

HERBERT LOTT EFFICIENCY AWARD

FOST SHIPS

RN / RFA WE CIS Team

Led by WO1 Paul McQueer, the FOST(Ships) CIS Group, comprising 2nd Officer Elizabeth Nelson- Taylor, CPOs Alan Edmondson, Nadine Kelly, Darren Elliott, Sarah Gaskell-Gillies, Scott Abernethy, Sam Jennings, Gordon Stewart, John Masterton, and POs Scott McEwan, Ross McFadden and Robert Wormall, has delivered a sustained and transformative impact on the CIS specialisation across the Fleet. The team has demonstrated exceptional leadership, professionalism, and commitment, consistently exceeding their core roles to enhance Operational Capability through the delivery of world-class training and assurance.

Recognising the dilution of SQEP within MCOs, the team has worked relentlessly to transfer knowledge and raise standards across RN, RFA and IDT units. Addressing widespread shortfalls in the delivery of IERs, COMPLANS, OPTASK COMMS and cyber assurance, they have provided targeted coaching and mentoring, combining technical expertise with empathy and inspirational leadership. Their efforts have developed confident, capable and resourceful personnel, directly improving output and effectiveness. This impact has been widely recognised by Commanding Officers across multiple units, including TRNT, FRTH, TSPG, PTLD and DRGN.

Beyond their core outputs, the team has delivered significant pan-organisation contributions. WO1 McQueer and CPO Jennings have been instrumental in shaping PRISM, enhancing organic CIS training. WO1 McQueer, CPO Stewart and CPO Elliott have driven alignment of WE-CIS delivery across FOST divisions, while CPO Elliott has modernised CIS elements within BRd300 and SAC(E), strengthening cyber focus. Innovation has been evident throughout: 2nd Officer Nelson-Taylor's electronic ULO aide-memoir has improved training coherence, and CPO Abernethy's AI-driven analysis of common weaknesses has enhanced OST preparation. CPO Kelly's work within the N6 MDT will further influence CIS retention and employment policy, whilst CPO Edmondson's work with Navy Digital to review SOCs cards will future proof the assurance of CIS equipment onboard ships.

Collectively, the team has set the benchmark for CIS excellence, delivering enduring improvements in capability and shaping the future of the specialisation. They are highly deserving of the Herbert Lott Award.



**ROYAL NAVY &
ROYAL MARINES
CHARITY**

Mr Herbert Lott was a member of the London Stock Exchange and was extremely interested in the Royal Navy and the part it played in the defence of the Commonwealth. In 1928 he opened negotiations with the Admiralty for the creation of a Trust Fund and made an initial donation of £20,000, which he increased shortly after by another £5,000. The Herbert Lott Naval Trust Fund was instituted in 1930 to make awards to "those who shall show marked efficiency or shall contribute in signal degree to the improvement of the appliances of the Naval and Marine Forces". When Mr Lott died in 1948 he left the whole of the residue of his estate (over £100,000) to the Trust Fund that bears his name.

See:

<https://www.commsmuseum.co.uk/herbert.htm>

and

<https://www.commsmuseum.co.uk/sadending.htm>

for the full story of Herbert Lott.