

Soldiering On Awards Gala Celebration

SOUVENIR BROCHURE



Wednesday 15th December 2021
PARK PLAZA WESTMINSTER BRIDGE HOTEL, LONDON

Tonight's Fundraising

This evening's fundraising is organised by ABF The Soldiers' Charity, The Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund and The Royal Navy & Royal Marines Charity.



“We're delighted to be able to provide a platform to raise always welcome funds for three great charities that represent the tri-service Armed Forces Community. Please get involved – there are some fantastic prizes on offer!” **The Rt Hon Earl Howe**

Here is a taster of just some of the amazing prizes up for grabs in tonight's raffle. You can see a full list on the screens during dinner. If you want to guarantee a prize you can make a minimum donation for certain prizes so you can be guaranteed to go home with something.





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

It has been 985 days since members of the Armed Forces Community last gathered in this very room to find out who had won the 2019 Soldiering On Awards. The room was full of anticipation as everyone waited for the announcement of the winners of 13 awards. What a wonderful night it was. Since then, there have been 27 more Soldiering On Awards winners and 52 further finalists chosen from 451 nominations over two years! And tonight we celebrate them all!

It gives me enormous pleasure to welcome you all to this slightly different Soldiering On Awards Gala Celebration Event to recognise and acknowledge all that is good and great about the Armed Forces Community.

From the backroom staff at X-Forces Enterprise to the Independent Judging Panel, everyone has been doing their utmost to ensure this evening feels special for you all. I want to take the opportunity this year to thank a special kind of person: the nominator. The act of nominating is where these awards start. Get to this stage and the act of nomination is but a distant memory, but without them the assembled company this evening would look very different.

The very act of nominating a deserving individual or team is also a huge thank you directly to them for their effort, support and achievement. But the benefits of storytelling can go way beyond the thank you. Part of building and sustaining a culture within a community involves storytelling. These awards are the ultimate storytelling platform for the Armed Forces Community and it is those nominators who tell the stories. So to all you nominators in the room this evening: thank you, and to everyone else: what story will you be prepared to tell in 2022?



Tonight's Schedule

Welcome to our 11th 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 of our 2020 and 2021 Finalists!

- 17:30** Registration and Reception
- 19:00** 2020 Awards Celebration
- 19:45** Dinner & Raffle
- 21:30** 2021 Awards Celebration
- 23:00** Networking & Bar

Carriages Midnight

#SoldieringOnTogether



Menu

Starter

Maple syrup glazed hot smoked salmon

Served with lime cream fig & purple broccoli

Pumpkin and quinoa timbale

Served with artichokes, sun blushed tomatoes with pepper salsa (Vegan & Gluten Free)

Main

Duo of slow cooked beef

Served with savoy cabbage, sweet pepper, sweet potato, dauphinoise potatoes & baby vegetables

Timbale of polenta

Served with mushroom ragout, lentils, vegetables and cream sauce
(Vegetarian - Vegan option also available)

Desert

Chocolate, almond & raspberry bavaoise

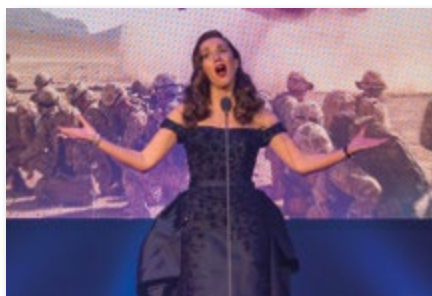
Served with vanilla crumble & raspberry sorbet (Vegan)



@SoldierOnAwards

www.soldieringon.org

@XForces



Gala Celebration Hosts



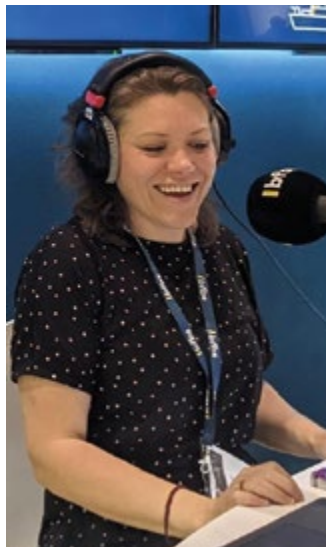
Jeremy Vine

One of Britain's most prolific TV and radio personalities, Jeremy Vine has presented a plethora of topical and political shows, such as Panorama, Newsnight, Crimewatch and BBC1's Points of View. He has hosted the graphics for BBC election specials, including nine extraordinary all-nighters: Trump, Brexit and several unpredictable general elections.

Jeremy currently hosts Eggheads, a teatime staple which ranks as one of the longest-running quiz shows in British TV history, as well as his weekday TV show on Channel 5, simply called Jeremy Vine. In addition, he hosts The Jeremy Vine Show on BBC Radio 2.

A highly revered presenter, 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 during the 2010 election.

Jeremy co-hosted the 2018 Soldiering On Awards Celebration, and this year became ambassador of the Inspiration Award. We are honoured to welcome him back on-stage once again to celebrate our 2020 and 2021 finalists and winners.



Jade Callaway

Jade Callaway is a presenter/producer for BFBS Radio, which brings the best music, military news and chat to the global UK Armed Forces Community, as well as to listeners across the UK.

Jade joined military charity and media organisation BFBS in 2011 and has presented radio shows in Cyprus, Afghanistan, the Falkland Islands, Germany, Brunei and the UK. She will be heading back to a new post in Germany shortly.

Twice a winner of the Radio Academy 30 Under 30, Jade was also producer/presenter of 'Granby: The Storm in the Desert', which was a finalist in the Documentary Podcast category at the New York Radio Festival this year.

After co-hosting the Soldiering On Awards livestream winners' ceremony in 2020 with Founder and CEO of X-Forces Enterprise, Ren Kapur MBE, Jade is thrilled to be joining Jeremy Vine to co-host this year's ceremony and entertainment to honour the extraordinary talent and achievements of the Armed Forces Community.

Gala Celebration Performers



The Band of the Welsh Guards

The Band of the Welsh Guards was formed in 1915, in the same year as the Regiment. Their first instruments were presented by the City of Cardiff, an act that enabled the band to carry out its first King's Guard Mounting on St. David's Day, 1916. That very evening, the band gave its first concert on the stage of the London Opera House, and immediately established a reputation for high musical standards.

Over the past 12 months the band has continued to feature on many state ceremonial events and public duties, with members supporting the Band of the Scots Guards at the funeral of HRH Duke of Edinburgh. Other key musical events the Band has performed at include the Queen's Birthday Parade, the National Act of Remembrance and the VJ Day Commemoration.

The band are pleased to be back where they belong on the forecourt of Buckingham Palace providing musical support to the Changing of the Guard ceremony. The Band of the Welsh Guards look forward to playing a central role in Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee year in 2022.

Carly Paoli

When Pope Francis heard Mansfield born Carly Paoli sing Ave Maria as the official song for his Jubilee Year of Mercy, he declared that she had, 'the voice of an angel.' Others who have since heard the soprano, who has dual British and Italian nationality, tend to agree.

