proportion of the Directors and staff are ex-military, bringing their unique skillsets to bear in order to help build self-worth in the children on Crimsham Farm's roll.

Additionally, a hugely successful veterans and families project is well underway, providing peer-to-peer support and therapeutic, tailored counselling services.



South Coast Commercial Cleaning Group

After leaving the Army, Simon Poland suffered the tragic loss of his baby daughter and his mother, and was left with PTSD. He started window-cleaning to earn money and restore his physical and mental strength.

Today, South Coast Commercial Cleaning Group has a team of twelve and hundreds of regular customers. Simon received a commendation from HRH The Duke of Kent for his voluntary work during Covid-19 and national acclaim for climbing Mount Everest in aid of a local children's hospice.



Helen Massy, Medical & Health Writer

Career Pursuit is a non-profit magazine - published by military spouse Helen Massy - providing employment and business support to the spouses and partners of Armed Forces personnel.

The government-commissioned 'Living in our Shoes' report highlighted the lack of a much-needed single point of access to information for Forces families and, through working collaboratively with the MOD Partner Employment Steering Group, Career Pursuit has fulfilled this requirement.

Amazon will hire 100,000 veterans and military spouses by 2024

Are you ready to embrace the challenge?



amazon.jobs/emea-military



“Amazon proudly supports the Sporting Excellence Award, celebrating the exceptional athletic achievements of the Armed Forces community. We applaud their dedication and competitive spirit, inspiring us all.” **Emma Morgan**, Amazon

Sporting Excellence Award

In partnership with Amazon



An award to honour a person that has overcome challenges in pursuit of sporting excellence, demonstrating outstanding achievement in the field of sport and contributing to the endeavours and advancement of the Armed Forces community. The judges selected a shortlist of three finalists and the winner was decided by public vote.

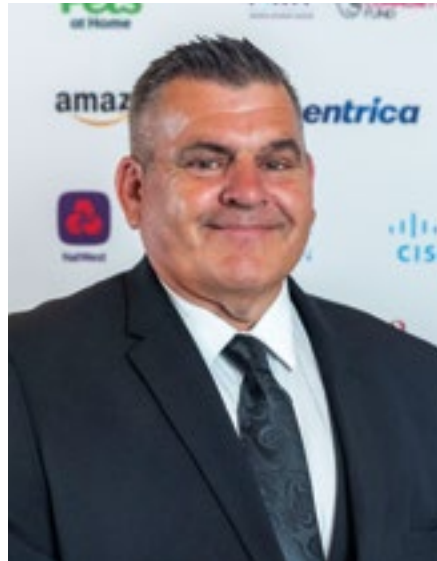


Scott Meenagh

Scott Meenagh lost both of his legs after stepping on an IED in Helmand Province in 2011. One of his best friends was also blown up and killed as he and colleagues carried Scott from the minefield. Scott decided that he had to live for two lives.

Scott got a taste for Para Nordic skiing during Sochi 2014, came second at the 2023 World Para Nordic Skiing Championships, and competed at the 2018 and 2022 Winter Paralympics.

His courage, endurance, and humanity are beyond measure.



Glyn Barrell

Glynn Owen Barrell was medically discharged from the 40th Regiment Royal Artillery after 12 years but refuses to let his limitations restrict his options and adventures.

Glyn was introduced to the Purple Warriors charity Dragon Boat club when he was in a very dark place mentally in his life and felt worthless and lost. Since then, he has competed for Team GB 'Grand Dragons', the only disabled person in the boat, and was crowned World Champion in outrigger. Glyn attests that the Dragon Boat experience saved his life.



Sgt Jade Ives

Sgt Jade Ives is an Army Medic and a dedicated member of the Army Medical Services Ladies Football team. Following a severe back injury, Jade was told it was unlikely she'd ever return to fitness, let alone play sport.

However she has defied the odds and is back to playing the sport she loves, plus supporting the team management and administration. Her injury has not defined her but shown how strong she is, both physically and mentally. Her passion for sport is truly inspiring - this is a woman you want on your team.

