

The poster features a dark purple background with shimmering gold confetti scattered throughout. Two vertical purple curtains frame the central text. The year '2023' is written in a large, gold, cursive font, set within a dark grey diamond shape that contains several small black stars. Below this, the words 'CELEBRATING', 'FORCES FAMILIES', and 'AWARDS' are stacked in a bold, white, sans-serif font. Two horizontal gold bars are positioned below the word 'AWARDS'. At the bottom, the date and location are written in a white, sans-serif font.

2023

CELEBRATING
FORCES FAMILIES
AWARDS

FRIDAY 28TH APRIL 2023

VICTORY SERVICES CLUB, LONDON

2023 SPONSORS



2024 SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES - REGISTER YOUR INTEREST

CELEBRATINGFORCESFAMILIES.CO.UK

PRINTED BY -





"I am absolutely delighted to welcome you to the second Celebrating Forces Families Awards evening here at the Victory Services Club, London. It's fantastic to meet our finalists and hear their many inspiring stories. In my eyes, you are all winners, and we thank you for your contributions in making the UK Armed Forces the fantastic worldwide community that it is today. Thank you also to our sponsors. Their support has allowed this not-for-profit event to happen, and they have all played their part in working with the event team to make some amazing memories with you this evening!"

Sarah Walker, Chair - Partner Employment Working Group

YOUR HOSTS FOR THIS EVENING

ANTONY COTTON MBE

Antony Cotton is an actor and television personality best known for his role as Sean Tully in the long-running soap opera Coronation Street. Aside from his successful acting career, Antony has also been actively involved in supporting the Armed Forces. He has toured overseas to entertain British troops in Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Falkland Islands, among other places. Antony is a patron of the Army Benevolent Fund and has participated in various fundraising events to support the welfare of soldiers and their families. In 2022 he was awarded an MBE for his commitment to boosting the morale of British troops serving overseas.

KYM MARSH

Kym Marsh is known for her recent success on the Strictly dance floors as well as her role as Michelle Connor in Coronation Street. In addition to her successful acting career, Marsh has also been a vocal supporter of the British Armed Forces. She has visited British troops stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan to show her appreciation for their service and has participated in fundraising events for military charities, including Help for Heroes and the Royal British Legion. In 2011, Marsh was appointed as an ambassador for the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal and has worked tirelessly to raise awareness for the charity's work in supporting British veterans and their families.

ORDER OF EVENTS

1730 - ARRIVAL DRINKS & CANAPÉS

1900 - ENJOY A THREE-COURSE DINNER

2000 - LIVESTREAM BEGINS

2015 - CHOIR PERFORMANCE

2030 - THE CFF AWARDS BEGIN!

2215 - LIVESTREAM CLOSES

2215 - DISCO

0030 - CARRIAGES & TIME TO HEAD TO BED



MENU

Starters

GAME & PISTACHIO TERRINE,
Chicken Liver Parfait, Autumn
Fruit Chutney, Brioche



TOMATO, ONION,
& SPINACH TART,
Redcurrant Balsamic Glaze

Main Dishes

PORK BELLY,
Black Pudding Bhaji, Crushed
Potato & Apple, Red Cabbage,
Roasted Carrot, Peppercorn &
Cider Cream Sauce



ROOT VEGETABLE STRUDEL,
Seasonal Vegetable Terrine, Kale,
Port & Vegetable Gravy

Desserts

LEMON TART,
Hazelnut Meringue, Fresh
Raspberries



COCONUT & PASSION FRUIT
PANNA COTTA,
Tropical Fruit Compote,
Crumbled Shortbread

VOICES OF ARMED FORCES CHILDREN CHOIR

The RAF Families Federation and the Naval Families Federation are the proud sponsors of the choir for tonight's event.