Brit nominated classical singer, lyricist and star of the classical world, Carly Paoli, made her international debut at the David Foster Foundation Miracle Gala, following that up with an appearance at the International Women's Media Foundation Awards in Los Angeles.

Since then, Carly has shared a stage with some of the world's most iconic artists including José Carreras, Elaine Paige, Andrea Bocelli, and Michael Bolton.

She has performed for HRH The Prince of Wales at Windsor Castle and at St James's Palace. Most recently she has appeared on the Royal Variety Show and her latest album Carly Paoli and Friends featuring Elaine Paige, Paul Carrack, Aled Jones and Tony Hadley topped the Classical Music Chart.



Gala Celebration Performers



The Magic Marine

James 'Steel' Stott was a Royal Marines Commando for 10 years, spending the last two years of his service as a medic with the country's elite amphibious fighting force, the Special Boat Service. Prior to his decade in the Corps, he was an infantryman in the Army for several years, which included a tour of duty in Iraq aged 20. Sandwiched between the army and marines was a year travelling the world.

It was his deployment to Afghanistan in 2008-2009 with Zulu company, 45 Commando which saw him witnessing friends endure horrific injuries in the most unimaginable of circumstances and demonstrating incredible fortitude and selflessness. His experiences in the desert, coupled with the sadness of losing his father to cancer, led to a period of deep reflection and a decision to follow his heart and become a magician. The 37-year-old Lance Corporal has been practising magic professionally for the last five years now, performing at weddings, charity dinners and Corps' functions.

North London Military Wives Choir

The Military Wives Choirs is a community of nearly 2000 women in 72 choirs across the UK and internationally. They come together to celebrate a love of singing and a communal understanding that comes from members' shared experiences of the Armed Forces.

By coming together to sing, share, and support, each choir creates a valuable support network for women in the military community. Previous performance highlights include Twickenham Stadium, Westminster Abbey, and the Tower of London during the 'Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red' poppy display.

Formed in 2012, the North London Military Wives Choir has been led by the Musical Direction of Helen Isaac since 2019. Helen feels it a huge privilege to be a part of this network who, despite the loneliness and hardships Service life can bring, never fail to make her laugh, raise her spirits, and create incredible music.



As both an independent charity and a subsidiary of SSAFA, the Armed Forces Charity, the Military Wives Choirs work collaboratively with SSAFA in their mission to provide support to our Forces and their families.

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.**

Why, with increasing numbers of nominations each year for these distinguished awards, are there always plenty of judges who come back to continue giving their support to this process? Well, what is at the heart of our answer is this; the nominations are all full of true-life endeavour of often selfless acts and create such strong emotions of pride, happiness, compassion and empathy. As individuals we thrive and survive on emotions, so the whole process is magnetic.

The judges come from a variety of backgrounds with varying degrees of experience of the Armed Forces Community; some are experts, some are generalists, some have served, some have not; they come from charities and the corporate world. It is our pleasure and delight to work with all of them and cannot thank them enough for volunteering their time to both cry and smile (often at the same time) with the rest us. Thank you!

To distil over 451 registrations of interest into 275 nominations for judging consideration and ultimately to 12 category winners also takes organisation and resources. So, it is wonderful we have the efficient and effective organisation of X-Forces Enterprise behind the scenes to bring everything together at the right time for all the judges across all the categories! Amazing work and thank you Ren. Get well soon!



Meet the 2021 Independent Judging Panel



General the Lord Dannatt GCB CBE
MC DL, Co-chair of Judges, Soldiering On Awards



Debra Allcock-Tyler,
CEO of The Directory of Social Change



General Sir John McColl KCB CBE
DSO, Chairman, Cobseo, the Confederation of Service Charities



Charlie Wallace,
Scottish Veterans Commissioner



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



Deana Rouse MBE,
Director and Chief Operating Officer, Government Security Function, Cabinet Office



Cdr Debra Whittingham RN,
Deputy Governor, HM Tower of London, Historic Royal Palaces



Diane Côté,
Former Group Chief Risk Officer, London Stock Exchange Group



Warrant Officer Class One Gavin Paton,
Army Sergeant Major



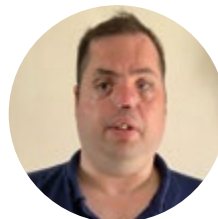
Anne-Marie Piper,
Senior Partner, Farrer & Co



Martin Taylor,
Deputy CEO, Redwood Technologies Group Ltd



Brigadier Robin Simpson,
University of Chester



Simon Brown,
National Engagement Officer, Blind Veterans UK; Soldiering On Award Winner - People's Choice Award, 2017

Meet the 2021 Category Judges



Daniel Elser,
Assistant Director,
The Royal British
Legion



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



Clare Crookenden,
Grants Manager,
Forces in Mind
Trust



Craig Beaumont,
FRSA, Director
of External Affairs
and Advocacy,
Federation of
Small Businesses



Gillian Russell,
Senior Program
Manager
Worldwide, Global
Military Affairs –
Amazon



Graham Clarke,
CISCO



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



Julie Baker,
Head of
Enterprise and
Community
Finance, NatWest



Karen Porter,
Head of
Communications
and Engagement,
Landmarc
Support Services



Karen Tracey,
Director, Dunelm
Business
Consultants



Katja Hall,
Director of
Corporate
Affairs, Capita



Laura Blair,
Employment
Director,
The Officer's
Association



Lisa Marr,
Veterans'
Employment
Transition
Support,
Barclays



Liz Brown,
Head of NI
Veterans' Support
Office Cobseo /
RFCA NI



Mark Miller,
Business
Development
Director – UK
Defence, GKN
Aerospace



Mark Ormrod,
Former Royal
Marine, Invictus
Games athlete,
author and
motivational
speaker



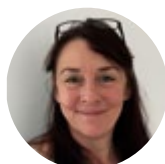
Mike Harwood,
The Military
Mutual



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



Nick Wood,
Education and
Development
Lead (Military
Culture and
Transition) York
St John University



Nikki Markham MBE,
Director, Battling
On CiC; SOA
Innovation Award
Winner 2016; SOA
Family Values
Award Winner 2018