PROUD TO SUPPORT OUR ARMED FORCES



EMPLOYER RECOGNITION SCHEME

GOLD AWARD WINNER
PROUDLY SERVING THOSE WHO SERVE

Landmarc Support Services has worked in partnership with the Ministry of Defence for more than two decades, providing management and support services that enable the vital training needed to prepare Britain's Armed Forces for operational success.

We are proud to encourage support for this community by sponsoring the Defence Inclusivity Award, which recognises the commitment and achievements of individuals and organisations in achieving greater diversity and inclusion throughout the Armed Forces.

Congratulations to this year's winners and finalists, you are an inspiration to us all.

Find out more about how Landmarc supports defence and communities at www.landmarcsolutions.com or follow us on social media for all our latest news.



Operational imagery courtesy of Ministry of Defence. (c) Crown copyright 2020

“Landmarc proudly partners in celebrating the Defence Inclusivity Award, honouring the Armed Forces community's commitment to fostering diversity and inclusion. Together, we strive for a future of equal opportunities and empowered voices.” **Karen Porter**, Landmarc

Defence Inclusivity Award

In partnership with Landmarc



An award to honour the commitment and achievements of an individual, team or organisation in delivering greater diversity and inclusion within UK Defence and the Armed Forces community.



Natalie Maddox-Hussain and Jodie Evans

Jodie Evans and Natalie Maddox-Hussain came together with a vision to build a network that tackled both diversity and inclusion in Defence in a collaborative, open, and imaginative way.

They united a small but determined group of individuals, from varying ranks, grades and backgrounds, that shared their mission to make the change they wanted to see, and the Defence Women's Network was born. Within two years the impact has been huge.



Fighting With Pride

Fighting With Pride is a lived experience LGBT+ charity that has given a voice to its community. Despite the immense challenge of starting a charity during a pandemic, it has made its case with dignity and respect, and begun to wash away decades of shame felt by these once proud members of our Armed Forces.

It has, in its vanguard of supporters, hundreds of veterans' charities reaching across the whole of the UK.



Talula Grey

Talula Grey, the pen name of Bianca Robbins, is a Navy wife and mother of one. With her six-year-old son struggling to cope with his father's absence on deployment, Bianca decided to take action by penning a kids' book to support the emotional wellbeing of children with a parent in the Navy.

The books help children understand why their parents may be away from home, giving comfort to service families.

Developing frontline talent: a journey of discovery, transformation and collaboration



UK MOD © Crown copyright 2022



From recruitment, to training and beyond, Capita plays an integral role at every stage of armed forces careers.

Our transformation of defence training – through new technology, digitisation and immersive experiences – is helping to get better trained people to the frontline, faster.

Accelerating change and driving progress is at the heart of what we do. Now in its third year, our partnership with the Royal Navy on the Selborne programme has delivered more than 1,632,200 training days and been attended by over 75,000 trainees from all ranks across the Royal Navy and Royal Marines. Our bespoke Royal Navy training is getting sailors to the frontline, faster. And Capita's Fire Service College is a unique training environment, transforming firefighting training for more than 2500 MOD, civilian and now civil aviation firefighters.

We understand the value, purpose and effectiveness of bespoke, tech-enabled training across our defence, fire and security services. By harnessing the power of data and optimised technologies, we're helping the MOD to attract, retain and develop the very best talent and improve the training journeys for all our armed forces personnel.

Capita: Proud sponsors of the Soldiering On Education, Training and Development Award.

“At Capita, we value lifelong learning and its positive impact on individuals and communities. Learning enhances both professional and personal skills, leading to personal satisfaction and increased self-confidence. Our finalists tonight have played a crucial role in the Armed Forces' learning journey. Congratulations.” **Clair Mowbray, Capita**

Education, Training & Development Award

In partnership with Capita

An award to honour excellence in the provision of; vocational education, training or skills development. This may be in the fields of; preparatory, ongoing or transitional development for members of the wider Armed Forces community. The provision could be delivered by an individual, team or organisation.