The Voices of Armed Forces Children Choir is a group of tri-service children from across the UK who have come together to sing for a wide variety of occasions! The choir was established by Never Such Innocence to encourage children of service members, both currently serving and veterans, to share what life is like for them. The VOAFC Choir sings about service life. One of their songs, Welcome Home, won first place in the 9-11 age category in the Never Such Innocence annual international song competition 2021 and Stand Up featured in the semi-finals of Britain's Got Talent.

www.neversuchinnocence.com/voices-of-armed-forces-children



PRIZE DRAW

One of the highlights of the Celebrating Forces Families Awards Ceremony this evening will be the much-anticipated prize draw. Many businesses and advocates have generously donated prizes to support the military community. Among the prizes this year are:

- ★ A **Bremont** goodie bag worth £400
- ★ **£25 Adopt an Artefact Gift Card** for the RAF Museum
- ★ **Two nights** of free accommodation at the **Victory Services Club**
- ★ **Boden** Gift Voucher
- ★ **Jelly Belly Hamper**
- ★ A two-night stay at the **China Fleet Club** in Plymouth
- ★ **Jelly Belly Sweet Machine** and **Plush Toy**
- ★ A Magnum of Taittinger Champagne donated by the **Soldiering On Awards Team**

Tickets are available to purchase throughout the evening and all monies raised will be used to continue our support of Armed Forces families.

HEADLINE SPONSOR



We are thrilled to have Barclays as the Headline Sponsor of the Celebrating Forces Families Awards evening and the Inspirational Family Member of the Year award.

You can find out more about what they offer here:
www.search.jobs.barclays/MVO

Paula Molyneux,
Barclays Military and Veterans Outreach Team, says,

"Barclays was delighted to be recognised as Exemplar Forces Friendly Employer of the Year at the inaugural 2022 Celebrating Forces Families Awards, celebrating the incredible achievements of the Armed Forces families. We were inspired by the many stories shared throughout the evening and are excited to be the headline sponsor for this year's awards."



GREEN ROOM SPONSOR



Supported by the:



Maria Lyle,

Director of the RAFFF, says:

"We are delighted to be a Celebrating Forces Families sponsor. Military families are at the heart of what we do, and because of the nature of our work, we often hear about the challenges encountered by family members"
"However, the joy of an event like this is a celebration of the range of creative and tenacious military family members who are successful whilst supporting someone who serves. It is great to be involved in a reminder of what a positive community we live in."

MEDIA PARTNER



Mikaela Harley Head of

Communications at BFBS says:

"BFBS is delighted to be the Media Partner, once again, for the Celebrating Forces Families Awards. Last year's awards produced a string of inspirational stories on our channels, showcasing the dedication of this amazing community, and they will undoubtedly do so again in 2023. In our role as Media Partner, the BFBS Live Events team is producing the awards ceremony, while the BFBS Creative team is livestreaming the event for those unable to attend. We look forward to sharing your stories through our worldwide radio, social media and digital coverage."

WELCOME & DRINKS RECEPTION SPONSOR



Camilla Howard,

**Chair of the Armed Forces
Committee, Compass Group UK
& Ireland says:**

"We are delighted to support the Celebrating Forces Families awards. We know that families play an important role in supporting military personnel and make many sacrifices, and it's great to have an awards that recognise this. We are proud to have over 1000 employees in our business who have an Armed Forces connection - whether they are veterans, reservists or spouses and recently introduced a dedicated Spouse's policy and Military Dependent's Days."

INSPIRATIONAL FAMILY MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Headline Award

SPONSOR



SOMEONE WHO HAS GONE
THE EXTRA MILE AS A FAMILY
MEMBER OF THE ARMED
FORCES COMMUNITY AND,
AS A RESULT OF THEIR
EFFORTS, HAS ALSO HELPED
INSPIRE OTHERS.



2022 Winner - Heather Sharp, FWC

FINALISTS



MOLLY WILLIAMS

Molly, aged 9, has raised over £6k for the RAF Community despite living with Spinal Muscular Atrophy.

Molly was the inspiration for and joined her Dad, Julian, as he ran and walked 100 miles in 24 hours in May 2022 to raise funds and joined him using her Duet Tandem Wheelchair bicycle, with the help of her Mum May, sister Anya and brother Edmund.



SEREIMA TAWAKE

Sereima is a committee member of the Marama Alliance UK and is tireless in her dedication to helping the Fijian Armed Forces community who have relocated to the UK.

Recent projects include creating a space for marginalised Fijian women in the North of England and Scotland via events in Catterick and Leuchars - and organising the Annual Women's Pray and Arise Conference 2022.



AMANDA PIKE

Amanda Pike Suddenly lost her beloved 23 year serving RAF husband whilst supporting her young family, however through it all continued identifying a need and helped bring to life the Military Maternity Voices Partnership and Military Care Navigator within the NHS in Lincolnshire with the hope that similar teams will be rolled out country-wide.