Rachel Kay,
Learning
Director,
Capita



Ray Lock CBE,
Former Chief
Executive, Forces
in Mind Trust



Sarah Woodward,
Commercial
Marketing
Manager, Pets
at Home



Vicki Gosling,
CEO, GB
Snowsports

2021 Winners' Announcement - 7th October 2021



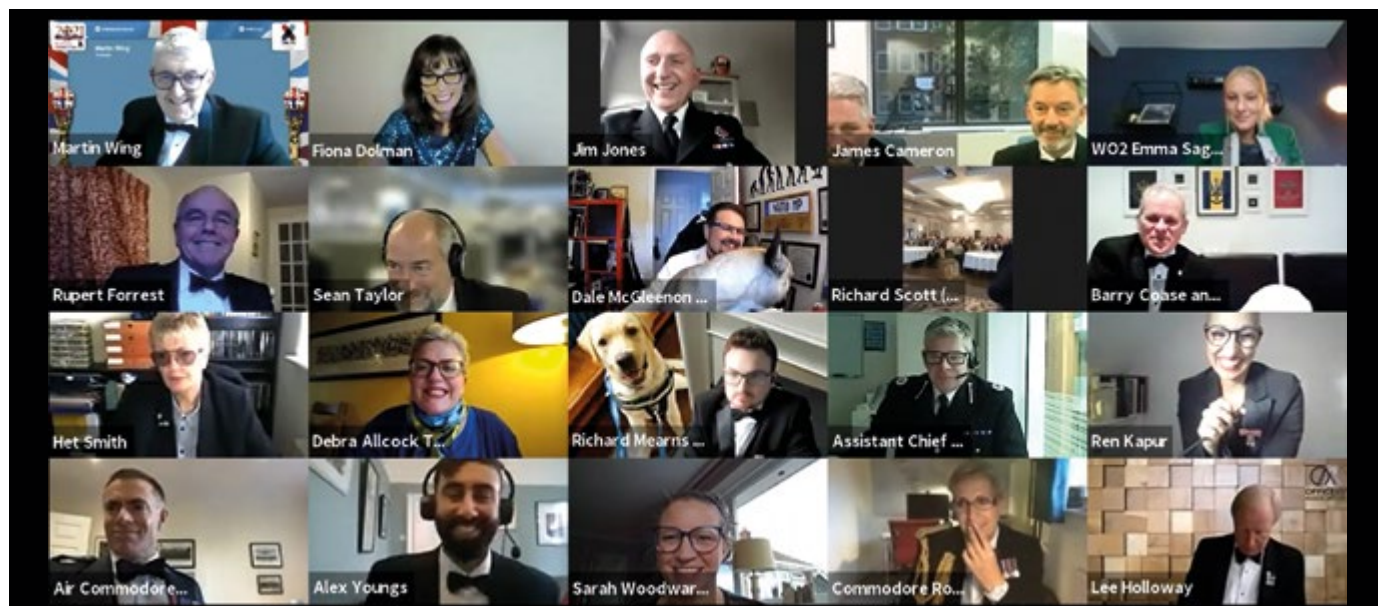
Fiona Dolman

We kicked off the 2021 winner announcements in style, with the fabulous actress Fiona Dolman compèring our first virtual award ceremony of the year!

Fiona's father served in the Royal Air Force and she has lived within the Armed Forces Community, both in the UK and abroad. Her father hoped that she would follow in his footsteps and join the RAF. Fiona decided, however, that the vast array of wonderful and varied personalities she had grown up with equipped her better to become an actress!

Fiona has worked for 25 years within TV, film and stage, including: The Knock, Ruth Rendall Mysteries, Casualty, Holby City, A Touch of Frost, Ultraviolet, New Tricks, Coronation Street, Paradox, Doctors, The Syndicate, Heartbeat, In The Club, and Da Vinci's Demons. She is probably best known as Sarah Barnaby in Midsomer Murders.

The event was attended by the category finalists and sponsors, Patron Of the Soldering On Awards, the Rt. Hon. Earl Howe, Commodore Melanie Robinson, ADC Royal Naval Reserve, Air Commodore Dave Tait MBE MA RAF, and Lee Holloway, CEO of The Officers Association.



SCOTTY'S LITTLE SOLDIERS

HELP THEIR CHILDREN SMILE.

Scotty's provides relief from the effects of bereavement to children and young people who have experienced the death of a parent who served with the British Armed Forces.



Advert space donated in kind by The Military Mutual, sponsors of the Family Values Award.

**SCOTTY'S
LITTLE
SOLDIERS**
The charity for children of the fallen



“Owned by our members, The Military Mutual’s aim is to support the military family through our products and sponsorship opportunities - aligning perfectly with this award. Congratulations everyone.” **Lee Mooney**, *The Military Mutual*

Family Values Award

Sponsored by The Military Mutual

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.



FINALIST

WO2 Emma Sagar

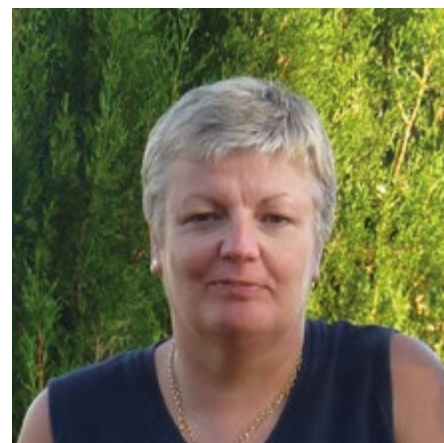
Despite suffering the tragedy of losing a child in 2010, Cpl Emma Sagar campaigns tirelessly for improved support services for serving personnel caring for someone with a terminal illness. She co-founded the Armed Forces Candid Network, fundraises for the local hospice and established The Matthew Seren Trust, a charity supporting families with seriously ill children. Emma has achieved all of this whilst fighting with the agonising condition endometriosis, which causes pain and debilitation.



WINNER

Give Us Time


Give Us Time sends military families on respite breaks to help them recover from the impact of bereavement, injury, stress, separation or financial hardship. This respite helps to address dysfunctional relationships between children, parents and spouses, restoring the bonds that can prevent personal and family breakdowns and the dangerous paths that this can cause people to take. During the pandemic, the charity continued to support military families in need throughout the toughest of circumstances.



FINALIST

Mutual Support

Mutual Support helps over 1000 serving and ex-serving members of the Armed Forces affected by Multiple Sclerosis (MS), as well as their dependents and carers. Funded by tri-service charities and run by volunteers, it's the only MS charity to offer tailored support and guidance for the specialist needs of the military community, along with safe environments to share their experiences. Support and respite weekends inform and engage members who are suffering displacement, isolation and deprivation.

A woman with brown hair in a braid, wearing a yellow jacket, is smiling and hugging a Bernese Mountain Dog. The dog is looking up and to the left with its tongue out. The background is a blurred outdoor scene.

**Pets at Home
are proud to sponsor the
Soldiering On Awards**



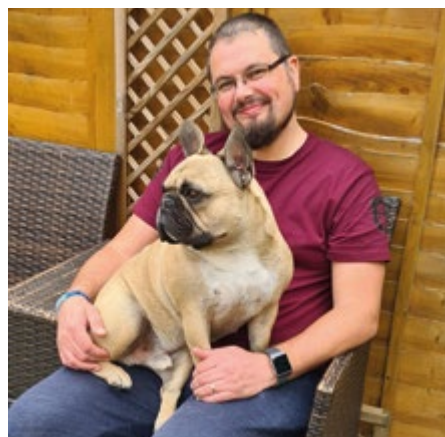
We're better with pets

“Pets have the power to support people to be the best they can be – the finalists in the Animal Partnership Category are the finest examples of this. Huge congratulations!” ***Sarah Woodward**, Pets at Home*

Animal Partnership Award

Sponsored by 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 winner of this award was chosen through a public vote.