BFBS Academy

For organisations, teams, and individuals, BFBS Academy provides high-quality vocational training in digital communications and media production, offering both established accredited courses and customised training.

BFBS Academy courses are available to all British military veterans, promoted within the military community and via BFBS's social media and radio communication channels. Consequently, their reach is extensive.



Newtown Army Cadet Force - Gwent & Powys ACF

Newtown Army Cadets provides a service to young people in the local community, ranging from 12-18 years, both male and female, in a small rural town in mid Wales.

The detachment is expertly led by a group of Cadet Adult Volunteers and Detachment Commander Captain Rachael Jones-Morris. The group has had great success building local links in the community and working with other agencies to help out with volunteering and joint working.



TechVets

TechVets helps military families overcome confidence issues, financial and logistical difficulties, and employer resistance, by providing high-quality training and mentoring.

In 2022 alone, TechVets helped 200+ military leavers and families find meaningful careers, providing thousands of pounds worth of free, specialist IT training. The estimated median average salary of successfully-placed graduates is £52,500.



Proud to support the Soldiering On Awards.



“Pets at Home continues to celebrate the Animal Partnership Award, highlighting the profound bond between the Armed Forces community and their cherished animal companions. Congratulations to all the finalists who inspire us with their remarkable achievements.” **Sarah Woodward**, *Pets at Home*

Animal Partnership Award

In partnership with Pets at Home

An award to honour the unique relationships and companionship provided by animals, and/or the achievements of individuals or organisations engaged with animals that support and empower members of the Armed Forces community. The judging panel has selected a shortlist of three entries to progress to the final public vote.



Battling On's Veterans and Milo their Care Dog

Milo, a small, plucky Cockapoo, lives at the Battling On Care Farm in South East Cornwall where the charity provides wraparound care and support to veterans struggling with civilian life.

Milo, like the veterans he works with, came to the centre traumatised and broken.

However, the staff at Battling On have all witnessed his transformation into a wonderful, happy, little dog that spends his days making veterans feel better and providing an anchor to hold onto while they talk.



Pete Lewin Newfoundlands

Pete Lewin Newfoundlands is a non-profit organisation that offers emotional support to veterans who may benefit from swimming and interaction with Newfoundland dogs.

The charity is run by Pete Lewin, a paramedic with over 30 years' experience in the East Midlands Ambulance Service, who has seen his fair share of mental ill-health.

Over Summer 2022, 60 members of the Armed Forces community - including serving soldiers from 7th Infantry Brigade, were supported thanks to funding of £6000 secured from Leicestershire County Council.



Jonathon Giemza-Pipe and Baxter

Jonathon Giemza-Pipe was medically discharged in 2016 after 22 years in the Army, and really struggled to regain direction in his life. However, nothing could have prepared him for the incredible impact a canine partner would have on his life!

Baxter changed Jonathon's entire outlook and helped enable him to get back on track and find a fulfilling new career working with Op Courage and helping others with their mental health as a Veterans' Peer Support Worker with Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust.



Forces in Mind Trust – Working Together to help the Armed Forces Community

Photos: SAC Neil Chapman (RAF MOD) & Szabo Viktor (Unsplash)

Each year approximately **15,000** people leave the UK Armed Forces and the vast majority transition successfully into civilian lives. However, some need additional support, and Forces in Mind Trust was established by the National Lottery Community Fund to improve the future well-being of ex-Service people and their families.

Our mission is to enable successful and sustainable transition to civilian life, and the Trust's strategy is to provide an evidence base that will influence and underpin effective policy making and practice. By funding high quality, credible research where there is an identified gap in relevant understanding, and by then exploiting the findings, FiMT aims to effect positive change.

Some veterans face significant challenges that can only be tackled if we all work together – government (central, devolved and local), politicians, policy makers, charities, the public sector and businesses.

We are delighted to have this opportunity to celebrate collaboration in our sector, and would like to congratulate all of the fantastic finalists and the winners of this year's Forces in Mind Trust Working Together Award.