Her work with the Armed Forces has gained recognition regionally and nationally, with major steps forward being made. Additionally, Amanda serves as the Chair of the Maternity Voices Partnership for the Lincolnshire LMNS, advocating for opportunities to improve Maternity and Neonatal Services for families.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S AWARD: GIVING BACK TO THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY

SPONSOR



The Ministry of Defence
partnering with Right Management*

Right Management from Talent Solutions has more than 40 years of expertise in the talent lifecycle.

Our insight and technology-driven solutions are designed to accelerate the capabilities of our clients' workforce and ensure their talent – and their business – is prepared to meet the demands of a strategic global workforce. We are also extremely proud to be the official provider of resettlement for the MOD, for the past 25 years, supporting the leavers of the Armed Forces. Working closely within the military community, we put great value on honouring and supporting these special awards.

www.ctp.org.uk

**FOR A CHILD OF SOMEONE WHO
SERVES WHO HAS GIVEN THEIR TIME
AND ENERGY TO THE BETTERMENT OF
THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY.**

CTP's Quality and Performance Manager, Charlene Brookes, says,

"This is the second year Right Management has had the honour of sponsoring the Young People's Award: Giving back to the Armed Forces community at the Celebrating Forces Families Awards, and we are delighted to have the opportunity to sponsor again. Young members of the military family are often the unsung heroes and having read some of the incredible nominations from last year, it's clear we need to keep recognising and celebrating our young people".

FINALISTS



JAMES WATTS

James is the driving force behind the Wings to the Past initiative, which uses archaeology and heritage to build resilience among serving RAF personnel and their families.

He was a runner-up for the Young Archaeologist of the Year award in 2019 and acts as the digital manager, running the website and Facebook page.



HEATHER POLLOCK

Heather Pollock is a 17-year-old young carer and college student from a veteran family who is always positive and supportive of others. She volunteered for Forces Children Scotland's participation work in 2021 and co-produced the organisation's mental health and wellbeing platform.

Heather is a dedicated and reliable member of the group and has continued to volunteer for co-production work while juggling her studies and caring responsibilities.



GREGOR ALLAN

10-year-old Gregor Allan wanted to help his little sister prepare for their dad's tour of duty in the Middle East, so he produced a list of activities and asked his school, New Inn Primary School near Pontypool, Southeast Wales, to set up a club for Service children.

The group was extremely well received, and the pupils were eager to join, despite only nine of them being from service or veteran families in a school of over 600 pupils.

FAMILY VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

SPONSOR



HSBC has a long history of employing ex-servicemen and women in the UK. Our commitment was further strengthened when we signed the Armed Forces Covenant with the Ministry of Defence in 2013.

Like the Armed Forces, HSBC values the unique contributions that each employee brings to our business. We recognise the importance that family plays in the wellbeing of our employees and chose to support these awards to ensure that the forces family members receive recognition for the effort they put into supporting their serving family members. We materially support all employees who choose to volunteer their time for worthwhile causes, with 67,000 hours supported in the past year. Volunteering is important to our culture and that is why we chose to sponsor the volunteer of the year award.

www.hsbc.co.uk

**THIS COULD BE A MILITARY FAMILY
OR INDIVIDUAL FAMILY MEMBER OF
ANY AGE WHO HAS VOLUNTEERED
TOWARDS AN ARMED FORCES CAUSE.**

David Bill, Chair of HSBC's Military Network says, *"These awards present a great opportunity for us as an organisation and a community of people to show our appreciation for those who serve and importantly their supportive family members. HSBC's veteran, reservist and service family members are recognised as making a significant contribution to the culture of HSBC and upholding our organisational values of; succeeding together, valuing difference, taking responsibility and getting it done. Those nominated for this award have also demonstrated their contribution to the UK Armed Forces community and displayed behaviour that aligns to our organisational values."*

FINALISTS



SHARON DEANES

Sharon works for ELFT NHS as Armed Forces Champion working on a project to improve opportunities for the Veteran community.

She is also a volunteer Army Welfare Service Youth worker, a Buddy for The Ripple Pond and Vice Chair of the Regional Voice Group for The Military Wives Choirs as well as being the choir lead for Bovington Military Wives Choir.



YASMIN MARTIN

Yasmin is a courageous individual who champions diversity, equity, and inclusion. After attending RAF Families Day events, she created a presentation on how the RAF can be more diverse and successfully presented it to Service personnel of all ranks at RAF Shawbury.