FINALIST

Dale McGleenon and Leffe the Frenchie

Dale McGleenon's work as a Royal Air Force Police Investigator caused severe chronic PTSD, leading to a medical discharge and a mistrust of people. He became housebound, but the arrival of his Frenchie, Leffe, helped him to overcome his fear of going out. Walking together, Dale opened up to Leffe about his traumas, giving him the idea to record videos. These are now on their YouTube channel, educating people about online child safety, PTSD and wellbeing.



WINNER

Barry Coase and Bella

Veteran Barry Coase suffered depression and CPTSD before meeting beautiful Bella Bichon, who had had a traumatic start in life. With Bella's support, Barry's confidence grew. Bella qualified as an owner-trained Assistance Dog and the pair began volunteering at hospitals and schools, giving talks on the benefits of Animal Assisted Therapies. The busy duo promote veterans' mental health awareness through a local veterans' drop-in charity, and are an essential part of Combat Stress' Clinical Therapeutic Team.



FINALIST

Richard Mearns and Assistance Dog Ziggy

Richard Mearns holds down a high pressured job thanks to his Assistance Dog Ziggy's support; they are an inspirational example of a veteran and dog partnership. Having overcome severe PTSD and with significant mental health issues, Richard campaigns tirelessly for Assistance Dogs to be recognised as the equivalent to Guide Dogs. He hosts a superb podcast, assists the Bravehound charity with advice and support, and ensures that Ziggy maintains an inspirational social media presence.



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

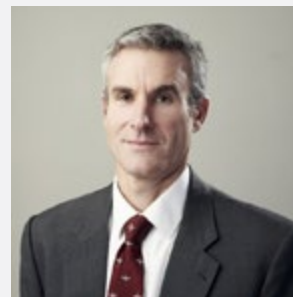
Each year approximately 15,000 people leave the UK Armed Forces and the vast majority transition successfully into civilian lives. However, some need additional support, and Forces in Mind Trust was established by the National Lottery Community Fund to maximise the impact of this additional support on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

Our mission is to enable all ex-Service people and their families to make a successful and sustainable transition to civilian life. We deliver this by working with others to identify the barriers to successful transition, finding out what works to overcome these barriers and then working together to make this happen, including by strengthening the Armed Forces charities sector through collaboration and leadership, and by building its capacity.

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.

As the sector continues to feel the impact of the pandemic, collaboration has never been more important. We know that the fantastic finalists and winners of this year's Forces in Mind Trust Working Together Award will have inspired others to work together.

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



Mike Ellicock
Chief Executive, Forces in Mind Trust

FiMT
forces in mind trust



“Congratulations to the worthy winners, and to all the fantastic finalists. You inspire us all, and it is an honour to support this award.” *Mike Ellicock, Forces in Mind Trust*

Working Together Award

Sponsored by 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 each other and other external organisations to support the sector within the wider military community.



FINALIST

Military and Police Support of West Tyrone

Military and Police Support of West Tyrone (MAPS) is an award-winning independent charity based in Omagh, County Tyrone. The troubles in Northern Ireland produced many hundreds of both military and police veterans, often diagnosed with PTSD following terrorist incidents. To prevent these veterans from feeling abandoned and alone, the charity brings together over 15 military and police associations in partnership to pool resources and provide first class advice and support under one umbrella.



WINNER

Greater Manchester Police

Greater Manchester Police (GMP) services a community of 2,800,000 people, of which around 250,000 are members of the Armed Forces Community. Officers interact with these people daily – as colleagues, vulnerable victims, witnesses and offenders. A team of 35 Armed Forces leads who are predominantly veterans themselves provide community support. GMP employs around 1100 Armed Forces staff and, in 2020, the force proudly achieved Gold status in the Armed Forces Covenant Employer Recognition Scheme awards.



FINALIST

Mission Automotive

Mission Automotive is an innovative collaboration linking MoD, charity and industry bodies, to bring together the Royal Foundation's vision for sector-specific veteran employment initiatives with Mission Motorsport's automotive expertise. World famous brands including Jaguar Land Rover, which has employed more than a thousand service leavers, provide veterans with fulfilling careers. In addition, critical skills gaps are filled, whilst vehicle fleet loans have facilitated efforts in support of the NHS.

2021 Winners' Announcement - 14th October 2021

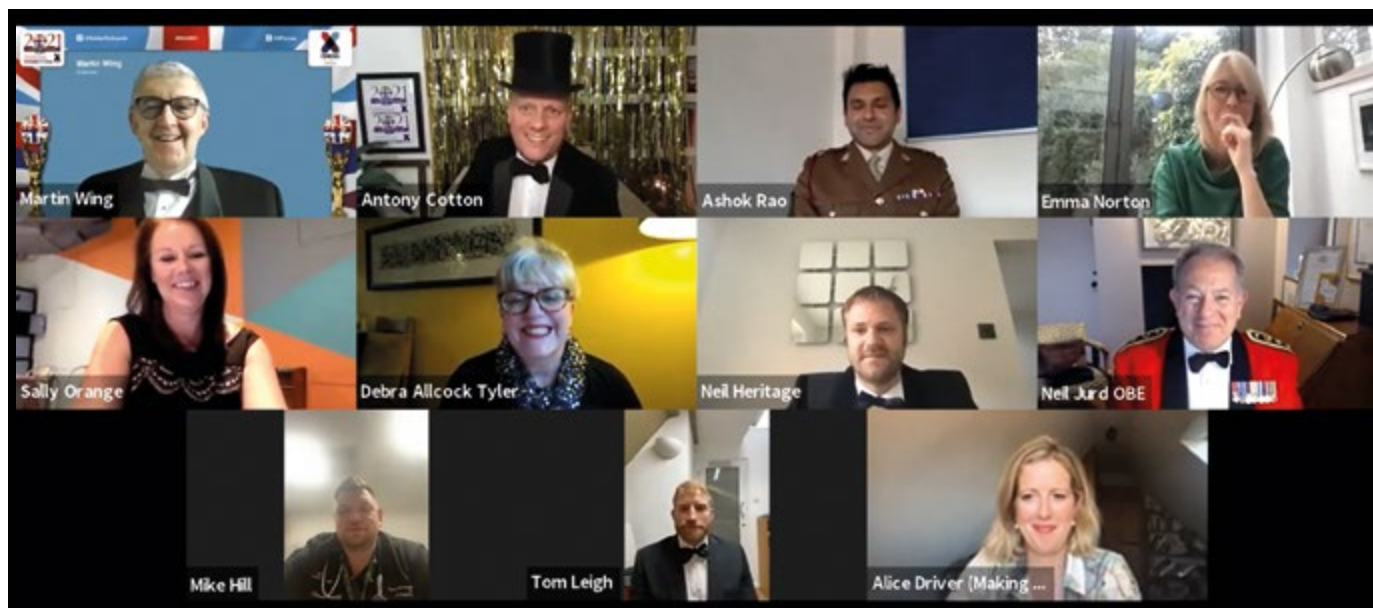


Antony Cotton

We were absolutely delighted to welcome Antony Cotton back to host our second 2021 winners' ceremony!

