

## **Inspirational Award**

*This award is to recognise where an individual has demonstrated having inspired or positively influenced the choices of other colleagues.*

### **What will the judges be looking for?**

The judges will be looking for examples of where an individual has had an unusually positive influence on other individuals – this could be over a long period of time or a specific element of support. The results of that influence could take many forms; for example, a change in behaviour; increased ambition or motivation; achievement of potential; the courage to call out wrong doing. The key line is in the title - ‘Inspirational’, for it is far more challenging to inspire others than to be inspired, which is what this award aims to recognise. The judges will expect to see evidence of how the nominee has acted as a role model.

### **See also**

The **Inspirational Award** shares similarities with the **Outstanding Contribution Award** as both categories relate to individuals who have exceeded all expectations. The key element of the **Inspirational Award is the role model aspect – inspiring others**; the key element of the **Outstanding Contribution Award is an exceptional contribution to the output or mission of their organisation**.

For early career professionals, also consider the **Emerging Talent category which is for women who consistently demonstrate exceptionally high performance in their role**.

### **Finalists from earlier years**

Last years’ finalists were from the RAF and the Army – with the winner of the category going onto to be the overall ‘Woman of the Year’. This individual was recognised for her determination to overcome a life-changing and career threatening injury sustained whilst serving in Afghanistan, returning to the full Service in the RAF and delivering an incredible array of betterment opportunities for service personal and their families. The other finalists were nominated for reasons ranging from establishing Ice Maidens (a group set up to inspire women to achieve things they never knew they were capable of – see [here](#) for information on their latest venture), to fantastic work as the Regimental Colonel for the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME).

### **Who can be entered?**

This category is open to individual women only. As the award is sponsored by [Thales](#), women employed by Thales may not be entered for the category but may, of course, be nominated for any of the other categories.

### **How do I nominate?**

Nominating someone is simple, just click [here](#), but we advise that you read this first!

To nominate, follow these easy steps:

- Provide the contact details of the woman you are nominating, please note the need to confirm that you have her agreement to share her details
- Tell us briefly why you think they deserve to be nominated (the citation part of the nomination form)
- Provide your own contact details.

The citation part of the nomination form is broken down into three elements:

1. An overview of why you are nominating this woman (maximum of 200 words)
2. An explanation of how this woman has demonstrated the criteria for this award category (maximum of 200 words)
3. Examples of the results this woman has achieved as supporting evidence (maximum of 200 words)

### **Hints and tips**

Put yourself in the judges' shoes. They read lots of citations so **capture their attention early, be concise and provide context.** It may be obvious to you why an achievement is so worthy of recognition, but our judges may not have the same background or experience as you so please explain the significance.

Providing context to the citation (i.e. sphere of work, day to day tasks, key challenges, etc.), and tangible evidence of the outcome or effect that this had on others will strengthen the nomination hugely. Our judges may not be familiar with all parts of the defence enterprise so avoid or, at the very least, explain acronyms.

There is a word limit of 200 words per section. Even if the form allows you to enter more, the citation will be shortened if it exceeds this limit which could mean that it ends mid-sentence.

If you are not sure your nomination fits the criteria for the category, please contact us on [WIDAwards@paconsulting.com](mailto:WIDAwards@paconsulting.com).

### **Supporting Documentation**

If you wish to provide supporting documentation, please add as a file at the bottom of the citation. Any links should be contained within a document. Please bear in mind that given the number of citations we receive, the judges will not routinely look at additional material, using it only to separate those who are close to being shortlisted and again at the finalists and winners judging stages. It follows that you should take time to carefully complete the citation and not rely on the strength of any supporting documentation which may not be used by the judges.

### **Nominations window**

Nominations open on 25<sup>th</sup> April and close at midday on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2018. We are unable to take any nominations or supporting documentation outside of those dates.