Yasmin's impact was so significant that she has been invited back multiple times to work with the Diversity and Inclusion Team at RAF Shawbury in the future.



LUISA MATATOLU

Luisa, a financial expert, supports the Fijian Armed Forces community in the UK through Marama Alliance Uk. She advocates for financial literacy, providing information and awareness sessions to individuals who need it.

Additionally, she runs Fijian language classes and advocates for Fijian Language Week for Fijian children born in the UK as part of the Armed Forces Community.

OVERCOMING ADVERSITY AWARD

SPONSOR

The M&S logo is displayed in white, serif font on a black rectangular background. The background of the entire page is a dark blue and purple geometric pattern with scattered gold confetti.

**THIS COULD BE A MILITARY FAMILY
OR INDIVIDUAL FAMILY MEMBER OF
ANY AGE WHO HAS VOLUNTEERED
TOWARDS AN ARMED FORCES CAUSE.**

Here at M&S, people are our greatest asset, and we are very proud that our large M&S family is so diverse.

We value the different skills, knowledge, and perspectives that a diverse ground of people can bring. The Armed Forces community is incredibly important to us, and our relationship stretches all the way back to World War Two. We feel very grateful to have the opportunity to welcome members of the Armed Forces community into our organisation and create an environment where they can truly thrive.

www.jobs.marksandspencer.com/veterans-commitment

Head of Logistics and Veterans Network Senior Sponsor (VNSS), Paul Burns says,

"I have huge respect for our Armed Forces. Of the work they do and the sacrifices they make for our safety and well-being. We are privileged to have so many veterans as colleagues, it is great to see due recognition and the chance to share this with pride with their families."

FINALISTS



LISA BILLING

Lisa is a dedicated supporter of the Armed Forces community who has worked tirelessly to preserve the memory of her son, Daniel Wade and other soldiers

who died in Afghanistan. Over the past decade, she has spearheaded the renovation of a community garden near Warrington Cenotaph, transforming it into a beautiful space that honours our fallen heroes. Her partnership with Warrington Borough Council has secured funding for this outstanding project.



HOPE MURRAY

Despite facing her own challenges with visual impairment, Hope joined Forces Children Scotland's Your Mind Matters co-production group to help

develop a wellbeing platform for young people. Her experience and knowledge were invaluable to ensuring that the platform was fully accessible to all. She is determined to make a difference and graduated with a PGDip in International Conflict and Co-Operation last year.



THE WOODS FAMILY

Jodie, Mike and their family have shown incredible courage and support for the community by spreading awareness and fundraising. After the

loss of their young daughter Eliza to sepsis, they have organised events to raise tens of thousands of pounds for the UK Sepsis Trust. Jodie also runs a successful Baby Sensory and Toddler Sense business, bringing joy to 250 Armed Forces families each week.



EFREM BRYNIN

Efrem lost his son in Afghanistan in 2013 and struggled to find support for military-related grief. He co-founded Strongmen, which supports military and veteran

communities with grief and bereavement. He speaks in various military environments to break down the stigma surrounding grief and has personally supported many men in their own grieving journeys. Despite facing his own battle with cancer, Efrem continues to go above and beyond for the community he serves.

MILITARY FAMILY CHARITY OF THE YEAR

SPONSOR

A CHARITY OR CIC WHICH HAS PROVIDED EXEMPLAR SUPPORT TO ARMED FORCES FAMILIES DURING 2022



2022 Winner - Fun First



centrica

At Centrica, we're passionate about and committed to hiring ex-military talent and are looking for more military partners, service leavers, veterans and reservists to join our team - with career opportunities at all levels across the business.

www.centrica.com

Laura Blair, Head of Centrica's Ex-Forces Pathway says,

"Centrica is exceptionally proud to be a sponsor of the 2023 Forces Families Awards. We're delighted to be involved in recognising the immense and valuable contribution that UK military families provide to the Armed Forces community."

FINALISTS



DEFENCE MEDICAL WELFARE SERVICE

DMWS is a non-profit organisation that provides welfare support to current and veteran service men and women across various settings such as hospitals, communities, and bases, as well as through the veteran trauma network. They take a holistic approach to supporting individuals by addressing all areas of their lives, including home, health, family, and finances, to help make daily life more manageable.