Antony has been involved with the military community since 2008. Nowadays, he spends all his spare time working with the Armed Forces, their charity sector and the MoD, trying to help improve the lives of both serving personnel and veterans alike. He is a patron of Help For Heroes and was made the first ambassador of SSAFA. His official association with SSAFA and H4H began when one of his best friends returned home from serving in Afghanistan and Antony could see he needed support.

On television, in a long and varied career, Antony played Alexander Perry in the iconic Russell T Davies series *Queer As Folk*, and also Edina's website designer Damon in *Absolutely Fabulous*. Then in 2003 he signed up for a couple of episodes of *Coronation Street*. All these years later, Sean Tully – barmaid and knicker stitcher extraordinaire – has become an iconic *Street* stalwart, front and centre stage, at the heart of the show for almost two decades. Whilst in *Weatherfield*, Antony has won various awards – including a National Television Award and a British Soap Award for best actor.



Patron's Special Recognition Award

The decisions throughout the Awards process are always difficult, and sometimes the Independent Judging Panel see fit to grant a Patron's Special Recognition Award. This Award is for a finalist who for a variety of different reasons may justify Special Recognition. This year some of the comments for such a finalist included:

'A great submission. It is good to see a diverse organisation properly engaging in inclusivity in this way. I can see this must be a constant struggle and so the dedication and drive to keep this going is all the more impressive.'

'The extent of collaboration with other networks and the reach into the wider community including outreach in education illustrates a very impressive group serving its members and the wider services.'





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“It is our privilege to sponsor this award and honour the achievements of such inspiring finalists, making incredible contributions to the Armed Forces Community through sporting excellence.” *Ivan Rowlett, Be Military Fit*

Sporting Excellence Award

Sponsored by Be Military Fit with Bear Grylls

An award to honour a person who 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 winner of this award was chosen through a public vote.



FINALIST

Jeffrey Long MBE

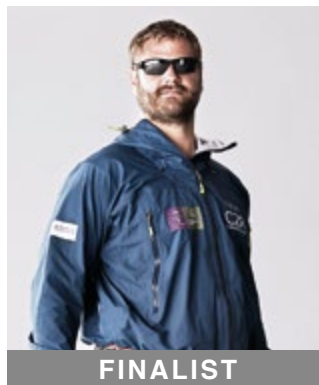
Jeffrey Long MBE has a distinguished history of fundraising through epic walking challenges. Despite serious health issues, in March 2021, aged 89, he began a 190 mile walk in celebration of The Royal British Legion and Support Our Paras. Other legendary exploits include a 650 mile walk from London to Switzerland, aged 75, and 100 miles in 10 days between 10 RAF Stations. Jeffrey walks in combat gear and has raised over £300,000 for Forces Charities.



WINNER

Josh Boggi

Josh Boggi lost three limbs in Afghanistan, yet went on to complete the Race Across America in record time and picked up several medals in two Invictus Games. Josh then trained with Depthery to become the world's first triple amputee rescue diver! He gives inspirational talks, works with an organisation that provides real amputee actors for Casualty Simulation Training, and is a committee member of the Casevac Club, supporting those injured on Herrick and Telic operations.



FINALIST

Neil Heritage

Neil Heritage founded Climb2Recovery in 2016, a charity supporting wounded soldiers by using adventures and challenges to find purpose. Leading by example, Neil is the first double above-the-knee amputee to scale the Matterhorn! This achievement was complex due to COVID-19 restrictions, and tension rose as one of his prosthetic limbs fell off 100 metres from the summit! The expedition raised more than £9,000 which will be used to provide others with a route into sport and recovery.



FINALIST

Sally Orange

During the pandemic, Sally Orange accomplished 13 marathons, three Guinness World Records, a 1000 mile cycle on a specially adapted tandem bike supporting wounded veterans, and a 140 mile Ironman distance triathlon! Sally completed all these challenges in 2020 dressed as different pieces of fruit! She has raised over £500,000 for more than 30 charities whilst changing the conversation on mental health. Sally is a 2016 Invictus Games medallist and 10 x world record holder!

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Capita

“At Capita, we understand the positive impact developing new skills can have on our serving personnel and Armed Forces Communities. We’re extremely proud to sponsor the Education, Training and Development Award.” *Richard Holroyd, Capita*

Education, Training & Development Award

Sponsored by 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.



FINALIST

Neil Jurd OBE

Lancashire Army Cadet Force flourished under Neil Jurd's leadership as he increased cadet numbers and improved staff morale. His 'Friends Of Lancashire Army Cadets' charity initiative raised over £20,000 to support economically disadvantaged cadets, ensuring that the adventure of the Army Cadets is accessible to all. Philanthropist Neil also raised more than £70,000 for the Royal British Legion, and he runs the Michelle Jurd Memorial Trust, raising thousands of pounds for service charities and other organisations.



WINNER

Making Generation R (Resilience)

Making Generation R (MGR) is a unique programme that improves veterans' confidence in public speaking, providing transferable skills that broaden their career horizons. Employing theatre experts and storytellers, the scheme trains Blesma members to develop their stories of triumphing over trauma into powerful motivational tools to help others. These inspiring 'performances' lead to discussions and workshops, which MGR delivers to schools and hospitals - reaching over 70,000 students and thousands of emergency services staff.



FINALIST

Tom Leigh

During the pandemic, Royal Marine Commando and UK Special Forces veteran Tom Leigh organised a range of Soldiers' Arts Academy online workshops. These brilliant events enabled the academy to provide more than 350 free creative workshops to the Armed Forces Community all over the world. Tom was also instrumental in organising Army@The Fringe, in place of appearing at the Edinburgh festival, allowing access to this fantastic opportunity for artists connected with the military.

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 a decade, 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.



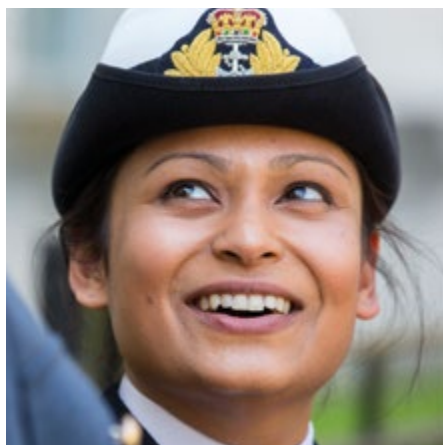
Operational imagery courtesy of Ministry of Defence. (c) Crown copyright 2020

“It's an absolute privilege to be part of the Soldiering On Awards and celebrate the achievements of all those creating greater diversity and inclusion in Defence. Congratulations to you all.” *Mark Neill, Landmarc*

Defence Inclusivity Award

Sponsored by Landmarc

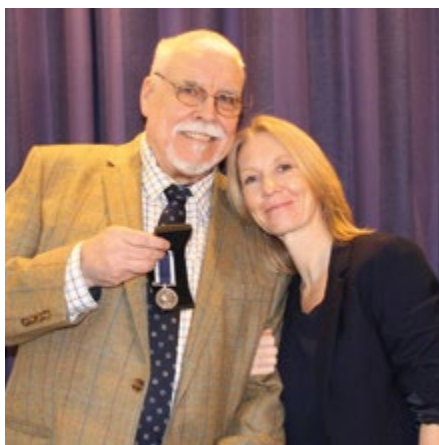
An award to honour the commitment and achievements of an individual, team or organisation in delivering greater diversity and inclusion within UK Defence and the Armed Forces Community.



