

Biographic details

Group Captain Stephen Chappell, DSC, CSC, OAM

Royal Australian Air Force

Group Captain Chappell joined the RAAF in January 1993. After graduating from the Australian Defence Force Academy, he completed pilot training and F/A-18 operational conversion, and was posted to 75 Squadron. After qualifying as a Fighter Combat Instructor in 2001, he was posted to No. 2 Operational Conversion Unit, which included an attachment to 75 Squadron for Operation FALCONER.

Later postings included a flight commander at 3 Squadron; an exchange from mid-2005 to December 2007 with the US Air Force's 65th Aggressor Squadron; the Executive Officer at No. 2 Operational Conversion Unit; and staff officer at No. 81 Wing and Headquarters Air Combat Group. In January 2014, he was appointed Commanding Officer No. 1 Squadron at RAAF Base Amberley, which included deployment on Operation OKRA in 2014.

Group Captain Chappell is a graduate of the Australian Command and Staff College. He has a Masters of Military and Strategic Studies. He is currently attending the Defence and Strategic Studies Course at the Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies at the Australian Defence College.

Colonel Penny Cumming

Australian Army

Colonel Penny Cumming joined the Australian Regular Army in 1994 as a legal officer. She has served in a variety of legal appointments since joining, primarily in the land, Special Forces and joint services environments. She has undertaken operational deployments to Iraq, Afghanistan and Timor Leste.

Her most recent posting has been as Director Operations and Security Law, responsible for the provision of legal advice to the strategic level of Defence, on operational and international law.

Colonel Cumming was admitted to practise in the Supreme Court of Victoria and the High Court of Australia in 1991 and holds a Master of Laws from the University of Melbourne. She is currently attending the Defence and Strategic Studies Course at the Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies at the Australian Defence College.

Shane Flanagan

Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Shane Flanagan graduated from the Australian National University in 2000 with Bachelor of Economics and Bachelor of Asian Studies degrees. He was then engaged as a local employee at the Korean Embassy in Yarralumla, before joining the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) as a graduate trainee in 2001. His early postings included a rotation to Bougainville in 2002, a posting to Tokyo to undertake Japanese language training (2003-04), and appointments at the Australian Embassy in Tokyo from 2004-07.

In 2007, Shane returned to Canberra and joined a newly-formed Afghanistan section, where he worked closely with the Department of Defence and other agencies to prepare policy on Australia's engagement in Afghanistan. In 2010, he was posted as the Deputy Head of Mission in Harare (Zimbabwe). On his return to Australia in August 2013, Shane was appointed Director of the Consular Information Section. In August 2014, he was posted to Kabul as Deputy Head of Mission.

Shane returned to Australia in August 2015 and commenced duties in the Executive Branch on a project to cut red tape and embed a culture of innovation in DFAT. He attended the Defence and Strategic Studies Course at the Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies at the Australian Defence College in 2016, graduating with a Masters degree in Politics and Policy from Deakin University. He is currently the Director of the Korean Peninsula Section at DFAT.

Group Captain Simon Hindmarsh

Royal Air Force

Group Captain Simon Hindmarsh joined the Royal Air Force (RAF) in 1985. After training as an Air Navigator and Weapons System Operator, he completed several front-line and instructional tours, flying F4 Phantom and Tornado F3 aircraft, including operational detachments to the Falkland Islands and in support of activities in the Former Republic of Yugoslavia.

Later postings included a staff appointment at Headquarters Strike Command, an exchange posting to the US Air Force, which included operations over Iraq, and attendance at the UK Defence Academy. In 2005, Group Captain Hindmarsh was appointed to command the RAF Leuchars Expeditionary Operations Wing and in parallel as Chief of Staff of the Tornado F3 Force. In 2008, he was appointed Air Commander British Forces South Atlantic Islands.

In 2010, Group Captain Hindmarsh joined the Saudi Arabian Armed Forces Programme in Riyadh, providing support to the UK's defence sales programme. Following a year's Portuguese language training, he assumed duties as the UK Defence Attaché in Brazil in August 2013. Group Captain Hindmarsh is a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society and the Chartered Management Institute. He is currently attending the Defence and Strategic Studies Course at the Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies at the Australian Defence College.

Colonel Colin Karotam

Australian Army

Colonel Colin Karotam graduated from the Australian Defence Force Academy in 1990 and the Royal Military College, Duntroon in 1991. After two years regimental training in the Royal Australian Artillery, he transferred to the Australian Intelligence Corps, serving in a variety of appointments, including at the Defence Intelligence Training Centre, Headquarters 1st Brigade, the 1st Intelligence Battalion, the Defence Intelligence Organisation, and the US Defense Intelligence Agency. He also undertook Mandarin language training at the ADF School of Languages in 1999.

Later postings included Commandant of the Defence Intelligence Training Centre, staff officer in the Vice Chief of Defence Force Group, Defence Attaché in Beijing from 2010-13, and Director of Intelligence Plans at Headquarters Joint Operations Command. His operational deployments have included East Timor (1999-2000) and Iraq (2004-05).