THE RIPPLE POND

The Ripple Pond is a charity run by a team with direct experience of military life, helping to reduce isolation and build confidence, resilience, and well-being among individuals in the military community. They collaborate with other organisations to provide support for complex challenges and share relatable stories to connect with their members. Their peer support approach means that individuals don't have to repeatedly recount their situation, reducing distress for them and their families.



ROYAL NAVY AND ROYAL MARINES CHARITY

RNRMC support Armed Forces families through grants, funding, and collaborative partnerships. They offer a range of services, including financial assistance, housing support and counselling. RNRMC provide access to healthcare and mental health support for veterans and their families. Their work ensures that Naval families have the resources they need to thrive both during and after their service.

SOCIAL MEDIA INFLUENCER OF THE YEAR

SPONSOR



At Amey, looking after our Defence sector matters - that's why we are one of the UK's core military service providers, ensuring our Armed Forces have suitable housing, workplaces, and equipment.

We deliver contracts on behalf of the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO), are a proud signatory of the Armed Forces Covenant and a contributor to Defence's 'Whole Force' approach to service delivery. Amey also supports Forces communities through employment and charitable giving. We welcome people from military backgrounds, and through our partnerships and aim to create more prosperity and opportunity for the community.

www.amey.co.uk

FOR SOMEONE WHO IS PART OF THE MILITARY FAMILY, HAS OVER 5K FOLLOWERS ON A PLATFORM AND HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN SPREADING THE WORD AND SUPPORTING THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA.

Tom Silvey, Operations Director for Defence Housing, says,

"At Amey, we are focused on delivering a service that reflects the dedication and commitment given by military personnel while keeping our country safe. Part of this is ensuring military communities and families are looked after and that they have the right support in place to flourish. Sponsoring the Celebrating Forces Families Awards gives us an opportunity to recognise and thank those who go above and beyond to ensure military communities continue to thrive. We can't wait to hear the fantastic stories of individual and collective triumph on the night"

FINALISTS



MARAMA ALLIANCE UK

Marama Alliance UK is a group of Fijian women in the UK who support military spouses and families. Through social media, they create

awareness of military events, charities and support services to help integrate these families into UK life. They host Facebook lives and share information from army charities to provide information and resources for military families.



DANIELLE SANDY

Danielle Sandy, who previously served in the Royal Navy, actively supports the Armed Forces community on social media.

As the Talent Acquisition

Manager for Barclays, she advocates for hiring military talent and educates senior leaders on its benefits. She is passionate about raising awareness of the immense transferable skills military families have to offer.



KAYLA JACKSON

Kayla is a full-time working mum, an NHS nurse and an Instagram influencer. She uses her platform to document her life as a military wife and

mother of two, offering insight into the unique challenges faced by armed forces families. Kayla also supports the Royal British Legion by raising awareness and encouraging donations through her social media platform.



JODIE SPACAGNA

Jodie is an Instagram influencer who shares a range of content from daily life to fashion, work, and military experiences. Her posts focus on

the highs and lows of being a military spouse, showcasing how to make the most out of family time and coping with the separation that comes with military life. Jodie is a strong support for her husband and other military families, offering insights and advice on social media.

ARMED FORCES ADVOCATE(S) OF THE YEAR

SPONSOR

M
M
MOTT
MACDONALD

Mott MacDonald is a global engineering, management and development consultancy. Their purpose is to improve society by considering social outcomes in everything they do, relentlessly focusing on excellence and digital innovation, transforming their clients' businesses, their communities and employee opportunities.

www.mottmac.com

THE WINNER PUBLICLY AND POSITIVELY SUPPORTS THE ARMED FORCES. THIS COULD BE A SCHOOL, GROUP/CLUB, FAMILY OR AN INDIVIDUAL!

Liz Baldwin is the Armed Forces Champion at Mott MacDonald, she is also Managing Director, Highways and Intelligent Transport Systems Division, says,

"Having been involved in the inaugural Celebrating Forces Families Awards ceremony it is an even greater honour to be involved a second time. We have achieved GOLD in the Employer Recognition Scheme in 2022 in recognition of our commitment to the whole service family, increasing the number of military family members across the business, looking after their needs through our flexible employment and wellbeing policies. The sacrifices made by military family members in support of their serving loved ones often goes unrecognised and, as a strong advocate for inclusivity and openness, we are particularly pleased to be sponsoring the Armed Forces Advocate(s) of the Year award. We wish all the nominees the very best of luck!"