FINALIST

Defence Hindu Network

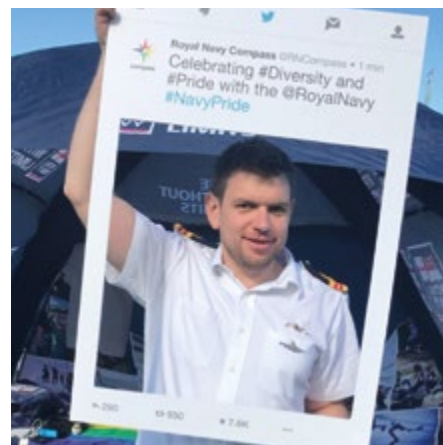
The Defence Hindu Network addresses the needs of Hindus in Defence and within the wider community. It influences the way in which the Army engages with BAME communities and supports LGBTQ+ networks – for example, to understand the challenges of recruitment for transgender people. The network formed the Defence Faith Networks Forum, bringing together the shared views of six world faith networks to deliver an agreed list of priorities to work in a mutually beneficial manner.



WINNER

Emma Norton

Emma Norton founded the Centre for Military Justice to provide legal services to Armed Forces personnel and veterans suffering violence, harassment or abuse. Since the ban on the open service of LGBTQ+ personnel was lifted, LGBTQ+ serving personnel are welcomed in every area of the Armed Forces. Emma upholds the covenant for hundreds of veterans affected by this positive change and has influenced the MoD to return medals to people who had been dismissed in disgrace.



FINALIST

Compass Network

Compass Network improves the lived experiences of LGBTQ+ sailors and marines. It supports people of all sexual orientations and gender identities and its message is clear: LGBTQ+ people can thrive in the Royal Navy! The network organised the first MoD diversity conference and developed the Armed Forces' first transition at work and non-binary policies. Its annual events include conferences, themed events and LGBTQ+ awareness days – all leading to a greater understanding of LGBTQ+ people's experiences.



PROUD MEDIA PARTNER AND CO-HOST

SOLDIERING ON AWARDS 2021

Congratulations to all the well-deserving nominees and winners.
View all our Soldiering On Awards stories at: forces.net/SOA2021

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the UK armed forces, their families and veterans

“As Soldiering On Awards media partner, BFBS is delighted to bring the inspirational stories of the finalists and winners to our audiences both within and beyond the Armed Forces Community.” **Simon Bucks** CEO, BFBS

2021 Winners' Announcement - 21st October 2021



Radzi Chinyanganya

Our third ceremony of 2021 was hosted by TV presenter Radzi Chinyanganya, making his Soldiering On Awards debut! Radzi proved to be the perfect host, and was delighted to meet the incredible mix of business people running an eclectic range of companies and charities.

Popular TV host and broadcaster Radzi Chinyanganya became a household name co-presenting the children's favourite, Blue Peter. He is highly respected for fronting a wide range of TV sports events, including Match of the Day Kickabout, the World Snooker Championships and the Olympic and Paralympic games.

The event was attended by the category finalists and sponsors, Patron Of the Soldiering on Awards, the Rt. Hon. Earl Howe; Jessie Owen, Director of the Office for Veterans' Affairs; David Wiseman, Director of Grants and Programmes at the Invictus Games; and Lieutenant General Richard Nugee CB CVO CBE.





MAKING THINGS FLY

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“GKN Aerospace is proud to sponsor the Soldiering On Awards and the Business Start Up category. The competition was fierce and we congratulate all entrants, finalists and the winner.” **Mark Miller**, *GKN Aerospace*

Business Start Up Award

Sponsored by 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, 2019) and who still retain a minimum of 50% interest in the venture.



FINALIST

Olivia Harris – Virtualoom

Olivia Harris' grandfather served in the parachute regiment for ten years. Olivia began Virtualoom after spotting a gap in the market for virtual property viewings, and Virtualoom thrived throughout the pandemic. Its 3D virtual tour services ensured that the housing market remained open and made the public feel comfortable selling their homes. The business expanded into a "One Stop Shop" to make estate and letting agents' lives easier, and has now branched out into the education, retail and medical sectors.



WINNER

Sam Jeffs – Peregrine Logistics

When the pandemic hit, former Royal Navy submarine navigator Sam Jeffs set up Peregrine to handle local deliveries. With high demand for regional couriers, the firm grew rapidly. In June 2020, Sam won a contract as an Amazon delivery partner and, by December, Peregrine had gone from 'one man and a van' to a firm of 50 drivers. Sam has since acquired a fleet of 30 electric vans too, proving that Peregrine is an eco-friendly and forward-thinking firm.



FINALIST

Thomas Foster – Pull the Pin Rum

After his medical discharge, Tom Foster noticed a gap in the market for high quality rums that weren't associated with pirates! Attending a distilling course, he set up the business to create an authentic rum with natural ingredients and a unique stopper design. In its first year, Pull the Pin sold 12,000 bottles. A special edition bottle commemorated VE Day 75 for charity, and Tom is currently creating a bottle to raise funds for the British Legion.

London Stock Exchange Group proudly sponsors the 2021 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](https://www.lseg.com)



LSEG

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“All the entrants of the Soldiering On Awards were fantastic. They are truly inspiring examples of British enterprise, made even more impressive given the challenging environment of the last year.” **Jane Goodland, LSEG**

Business Scale Up Award

Sponsored by London Stock Exchange Group



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, 2019) and who still retain a minimum of 50% interest in the venture.



FINALIST

Jane Chappell
Arcanum Information Security Ltd

Arcanum Information Security Ltd delivers cyber security, digital forensics and penetration testing to a client base including government departments, law enforcement, charities and industry. The firm is a highly proficient consultancy at the forefront of its sector, set up by Jane Chappell, a former RAF Intelligence Analyst and Reservist in the Royal Signals, and her business partner Lawrie Abercrombie. The company employs veterans and operates to a code of ethics that reflects the Army's standards of professional behaviour.



WINNER

Richard Tucker MBE
AAA Caring Caretaker Ltd

AAA Caring Caretaker provides cleaning for the MoD, universities and student accommodation in Durham. The firm's specialised cleaning and domestic support services for the NHS include infection controls that have helped to combat the spread of Covid-19. The company, established by RAF Veteran Richard Tucker, employs many veterans, especially those suffering from mental health issues. Employee support has helped the firm to become a highly profitable enterprise, recently winning contracts with Blue Chip Companies worth up to £1million.



