

THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY AWARDS AT SOLDIERING ON

NOMINATIONS SUBMISSION GUIDANCE

'Who do you know' that deserves an Award?

The Armed Forces Community Awards at Soldiering On recognise, honour and celebrate outstanding achievements of individuals and groups in the Armed Forces community.

There are always fewer Awards than people who deserve them and, because they are rare, they should be reserved for those with one or more of the following accomplishments:

- They have changed things, especially by solid, practical achievement;
- Their work has brought distinction to the UK Armed Forces community, Armed Forces life or enhanced the reputation of their charity, group, or organisation;
- They have used the skills acquired during service for their country to add value to society, after leaving the Armed Forces;
- They may not have served but their work or significant achievements are in support of the Armed Forces community.

If you believe that your nominee demonstrates any of these and their contribution makes them stand out, then please consider nominating them.

What will I need to do?

You will need to write a detailed description explaining why you are nominating your nominee. Read the guidance below on how best to do this.

You will have to provide the following details about your nominee:

- Their full name, address, and contact details;
- Details of their relevant work and/or volunteering;
- Details of any awards or other recognition they've received that might support your nomination.

You should also provide any other supporting evidence of recognition your nominee has received for their achievements, for example articles, photos or letters.

Business Category Awards:

For the business category awards specifically, we will ask you for supporting documentation that includes business performance, financial and customer data, if you know it. If you are a customer, for example, and don't have access to this information, we will contact the business directly.

How to write a nomination

The most important thing is to provide evidence of what they've done and how they've made things better for others. To help you focus on what to write, we have embedded the assessment criteria that our judges use in each nomination form. Your nomination form doesn't need to be perfect – There isn't a right way or a wrong way to write a nomination and it doesn't need to be particularly formal.

Use the word count

It is vital that you provide us with enough information to enable the judges to make the necessary decisions. Every nomination is different, though the electronic entry form does contain a maximum word count limits – this is set at 750 words per nomination.

Tell us why your nominee deserves to be recognised.

Your nomination submission must tell the story of what your candidate has done. Give us some examples of how they have demonstrated outstanding quality. Below are some examples of the sort of thing to convey - how they have:

- Contributed in a distinctive way to improving the lot of those less able to help themselves;
- Devoted themselves to sustained and selfless service;
- Shown innovation or creativity in delivering lasting results.

Tell us what they have contributed to and/or achieved?

A good nomination should also describe, as vividly and precisely as possible, the difference their contribution has made. Try to answer the following questions:

- How were things before they began?
- How are they now?
- What makes your candidate different from others doing the same thing, or “just doing their job?”

Give us details and data to support these claims.

It is important that the information you give is accurate. Show how your candidate has:

- Earned the respect of their peers and become a role model in their field;
- Produced, perhaps against the odds, sustained achievement which has required moral courage, vision, the ability to make tough choices or determined application and hard work.

Don't be afraid of emphasising your nominee's achievements and really stating how fantastic you think they are! Remember that there will be a lot of competition from other nominees who have achieved great things, so make sure you tell us why your nominee is the best!

Provide the right evidence.

Try to support any recommendations or assertions with hard evidence. Rather than say that an achievement has had a widespread effect, describe what that effect has been and show why it has been important.

For example: *“There was no support locally for people who found themselves jobless, homeless or with addiction problems after leaving the Armed Forces. She worked tirelessly to improve things. Over many months she built up relationships with five charities and six homeless support organisations to support 300 people to get the help and advice that they needed to turn their lives around.”*

It is achievements and effects of this kind and scale that deserve an Award and that will convince the Independent Panel of Judges to support your recommendation.

How do I find the right words?

The language in your nomination is what brings the story to life for the judges, so take the time to choose words that truly capture the nominee's achievements and character. Strong nominations often feature impactful nouns like:

Respect, recognition, determination, zeal, commitment, drive, innovation, creativity, selflessness, impact, sustainability, performance.

Descriptive adjectives can also add depth, such as:

Articulate, diligent, dedicated, tenacious, determined, trusted, conscientious, enthusiastic, resourceful, fair, wise, inspirational, persuasive, passionate, exemplary, admired, unflappable, sympathetic, supportive, inclusive.

In addition, consider phrases that highlight their qualities and impact, like:

Role model, overcoming challenges and barriers, head and shoulders above the rest, making a difference.

While these examples are not mandatory, they can serve as a helpful guide to inspire the language in your submission and ensure your nomination stands out.

There's no right or wrong way to write a nomination.

But remember - the judges can only base their consideration of a nominee's merits on the information provided to them. A good nomination is the foundation for that!

Only the strongest nominations will result in an Award.

To write a good citation, there must be enough information in the nomination form to make a good case. Be specific and factual about achievements and the impact on others, for example: how many people have been affected or the quality of the result achieved.

However, your nomination shouldn't be:

- an extended CV.
- a list of educational achievements.
- a list of appointments, awards, or posts.
- a job description showing what the person is meant to do.

Because poor citations often list these things, a frequent complaint from judges is that the person recommended is “just doing their job” or “doing nothing that stands out.”

Your citation should describe what is special about your nominee's achievements and show memorably and persuasively how and where they have made a difference.

Your citation could make that difference!

Please, you must involve your nominee.

We know that it is sometimes tempting to not tell the person that they are being nominated – so that it would be a nice surprise for them when they hear from us. However, regulations regarding Data Protection (GDPR) mean that we must have their permission, not just yours, to hold their personal data. It is also vitally important that the information that is included in the nomination is accurate. We would ask therefore, that you engage with your nominee to ensure that the information given is factually correct. As part of the nomination process, you will be asked to confirm that:

1. Your nominee is aware of the nomination.
2. The submission is factually correct

Failure to do so, or more importantly, telling us that the nominee is aware of the nomination and its contents when they aren't, may result in the nomination being rejected.

We hope that you have found this guide useful. If you would like further support, please contact SOA@x-forces.com.

Very best of luck.