FINALISTS



SAMANTHA CAIRNS

Samantha is a dedicated Civil Servant, Commanding Officer of a local Air Cadet Squadron, and a RAF spouse, Samantha has a deep-rooted connection to the Armed Forces. She has made a significant impact on the lives of the young people in her Cornish town, and provided invaluable guidance to those who are interested in the Air Cadets, but may not have access to resources or information. Her efforts have not only positively impacted her squadron, but also the surrounding community.



NATASHA DAY

Natasha is the chair of the Defence Breastfeeding Network, which supports Armed Forces families who choose to breastfeed. The network offers online and in-person support, a sense of community, and access to training. Natasha has opened 56 breastfeeding rooms across the Defence infrastructure and advocates for retaining families post-baby. She has changed policy and opened the network to the entire Armed Forces community, making life easier for future parents.



LIANNE COBHAM

Leanne is the Armed Forces Healthcare lead at Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust. Leanne works to improve healthcare services for the military community and ensures that special provisions are put in place for those who need it. She also provides direct support to service users and advocates for the Armed Forces community to improve services within the NHS and other organisations.

SMALL BUSINESS OWNER OF THE YEAR

FOR A MILITARY FAMILY MEMBER WHO HAS SET UP THEIR OWN BUSINESS DUE TO THE NATURE OF A MOBILE LIFESTYLE IN THE ARMED FORCES AND MADE IT THE BEST IT CAN BE, NO MATTER WHAT SIZE.

SPONSORS



SUH is a business start-up course, mentoring programme and friendly network of like-minded business owners from the Armed Forces community. Our unique business programme has been developed specifically for Armed Forces families to provide them with the transferable skills and support required to start up and grow a business. We aim to make the course as much fun and as relaxed as possible to encourage participants throughout the programme. We deliver training online and at MOD bases across the UK and overseas throughout the year.

www.supportingtheunsunghero.co.uk

www.x-forces.com

X-Forces Enterprise (XFE) deliver holistic self-employment support across the Armed Forces community and collaborate on various programmes of work with Sarah Walker, who runs Supporting the Unsung Hero. Ren Kapur MBE, XFE CEO and Sarah are really proud to be presenting this award, *“We feel privileged to support so many inspiring individuals to start and grow their business and this award recognises the determination, skills and resourcefulness of those within our Armed Forces community. We are honoured to sponsor the Small Business Award category together.”*

FINALISTS



JODIE WOODS

Baby Sensory and Toddler Sense West Dunbartonshire, run by Jodie Woods, offers structured classes to aid young children's development. She uses

her business to promote awareness of sepsis and raise thousands for various charities, and her classes provide a great opportunity for parents to socialise, reducing isolation and providing an all-important reason to escape the magnolia-walled Service Family Accommodation.



SHANAE ARGENT

Paws and Claws, based in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, was founded by Shanae to support the RAF community by providing pet care

services. Shanae goes above and beyond to ensure that the pets and their owners' personal needs are met. She uses her experience working in a vet practice to give a personalised service to every pet in her care. The business has quickly gained popularity and is highly valued by the military families it serves.



JO LOMAX

Huggable Heroes is a company that creates handmade soft toys with photos of loved ones to support families dealing with separation due to military

service. Jo, the Founder, has worked tirelessly to ensure that every family who needs a Huggable Hero receives one, even finding ways to donate to charities and keep costs low. The toys provide comfort to children dealing with bereavement, separation and other difficult situations.



ELISABETH CANE

LC Sports Massage Therapy in Thirsk, North Yorkshire, was set up in 2010 to provide massage and rehabilitation treatments to support Service Personnel. Elisabeth

committed to trauma-informed veteran-aware training to better serve her military and veteran clients. LC Sports Massage Therapy also partners with AWS and Community Covenant to provide fully funded baby massage and toddler yoga classes for the military community to combat isolation.

EXEMPLAR FORCES FRIENDLY EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR

SPONSOR



The Forces Employment Charity recognises the unique challenges facing Armed Forces families and works to ensure partners can access specialist support to realise their employment potential.