FINALIST

Kieron Honeyman
KH Plant Training Ltd

In just seven years, former infantryman Kieron Honeyman has grown his construction training firm to a team of eight employees, including two veterans, with a five acre facility. More than 190 companies and countless self-employed clients use KH Plant as a 'one stop shop' for all their health, safety, training and testing needs. Kieron provides free and discounted courses to veterans, and helps veterans who have been involved with the criminal justice system to gain employment in construction.

Cisco, proud sponsors of the 2021 Soldiering On Awards



The bridge to possible

“Cisco is honoured to support The Community Impact Award 2021 - it means so much to Cisco to support veteran businesses.” **Scott Davies**, Cisco

Business Community Impact Award

Sponsored by 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; since January 1st 2018.



FINALIST

John Lodge – Hexitime CiC

Army veteran John Lodge has pioneered the first national timebank in UK healthcare. By brokering workforce skill with demand, Hexitime CiC successfully provides savings for the public sector and potential to change how it operates its workforce. The award-winning global business has opened the way for military personnel and veterans to freely and openly collaborate their skills with the NHS – and conversations are underway with the military to create an exclusive platform for military skill-sharing internally.



WINNER

Nigel Seaman – Combat2Coffee

Former soldier, Nigel Seaman, founded Combat2Coffee whilst recovering from depression and PTSD. He trains other veterans suffering with mental health issues as barristas then helps them to find employment. Nigel created the “Lansbury” coffee shop within HM Prison Hollesley Bay, where veterans coming to the end of long sentences can gain personal skills and self-confidence, enabling them to access paid work for Combat2Coffee on release. Further facilities have since opened, where veterans can gain valuable work experience.



FINALIST

Paul Matson – Hull 4 Heroes

With a successful business in the building trade, veteran Paul Matson jumped at the opportunity to create a ‘Veterans’ Street’ for the BBC’s DIY SOS Big Build. He is now building the world’s first transitional Veterans’ Village, to support veterans and their families in transitioning into civilian life seamlessly. Hull 4 Heroes supports over 400 veterans, helping the most vulnerable out of homelessness, into employment or simply connecting them to the outside world with free tablets and internet.





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2021 Winners' Announcement - 27th October 2021



John Nichol

Our fourth and final winners' ceremony was hosted by none other than RAF Veteran and Author, John Nichol.

During 15 years' service in the Royal Air Force John Nichol served as a technician and after being commissioned, as a Tornado Navigator in both the Air Defence and Ground Attack roles. He was shot down on the first low-level, daylight raid of the first Gulf War in January 1991. Captured and tortured, he was paraded on television provoking worldwide condemnation and leaving one of the enduring images of the conflict. He returned to active duty and was involved in policing the exclusion zone as part of the UN force maintaining the fragile peace in Bosnia. He has served around the world from the Nevada Desert to the Middle East and Norway to the Falkland Islands.

He is the best-selling author of *Tornado Down*, five novels, and ten highly acclaimed & best-selling WWII history books, including the Sunday Times Bestsellers; *SPITFIRE* – A Very British Love Story and *LANCASTER* – The Forging of a Very British Legend. John's latest book *TORNADO* – In the Eye of the Storm was published in May this year and spent eight weeks in the bestseller list.





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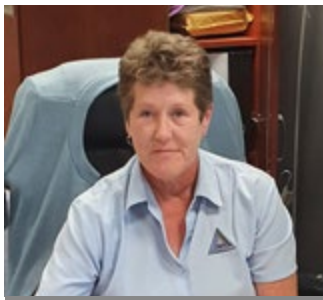
JAMES WILTHER
The Afghan Rug Shop

“NatWest is honoured to be supporting the 2021 Soldiering On Awards in recognising truly inspirational people and teams, and all those who support the Armed Forces Community.” **Julie Baker**, NatWest Group

Inspiration Award

Sponsored by NatWest

An award to honour a person who 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 winner of this award was chosen through a public vote.



FINALIST

Margo Hetherington MBE

Margo Hetherington and her colleague set up Military and Police Support of West Tyrone (MAPS), an award-winning independent charity that brings together various military and police associations to support veterans under one umbrella. Margo is determined that if veterans need help, they know where to turn; so, with over 900 members, she is available day and night. Margo has learned new skills to add to those gained during her military service, making her an authority in veterans' welfare.



WINNER

Stephen Vause

Stephen Vause was described as "one of UK's most seriously injured veterans" after suffering severe brain injuries in a mortar bomb attack. Whilst he will require 24-hour care for the rest of his life, Stephen converses using a tablet and undertakes many personal challenges. Despite his disabilities, he recently completed a 60-mile virtual London - Brighton cycle ride on a specially adapted static bike, raising over £4,500 for Help for Heroes and appearing on TV as an inspiration to others!



FINALIST

Mark Ormrod MBE

Mark Ormrod was the first British triple amputee to survive the conflict in Afghanistan and he is a genuine inspiration. He has taken part in the Invictus Games twice, winning many medals, including the Jaguar Award for Exceptional Performance, Determination and Dedication. He is a prolific motivational speaker and has released a book, a podcast and a documentary. With his charity and media work, art projects and sports achievements, Mark's amazing story is being turned into a movie.



FINALIST

Martin Hewitt

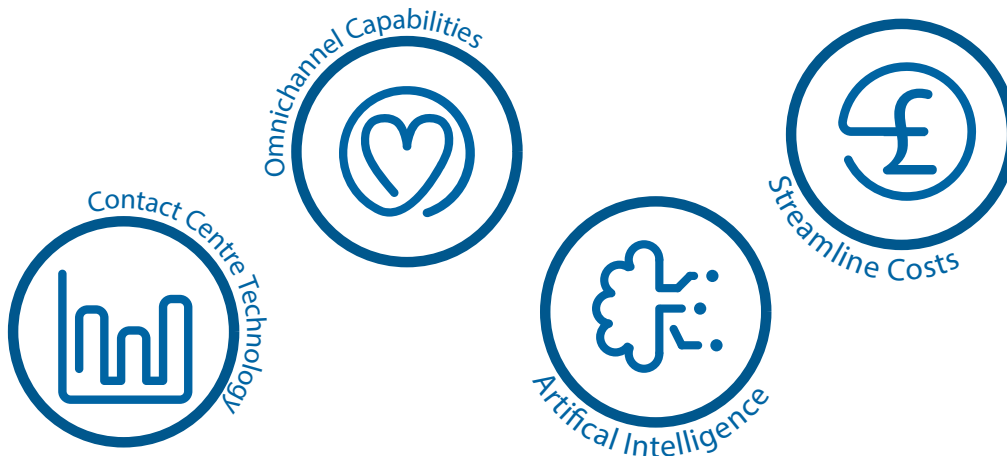
Despite his disability, Martin Hewitt has successfully summited Mount Kilimanjaro, Aconcagua and Everest (which was filmed), and he walked unsupported to the Geographic North Pole with Prince Harry. Leading by example, Martin founded Adaptive Grand Slam, a charity that empowers people with disabilities and mental health issues to challenge themselves physically and mentally by participating in expeditions. Inspirational Martin is also involved in the development of prosthetics and medical research.