Tom McBarnet
Acting Chief Executive,
Forces in Mind Trust

FiMT
forces in mind trust

Visit www.fim-trust.org and follow @FiMTrust on Twitter



“Forces in Mind Trust is honoured to partner in recognizing the Working Together Award, celebrating the power of collaboration within the Armed Forces community. We commend their collective efforts and shared vision, which exemplify the strength of working together.” **Tom McBarnet**, Chief Executive, FiMT

Working Together Award

In partnership with Forces in Mind Trust



An award to honour a group of people, team or organisation that has demonstrated an enduring commitment to a collaborative approach, engaging with others to support the sector within the wider Armed Forces community.



RE:ACT Technical Team NHS

Team RE:ACT were finalists in 2022 but due to serious health issues and profound personal sadness the nomination was retracted.

However, the team have stayed strong and achieved much in the 29 months they have been together.

They have excelled working in support of the NHS and have raised over £1.8 million for the veterans' communities in Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, and Buckinghamshire.



Battling On

Battling On veterans have supported over 1400 vulnerable individuals within local communities. In Plymouth alone, the team has supported 382 care leavers. The veterans also volunteer to support other charities, community groups and Trusts, and on average provide over 5000 volunteer hours back into local communities.

Being a small organisation, Battling On can be agile in adapting its voluntary work to meet the needs of veterans.



Help for Heroes Recovery College

Working together is central to Help for Heroes Recovery College's mission. It works with medical professionals, charity partners, as well as veterans and their family members with lived experience, to co-produce and co-deliver courses that respond to the ongoing needs of veterans and families.

The College also partnered with experts Zero Suicide Alliance, to develop a self-help guide on suicide awareness and prevention.

ORACLE

Proud partner of the
Lifetime Achievement Award



www.oracle.com



“Oracle proudly partners in recognising the Lifetime Achievement Award, honouring the exceptional contributions and lasting legacy of an esteemed member of the Armed Forces community.” **Jane Dear**, Oracle

Lifetime Achievement Award

In partnership with Oracle

An award to honour a person whose lifetime of dedicated service has provided a significant contribution in support of the Armed Forces community.



Capt Carol Betteridge OBE

Captain Carol Betteridge OBE's stunning 23-year career took her from the Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service to Chief of Staff to the Assistant Chief of Defence Staff.

On her retirement in 2015 Carol became the first Veterans Clinical Advisor for Help for Heroes, before leading the dedicated clinical services team supporting the very seriously injured. She continues her dedication to their care and rehabilitation, describing her work as "unfinished business".



Khumi Burton

Khumi Burton was born in Manipur, India, near the Burmese Frontier in 1948 and as a young girl was involved in the National Cadets Corps.

In 1976 she married a retired Major from the Cheshire Regiment, moving halfway around the world to be with him. She has been a long-term supporter and fundraiser for Combat Stress - her drive and dedication is unstoppable and she continues to raise awareness of the charity.



February 1923 - August 2023

Reg Charles

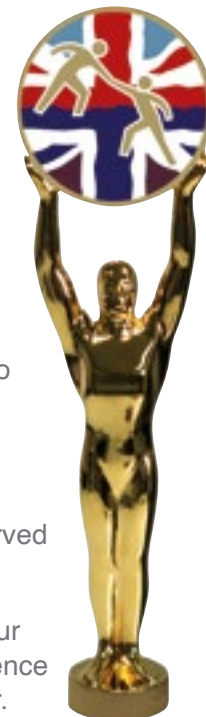
Reg joined the 5th Battalion Ox and Bucks Regiment and moved to 1st Battalion in June 1944, before heading to Normandy in July 1944, landing on Gold Beach.

In the Ardennes, Reg would drive a jeep to the front line at night and again in the early morning with supplies for the troops, bringing casualties back from the front line to the field hospital through a minefield. Reg passed away peacefully on 3rd August at the age of 100 and is represented at Awards Night by his daughter, Sheila.