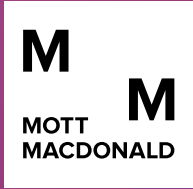
Our goal is to increase the number of families with two working adults to help with financial stability. We achieve this through our dedicated Families Programme Advisors, with military spouses providing one-to-one advice and employment support, CV and application assistance, interview and links to local employers:

www.forcesemployment.org.uk

FOR THE EMPLOYER WHO HAS SIGNED THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT, USES FORCES FAMILIES JOBS AND IS ACTIVELY SEEKING AND SUPPORTING THE EMPLOYMENT OF PARTNERS OF THOSE WHO SERVE IN THE ARMED FORCES.

Alistair Halliday, Chief Executive, of The Forces Employment Charity, says,
"We are delighted to sponsor the Exemplar Forces Friendly Employer of the Year Award. We recognise the value of working with employers to increase and enhance employment outcomes for families and expand our ability to support spouses and partners in new and innovative ways."

FINALISTS



MOTT MACDONALD

Mott
MacDonald
were

awarded the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme Gold status for their commitment to the entire Forces community. They have a dedicated internal military family network and are corporate supporters of SSAFA, which means that their military family employees can access specialised support.



DAVID STUBBS (SSGC)

SSGC is
committed
to providing

employment opportunities for Service leavers, their families, and veterans. SSGC has a Gold award for the MOD Employment Recognition Scheme and is a government-preferred supplier of security to the government.



COMPASS GROUP

This year
Compass
Group

launched a new policy to support Serving military spouses and partners in their business, recognising the challenges they face managing family life and careers during frequent postings and deployments.



CANNY COMMS

Canny Comms is a unique PR and communications company specializing in Defence and security, founded by Lindsay,

a military spouse with a background in the Defence world. The company has a team of military spouses, veterans, and reservists and holds a Silver award for the MOD Employment Recognition Scheme.



AMAZON

Amazon provides portable, flexible careers for military spouses and veterans, including a Military Workforce

Development program, apprenticeships, and training opportunities. Amazon actively encourages applications from military spouses and supports charities that benefit the Armed Forces community

AWAY FROM HOME AWARD

New for 2023

SPONSOR

The Amazon logo is displayed in a white rectangular box. It features the word "amazon" in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font, with a yellow curved arrow underneath it that starts under the letter 'a' and points towards the letter 'z'.

**FOR A FAMILY MEMBER, OR FAMILY
WHO IS/ARE BASED OVERSEAS AND
HAS/HAVE GONE ABOVE AND BEYOND
TO HELP THEIR LOCAL
MILITARY COMMUNITY WHEREVER
THEY ARE BASED.**

Amazon is the world's largest online retailer and a prominent Cloud service provider. Amazon is a committed supporter of the military community and, through its military programme, provides diverse and exciting employment opportunities to Service leavers, veterans, military spouses and their families:

www.amazon.jobs/en/landing_pages/emea-military

Emma Morgan, who will be presenting tonight's award along with Helen Hobson, says, *"Amazon supports these Awards wholeheartedly and recognises the importance of celebrating the dedicated, selfless work of those within our Armed Forces community."*

FINALISTS



SAMANTHA TIBBETTS

Samantha Tibbetts is a dedicated member of the RAF Akrotiri community who works tirelessly to create welfare opportunities for others.

She is Chair of the Akrotiri Community Group, leading a team of 26 volunteers and contributes to numerous high-profile community activities and raising significant funds for charities.



RHODA KIRKPATRICK

Rhoda is a dedicated community builder at BATUS Canada who has initiated various activities and events to bring people together. She has

organised food deliveries, started a book club and helped manage the Community Hub with volunteers running the coffee shop, thrift shop, and soft play area. Rhonda has also supported the children's ice hockey team and planned a successful Christmas market.



JOANNE RUSH

Joanne set up the Military Wives Choir in BATUK and worked with other military wives to set up a thrift shop on barracks which donated all the money raised to

Kenyan community projects, such as installing an orphanage sewage system. Joanne's dedication and initiative in setting up the shop helped to make a positive impact on the lives of many, both within the military community and the local Kenyan community.



ASHLEY GALLAGHER

Ashley founded the Sennelager Ladies that Run (SLtR) running group in Germany, encouraging women in the community to exercise for both

physical and mental health. She organises weekly meets, social events, and friendly competitions. Ashley also started a SLtR fundraising page, raising over £4,500 for military-related charities through community events and partnerships with charities, including the Forces Wives Challenge.

