

Special Award

This award is to recognise achievements that do not fit directly under one of the other categories, and includes a key element of overcoming adversity.

What will the judges be looking for?

The judges will be looking for examples of where an individual has achieved something that doesn't directly relate to the headline descriptions for any of the other award categories. The **Special Award** should include an element of **overcoming real adversity**, either personal or business/environmental/cultural.

Finalists from earlier years

Last year's finalists were from the Royal Navy and QinetiQ, with the winner being recognised for her work in leading the 5% Club and her dedication to promoting STEM subjects. Take a look [here](#) for more information on the 5% Club initiative and how it has helped to reduce UK unemployment and secure future UK industry leaders. One Royal Navy finalist was nominated for using a combination of leadership, teamwork and collaboration to drive a new way of leading a retail business into thinking and delivering innovation and business change differently, and with a positive impact. Our other Royal Navy finalist was nominated for her work for Scarborough Sea Cadets where she was recognised to be a true role model. Demonstrating her leadership qualities, her cadets achieved the highest honours – with one currently serving as the First Sea Lord's Cadet for the East of England. The joint winners in 2016 were Steward Janine Mayroll RN and Heledd Kendrick of Recruit for Spouses. Janine won due to her continued professionalism whilst dealing with personal adversity and Heledd for her determination to over-come obstacles when setting up the highly successful [Recruit for Spouses](#) initiative.

Who can be entered?

This category is open to individual women only. As the award is sponsored by [DXC Technology](#), women employed by DXC Technology 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, note the need to confirm that you have her agreement to share her details.
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- 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.

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