CEO Message

Lt Col Ren Kapur MBE



The Soldiering On Awards finale is always one of the highlights of the year for me, and I am so sorry not to be there with you all tonight as you celebrate the incredible finalists and all that is good about our wonderful Armed Forces community.

Having played a role in every stage of the process leading up to tonight's awards ceremony, I know that you will have a fabulous evening – in fact, I even got to try the food that is being served tonight, so I know you're in for a treat!

There's only one thing I want from tonight, and that is for each of the finalists in all twelve of our categories to give each other a huge bear hug! At this stage of the awards process, the difference between each of you is infinitesimal – you are all winners, so please do celebrate one another.

Life keeps us all so very busy and sometimes we can become disconnected from the community – that is why the Soldiering On Awards are so extremely important. Not only do they serve as a reminder of the amazing people and organisations around us, but they provide a unique opportunity to reconnect with familiar faces, to hear new and inspirational stories, and to remember just how special the military family is to each and every one of us.

My heartfelt thanks go to all the nominators (often the unsung heroes), our extraordinary judges, our generous supporters, and my team who work so hard to make evenings like this so special.

Have a brilliant night – here's to the Soldiering On Awards class of 2023!



Collaborating with the Public, Private & Third Sectors in the Military Community

Thank you for making this happen.

Thank you to all the partners and supporters of Soldiering On Awards 2023. These relationships and subsequent engagement are vital in highlighting the extraordinary finalists throughout the annual programme. Collaboration provides a multiplier effect; we can achieve so much more than the sum of our parts for the benefit of the finalists and military community as a whole. Represented in the audience tonight are Government departments, big business, Armed Forces charities, education providers and many more. Thank you everyone for your support during 2023 and tonight!

2023 Awards Partners



Thank you to our supporters

Our sincerest thanks to those charities and organisations that continue to support the Soldiering On Awards and welcome to those who have come on board during the 2023 programme.

Charity and business supporters



Special thanks to our collaborators



FSB

The Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) is offering a hand up to all business award category winners through the provision of 12 months complimentary FSB membership.



Anglia Ruskin University

The 2023 winners of the Soldiering On Awards Business Start Up, Business Scale Up, and Business Community Impact Awards will become Entrepreneurs in Residence at Anglia Ruskin University, with the chance to work with students on projects, share their lived experience, feature this post on their CVs, and will receive expenses.



Charity

X-Forces Enterprise works closely with Armed Forces stakeholders in the third sector including charities, social enterprises or other not for profits. So many of the journeys of the incredible Finalists have been supported through members of Cobseo, and X-Forces Enterprise is proud also to be a member.



HM Government

Government

Relationships and engagement in key areas of government is essential for the Armed Forces community. Thank you to many within the Ministry of Defence, Cabinet Office, DBT, The Office of Veterans' Affairs, Defence Relationship Management and others for their support of these awards.



“Proudly supporting the Soldiering On Awards with audio, lighting, video and staging equipment since 2012.” **Steve and Sue Davies**, *Subfrantic*

Soldiering On Awards 2024: Who Do You Know?

As we conclude this year's Soldiering On Awards, it's the best time to consider nominations for 2024. These special Awards rely on selfless nominators, who put forward exceptional candidates each year to enjoy the reward and heightened profile that the platform brings to finalists.

Many people and organisations in the Armed Forces community remain unrecognised. Do you know someone who has displayed exceptional service, sacrifice, or support to the military community? Do you know a project or organisation that has made a positive impact to personnel, veterans, or their families? Do you know a business that has successfully scaled up, created social value, or collaborated with others in the military sector?

Help us highlight their achievements. Nominate in 2024. Your nominees could gain exposure to thousands, spreading the word about their feats, and offering a chance to win. And what's unique about the Soldiering On Awards is that the nominator is invited to join in the celebrations.

Nominations open in January 2024. We can't wait to hear the stories that inspire you.

 www.soldieringon.org

#SoldieringOnTogether

 [@SoldierOnAwards](https://twitter.com/SoldierOnAwards)

Follow us to find out when nominations open.





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