MEET THE JUDGING PANEL



Nikki Scott (BEM) is the founder of Scotty's Little Soldiers' the charity for bereaved military children and young people, and Head Judge this year for the CFF Awards.

After Nikki's husband was killed in action whilst serving in Afghanistan, she saw the devastating impact on her young children and decided to set up a charity, which has gone on to support hundreds of British Forces children bereaved of a military parent. Scotty's Little Soldiers provides its members with a variety of specialist bereavement support throughout their childhood, to remind them they are not alone: www.scottyslittlesoldiers.co.uk



Paula Molyneux, Barclays Military and Veterans Outreach (MVO) Team as Headline Sponsors

Paula joined Barclays Corporate Social Responsibility team in 2008, and since 2016 she has led the Barclays Armed Forces Transition, Resettlement and Employment (AFTER) programme. She and her team deliver employability support to Service Leavers, veterans and military partners. Paula's passion and commitment to helping the Armed Forces community has been integral to the growth of Barclays MVO for the last decade.

www.search.jobs.barclays/MVO



Neil 'Jacko' Jackson, Director of the Defence Relationship Management Team

Jacko served as a senior Army officer and was appointed as the Director of Defence Relationship Management (DRM) in 2019. DRM works with employers and organisations across the UK to develop mutually beneficial partnerships that support the whole Armed Forces community. The Armed Forces Covenant and the Employer Recognition Scheme are key to this partnership.

www.gov.uk/government/groups/defence-relationship-management



Maggie Pedder, Former 2022 Family Volunteer of the Year Award winner

Maggie Pedder is an HR professional who set up her own consultancy business over 20 years ago. She also has a wealth of experience as a trustee and board member of various organisations such as the Military Wives Choirs, Army Families Federation and Army Widows Association. As a military wife, she understands the challenges and joys of being part of a Forces family and the importance of those who provide support and friendship to the military community.



Lt Gen Sir Nicholas Pope KCB CBE, Chair of The Confederation of Service Charities

Lt Gen Sir Nicholas Pope KCB CBE is the Chair of The Confederation of Service Charities (Cobseo): www.cobseo.org.uk. During a forty-year military career, General Nicholas witnessed how the Army and Defence accommodated change both in peace and on operations. He saw service in Bosnia and Afghanistan and held staff appointments in the Ministry of Defence at every rank from Major to Major General.



Sarah Clewes, Chief Executive Officer, Naval Families Federation

Sarah enjoyed a successful career in the Royal Navy, serving in the Logistics Branch for over 20 years and joins the panel representing all three - Naval, Army and RAF Families Federations. Sarah has contributed to military charities herself in a number of voluntary roles; as the Chairman of the Royal Navy Royal Marines Widows' Association, as Trustee for the Royal Naval Benevolent Trust, and most recently as a Trustee of e50K.

CFF EVENT TEAM



Sarah Walker is Chair of the CFF Awards Event Team and Programme Manager and Trainer for the [Supporting the Unsung Hero](#) free business start-up programme

Caroline Woodward is Co-chair of the CFF Awards Event Team and Communications Manager at the [RAF Families Federation](#)



Lee Johnston is the Families Programme Coordinator for the [Forces Employment Charity](#)

Helen Massy is the Founder of [Career Pursuit magazine](#) and [Helen Massy Medical & Health Writer](#)



Jess Sands runs [Design Jessica](#) and created [The Milspo® Business Network](#)

Nikki Peterson is the Head of the [Army HIVE](#) network



Carolyn Campbell-Baldwin is the Marketing Lead for the [Military Coworking Network](#)

Chris Keen is Chief PR and Communications Officer at [Recruit for Spouses](#)





Lucy Ritchie is the Employment and Training specialist at the [Army Families Federation](#)



Jo Gower joins us from [Royal Navy Family and People Support, Engagement and Communications](#)



Vicky Brindley is the Devolved Administrations Policy Manager and Employment Lead for the [Naval Families Federation](#)



Mikaela Harley is the Head of Communications, [BFBS](#)



Nerys Bell is the Head of the [RAF HIVE](#) Service



Martin Wing is Executive Chairman of the Board of [X-Forces Enterprise](#)

CONTRIBUTORS

All businesses used here are owned by family members or veterans from within the Armed Forces community:

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LIZ HART - Money Bee: www.money-bee.co.uk

LEE MOWLEM - Remarkable Pixels: www.remarkablepixel.co.uk

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