

James Coull Award Nominations 2019

1/O (E) Michael Hontoir

1/O (E) Michael Hontoir joined the RFA as an Engineering Cadet in the summer of 2010. Qualifying as a Third Officer in 2013, Michael has served primarily on RFA tankers, in particular RFA FORT VICTORIA, known as a notoriously complicated ship from an engineering point of view.

A 2-year shore appointment at DE&S in Abbeywood, completed in May 2019, saw 1/O Hontoir in the position of Requirements Manager, responsible for developing the MARS tanker trials programme. Throughout his tenure, 1/O Hontoir excelled in this role, his diligent hard work ensured this pivotal programme remained on schedule and that all Key User Requirements were achieved.

Following promotion to First Officer, Michael was appointed to RFA Mounts Bay in June 2019. During this appointment, the ship was front and centre during the high-profile OP BARYTONE, the disaster relief operation following the devastation caused by Hurricane Dorian in the Bahamas. 1/O Hontoir made an invaluable contribution to the maintenance of operational tempo which allowed the vessel to remain on task. 1/O Hontoir worked above and beyond that expected of normal working routines, leading his team by example. As one of only a few deep technical specialists, 1/O Hontoir volunteered to work ashore in support of the Humanitarian Aid/Disaster Relief (HADR) team. He was pivotal to the restoration of running water to the hospital and repairing the reverse osmosis plant – both of which directly impacted on life saving and ensuring a typhoid/cholera outbreak was avoided. 1/O Hontoir's efforts contributed to overall team morale and Mounts Bay's ability to provide support to 9 communities and over 7700 people.

1/O Hontoir's dedication and determination have been instrumental in achieving successes both ashore and at sea. His leadership and management skills have set the bar high for his peers and subordinates alike. 1/O Hontoir has been an excellent ambassador for the Service. For these reasons 1/O Hontoir is nominated for the RFA Association James Coull Award.

1/O (LS) Michael Tyndell

1/O (LS) Michael Tyndell joined the RFA in 1985 as a steward, moving to Petty Officer Stores Accountant and becoming a Third Officer LS in 1999. 1/O Tyndell has served in nearly all classes of RFA during his career as well as being appointed ashore for 2 years as 'Staff Officer 2 Support Logistics RFA Force Generation'. A vital 'waterfront' role delivering key logistics and compliance support to ships on operations worldwide.

During back to back appointments to frontline operational ships in 2019, 1/O Tyndell has consistently delivered in a calm, professional and cheerful style; his title of 'happiest man in NATO' is well earned. His ability to nurture positive relationships with the ship's company, embarked military forces and shoreside agencies alike has enabled him to lead and motivate his teams with great success.

This was clearly demonstrated during his appointment to RFA Mounts Bay from August 2019. The ship was front and centre during the high-profile OP BARYTONE, the disaster relief operation following the devastation caused by Hurricane Dorian in the Bahamas. Whilst other personnel worked tirelessly to support the relief efforts ashore, 1/O Tyndell made an invaluable contribution in supporting the Ship's Company onboard. Working above and beyond that normally expected of the Logistics & Supply Officer, 1/O Tyndell led his team from the front. He continually motivated his department and ensured that all logistical chains and hotel services were maintained to the highest standards throughout a period of intense operations. This determination ensured that vital stores were delivered to the right place at the right time, helping the lives of many as well as contributing significantly to the morale of the Ship's Company, essential during this high tempo operation. On completion of OP BARYTONE, the requirement to re-store RFA Mounts Bay necessitated considerable logistical effort and co-ordination with external local authorities and other UK Governmental departments. 1/O Tyndell worked tirelessly with all these agencies and was instrumental in the efficient conduct of the re-store; his outstanding efforts ensured that RFA Mounts Bay was fully re-stored and ready for operations within 4 days of arriving in port.

1/O Tyndell's dedication, tireless determination and innate cheerfulness have been instrumental in delivering vital logistics support both ashore and at sea. 1/O Tyndell is an excellent ambassador for the Service, validated by comments from numerous foreign military and political figures during his foreign appointments. For these reasons 1/O Tyndell is nominated for the RFA Association James Coull Award.