We are pleased to launch the Nottinghamshire County Council Armed Forces Community Awards for 2025. This will be our third year, and we look forward to receiving nominations from across the County. The announcement of our winners and the presentation of awards will take place in September 2025.

The nominations are open to all local authorities and businesses, who are signatories of the Armed Forces Covenant or who are in receipt of either the Bronze, Silver or Gold Defence Employers Recognition Scheme. We also welcome nominations from Parish and Town Councils, community groups and Registered Charities in the county. The evening will provide an opportunity to recognise a significant contribution to the British Armed Forces Community throughout Nottinghamshire. There will be several awards listed below nominated by local organisations, groups and businesses which will be presented during the evening.

**This is your opportunity to nominate the colleagues, teams, and partners you think have demonstrated exceptional performance towards defence people issues.**

**There are eight categories:**

1. **Inspiration Award** - this category provides an opportunity to recognise an individual who has inspired and motivated others within the community and recognises those that have gone above and beyond what may usually be expected. Their selfless commitment and dedication has provided a significant contribution in support of the Armed Forces Community in Nottinghamshire and generated a legacy of awareness and inspiration.

The panel will consider that over a five-year period that this person has:

* + - Worked with and supported, Regular, Reserve Forces and Cadet Instructors
		- Tirelessly advocated service improvements for the whole armed forces community
		- Enabled changes in service provision to the betterment of the armed forces community
		- Forged partnerships, and increased participation to meet the needs of the whole armed forces community
		- By example, encouraged others to face challenges and conquer adversity to achieve positive outcomes
1. **Employer Award** - this award presented to a local business celebrates the organisation’s support, and drive to attract, retain, and develop employment skills in the workplace for the whole Armed Forces Community in Nottinghamshire.

The panel will consider that over an 18-month period the following was achieved:

* Promoting being armed forces-friendly and are open to employing reservists, armed forces veterans, cadet instructors and military spouses/partners
* Strongly encouraging support to defence people issues to partner organisations, suppliers, and customers with tangible results
* Actively encourage and advocate the value of defence people within their business/professional networks and the communities within they operate
* Provided ways for their workforce to come together and demonstrate support for defence people issues
1. **Employee Award -**this award provides an opportunity by an employer to recognise the outstanding contribution of an individual who has added significant value in the workplace by highlighting the merits of the whole armed forces community. This could be an individual in any role and at any level of the organisation.

The panel will consider that over an 18-month period the following was achieved:

* Shown willingness to go above and beyond supporting colleagues from the armed forces community ensuring a sense of place and belonging
* Demonstrated military principles, and experience in business generating a constructive impact recognised by management for their positive effect
* Actively encourage support to defence people issues to partner organisations, suppliers, and customers with tangible results. \*Date project started; numbers involved\*
* Organised an event that brought the armed forces community and customers together to celebrate defence people issues
1. **Health and Wellbeing Award** – this category recognises the outstanding commitment and contribution to the care and wellbeing of the Armed Forces Community in Nottinghamshire.

The panel will consider that over a two-year period the following was achieved:

* Working with others to develop and prioritise actions to improve health and wellbeing, build resilience and reduce inequalities. This Includes physical activity, healthy eating and weight management, smoking cessation, mental health, sexual health, alcohol, and substance misuse
* Provided direct training either in a community or workplace setting to enhance the understanding of the needs of the armed forces community
* Actively promote their service to the armed forces community
* \*Date project/role started; numbers involved\*
1. **Community Award** – this category recognises how individuals, teams and projects have worked to deliver effective approaches to support the sector within the veteran community in Nottinghamshire.

 The panel will consider that over a three-year period that the following was achieved:

* Designed and delivered exceptional provision that supports the needs of the veteran community. \*Date project started; numbers involved\*
* Established working partnership(s) with extraordinary levels of service demonstrated with evidence of strong veteran engagement
* Provides individual planning and personal development through careers advice, employment, education, housing, and health

1. **Projects and Events Award –** this category honours those individuals or teams that have organised a quality project or event that has raised awareness of the Armed Forces Community or celebrates its historical links in Nottinghamshire.

The panel will consider that over a one-year period that the following was achieved:

* Organised a celebration event that brought the armed forces and wider community together. \*Date project started; numbers involved\*
* Recorded and highlighted significant periods of the armed forces community in Nottinghamshire
* Preserved military items, memorabilia for the benefit of future generations
1. **CFAV of the Year Award** - this award will be presented to an adult volunteer who has made an outstanding contribution to their MOD sponsored cadet force.

The panel will consider 3 key criteria, and the successful recipient must achieve at least one of them:

* Raising the profile of cadets within the County which contributes to the positive image of and leads to an increase in Cadet and CFAV numbers
* Supporting their fellow peers and cadets’ members of the wider community and contributing to a better society (this can include mental wellbeing and acts of public good)
* Through commitment and dedicated pursuit of excellence in the delivery of an aspect of their syllabus
1. **Reservist of the Year Award** **–** This award recognises the importance of British Armed Forces Reservists and will be presented to a serving reservist of any rank who has balanced a successful career in business in any role while also dedicating themselves to the commitments required of service within Reserve Forces.

The panel will want to see evidence of:

* The recipient’s success in business and Reserve Force service
	+ dedication and commitment to both roles
* Transference of skills – from Reserve service to the workplace, or workplace to the benefit of Defence
* Championing and advocating for service within the Reserve in the workplace or wider community

**What does a good nomination look like?**

A good nomination should demonstrate the following:

* be people focused.
* be outcome focused.
* making a positive difference
* ambitious standards of practice
* based on evidence
* date project started; numbers involved.
* going the extra mile
* lessons for others

Nominations can include supporting evidence such as compliments and feedback from colleagues or external partners.

**Submitting a nomination**

The work you are recognising must have been completed within the last five years, three years or 12 months (up to the closing date for nominations).

Nominations should not exceed more than **500** words and should include tangible results.

All nominations will be subject to a shortlisting process and a judging panel will decide on the finalists for each category.

 *Finalists, 3 per category, will be invited to a photographic session for media purposes with the recording(s) being shown during the awards evening. Each successful finalist will receive two free tickets to the event.*

**Data Protection**

We will keep the personal information you give us on this form safe.  Your information is protected by law. This means that:

* We will only use it for the purpose we give on the form.
* We only share it with people who need to see it.
* We only keep it for as long as we must;
* You have a right to see the information we hold about you.

Nomination Form

**1** Which category would you like to submit a nomination for?

*Please select only one item*

* Inspiration Award
* Employer Forces Award
* Employee Forces Award
* Medical Services Award
* Community Award
* Projects and Events Award
* CFAV Award
* Reservist Award

**2** Name of nominee

**3** Your nomination entry - **Limit 500 words**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**4** Your name

**5** Your job title

**6** Your Organisation

**7** Your Contact Details

Email-

 Telephone-

**8** Their Contact details– to be used if nominated as a finalist.

Email-

 Telephone-

Please return the nomination by **2 May 2025** to Neil Bettisonemail: neil.bettison@nottscc.gov.uk

[Boots and Beret Awards 2025 | Nottinghamshire County Council](https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-structure/armed-forces-hub/boots-and-beret-award-2024)