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“The strength and selflessness of each finalist in the Healthcare and Rehabilitation category is incredibly inspiring. I am truly amazed by their admirable commitment to such an important cause.” **Martin Taylor**, Redwood Technologies

Healthcare and Rehabilitation Award

Sponsored by 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.



FINALIST

Nikki McCartney – Who Dares Cares

Since joining the charity Who Dares Cares, Nikki McCartney's impact has been enormous. She saves veterans' lives – not only through immediate intervention and directing emergency services to suicidal casualties, but in a hundred small ways. These include arranging accommodation, filling in forms, organising food parcels and signposting toward coping strategies. Nikki runs online peer support for 200 PTSD sufferers, and trains trainers to deliver the PTSD and Alcohol Awareness sessions that she has designed.



WINNER

Edward Dean – Anxious Minds

After receiving help from SSAFA following a nervous breakdown and complex PTSD, Eddie Dean founded Anxious Minds to 'give back' by improving mental health support in the North East. Five years later, Anxious Minds is a multi-award winning mental health charity providing early intervention and long-term support for thousands of veteran families struggling with mental health. It provides quick access into areas including alcohol reduction support, debt management, family law, crisis management and suicide prevention.



FINALIST

Jason Stevens – Veterans' Growth

Veterans' Growth offers horticultural training to veterans. Jason Stevens, its CEO, was medically discharged in 2016 and, during his rehabilitation, spent many hours gardening in Headley Court. Recognising the benefits of horticulture for mental health, Jason and his business partner Sarah set up the charity in a five-acre plot near Hastings. In addition to providing a cheerful, non-judgemental environment, Veterans' Growth has given one homeless veteran on-site accommodation, and secured funds to renovate a second accommodation.

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“Oracle has a long history as a key technology provider for the MoD and is delighted to support the Armed Forces Community through our sponsorship of the Lifetime Achievement.” **Duncan Bruce**, Oracle

Lifetime Achievement Award

Sponsored by Oracle

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



FINALIST

Martin Frank “Bill” Sykes BEM

During a 30-year career in the RAF and 53 years as a volunteer for multiple military charities, including SSAFA and the Royal British Legion, Frank Sykes BEM has always put service first. He has supported hundreds of people, both through casework and via the teams he managed in his leadership roles within Forces charities. He has mentored many volunteers who were inspired by his compassion and ability to create a sustainable impact on the community.



WINNER

George Batts, MBE, Leg d'Hon

Former National Secretary and Treasurer of the Normandy Veterans' Association, D-Day veteran George Batts MBE was instrumental in the creation of the British Normandy Memorial in France. The memorial was opened in June 2021, 77 years after the battle – an achievement borne of George's support for the Normandy veterans and his determined campaigning, fundraising, media engagement and unwavering dedication to the remembrance of the 22,442 servicemen and women who sacrificed their lives for our freedom.



FINALIST

Sir Alistair Irwin, KCB CBE

Lieutenant General Sir Alistair Irwin KCB CBE guided the Army through the amalgamation of the Scottish regiments. Since retiring, he devotes his life to serving tirelessly as President of Poppyscotland, Royal British Legion Scotland and the Officers Association Scotland. Sir Alistair has set the standard for collaboration between veterans' organisations right across the UK. As Chairman of The Black Watch Trusts, Sir Alistair headed a fundraising appeal that raised £3.6m to develop its museum in Perth.



Lt. Colonel Ren Kapur MBE - Thank you

This community never ceases to amaze me. The last two years have been incredibly challenging for so many of us, yet the people who want to give that little bit extra to make a real difference are always prepared to step up. This is evidenced by the wonderful accolades that have been earned over the last two years, by so many extraordinary people who will be celebrated this evening.

I expect the ambience will be full of excitement and enthusiasm as everyone deserves a little celebration, particularly this close to Christmas. The sense of community and togetherness just seems to encourage everyone to get more involved. There are some incredible people and some amazing organisations who have been recognised in 2020 and 2021; they are quite extraordinary!

The sponsors come from a cross-section of society, perfectly illustrating how the Armed Forces Community touches so many different walks of life. I hope tonight gives everyone the opportunity to celebrate the wonderful achievements of all the winners and finalists, which would not otherwise be possible without the sponsors.

I am therefore honoured and extremely proud, that with everyone's support, we are able to run the Soldiering On Awards on behalf of this wonderful Armed Forces Community. A heartfelt thank you to all the sponsors, partners and supporters for giving the community this platform. Enjoy what I hope will be a momentous evening.



Collaboration, Collaboration, Collaboration

Thank you to our sponsors

Thank you to all the sponsors, partners and supporters of Soldiering On Awards. These relationships and the subsequent engagement is vital in everything that is achieved through the awards. The collaboration provides a multiplier effect so that we can achieve so much more than the sum of our parts. Represented in the audience tonight are government departments, businesses, armed forces charities, education providers and many more, and we will continue to harness this support of the Soldiering On Awards Community for the benefit of winners and finalists for years to come. Thank you everyone for your support in both 2020 and 2021!

Award Sponsors



2020 Soldiering On Awards Winners



2021 Soldiering On Awards Winners



Thank you

Supporters

Our sincerest thanks to those charities and organisations that continue to support the Soldiering On Awards and the wider Armed Forces Community, and also welcome to those who have come aboard during the 2021 campaign.



Partners



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.



Charity

X-Forces Enterprise is proud to be a member of Cobseo and to work closely with the Armed Forces Charity Community. So many of the journeys of the incredible Finalists have been supported through members of Cobseo.



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, The Office of Veterans Affairs, Defence Relationship Management and others for their support of these Awards.



HM Government

Soldiering On Awards 2022: Who Do You Know?

As we close out this year's Soldiering On Award celebrations, it's time to start thinking about nominations for 2022! The Awards wouldn't function without the selflessness of the nominators, putting incredible people, teams, businesses, and organisations forward every year – and we can't thank you enough. However, there are still hundreds and thousands of individuals and organisations in the Armed Forces Community not getting the recognition they deserve!

You may know of an individual selflessly raising money for charity, someone excelling in the sporting world, an armed forces member setting up pioneering ventures, or a group tackling diversity head-on within their community.

Help us lift the lid on the extraordinary achievements of those in the military space, and consider nominating in 2022. Your nominees would have the chance to be featured in front of thousands of people from within and outside the military community. How amazing would that be? You'd be helping to spread the word about their achievements, showing exactly why they have inspired you, and giving them the opportunity to win a fantastic Award!

So, who do you know that deserves recognition for their incredible achievements? Who do you know that inspires you? Who should win a prestigious award?

 www.soldieringon.org

Follow Us On Twitter to find out when Nominations open!

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

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