Colonel Karotam graduated from the Australian Command and Staff College in 2005. He holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of NSW, a Masters of Defence Studies from Canberra University, and a Masters of International Relations from Deakin University. He is currently attending the Defence and Strategic Studies Course at the Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies at the Australian Defence College.

Group Captain Alan Lawrence

Royal Australian Air Force

Group Captain Alan Lawrence joined the RAAF in 1987 as a direct entry Navigator. His early postings included a P-3C conversion course at 292 Squadron, an operational tour with 11 Squadron, and another posting to 292 Squadron, where he became the Senior Navigation Training Officer. In 1995, he was selected as an exchange officer with the US Navy's Patrol Squadron Thirty, located in Jacksonville, Florida.

Group Captain Lawrence returned to 292 Squadron in 1998, before being selected to attend the Australian Command and Staff Course in 2001. He was then posted as Staff Officer to Director-General Career Management Policy. In 2003, he was selected for a further two-year exchange position, serving with the US Navy's Patrol and Reconnaissance Forces, US Pacific Fleet. On his return to Australia in 2005, he was posted as Directing Staff to the Command and Staff College.

In 2008, Group Captain Lawrence was appointed Commanding Officer No 292 Squadron, which included service in the Middle East Area of Operations. In August 2010, he became the Strategic Reform Program officer for Surveillance and Response Group organisations at RAAF Edinburgh. In August 2012, he was appointed Director Surveillance and Response within Capability Development Group, which included acting as Deputy Director General Aerospace Development Branch from April 2014 to the end of 2015.

Group Captain Lawrence attended the Defence and Strategic Studies Course at the Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies at the Australian Defence College in 2016, graduating with a Master of Arts (Strategic Studies) from Deakin University. He is currently the Director of Information Warfare at the Air Warfare Centre.

Commodore Peter Leavy, CSM

Royal Australian Navy

Commodore Peter Leavy is currently Australia's Naval Attaché in Washington DC. He is a Principle Warfare Officer and has commanded HMA Ships *Stuart* and *Sydney*.

Ashore, he has served in the Navy's futures and personnel areas, directed the Sea Power Centre-Australia and was most recently Commodore Warfare in Fleet Headquarters.

Colonel Lim Chin Yew

Republic of Singapore Air Force

Colonel Lim Chin Yew joined the Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF) in 1994. He has served in various fighter squadrons in the RSAF and has piloted operational platforms such as the A-4SU, F-16C/D/D+ and the F-15SG. In 2004, he completed the RSAF's F-16 Fighter Weapon Instructor Course and then assumed Flight Command of 140 Squadron. In 2008, he attended the Singapore Command and Staff College (known as Goh Keng Swee Command and Staff college today), followed by a staff appointment in Operational Development Group, Air Combat Command.

He was appointed Commanding Officer of 149 Squadron in June 2011, and led the squadron in key regional exercises including COPE TIGER and PITCH BLACK in 2012. In 2013, Colonel Lim was appointed the Base Commander of Changi Air Base. He was then posted in 2015 to Air Combat Command to assume the appointment of Deputy Commander Fighter Group. Concurrently, he also acted as the Director of the RSAF F-16 Fighter Weapon Instructor Course. He is currently attending the Defence and Strategic Studies Course at the Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies at the Australian Defence College.

Colonel Andrew Lowe, AM

Australian Army

Colonel Andrew Lowe is a graduate of the Australian Defence Force Academy and the Royal Military College, Duntroon. His regimental career was served in infantry units, and included command of the School of Infantry. He has completed a range of staff appointments, the most recent as Colonel Operations, Forces Command. He has operational service in Bougainville, Bosnia, Solomon Islands and the Middle East, which included commanding a Training Task Group in Iraq.

Colonel Lowe is a graduate of the Australian Command and Staff College, where he was awarded a Masters in Management. He is currently attending the Defence and Strategic Studies Course at the Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies at the Australian Defence College.

Greg MacPherson

Australian Department of Defence

Greg MacPherson joined the Australian Public Service in 1997 as a Graduate Administrative Assistant in the Department of Defence. In 1998, he moved to the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) and worked on Australian nongovernment organisation funding programs. From 2000 to 2004, he managed development assistance projects in Southeast Asian countries and in support of the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands.

In 2005-06, he was posted to the Australian High Commission in Tarawa as First Secretary (Development Cooperation). He continued to work on Pacific regional aid issues on his return to Australia in 2007. In 2008, Greg transferred back to the Department of Defence and managed teams undertaking Defence and regional strategic assessments and corporate support services.

Greg has a Bachelor of Social Science from the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, and a Postgraduate Diploma in Anthropology and Master of Arts (Anthropology) from the University of Melbourne. He is currently attending the Defence and Strategic Studies Course at the Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies at the Australian Defence College.

Colonel Michael Mumford, CSC

Australian Army

Colonel Michael Mumford joined the Australian Army in 1986, graduating from the Australian Defence Force Academy in 1988, and the Royal Military College in 1989. His early postings included 3rd Battalion (Parachute), The Royal Australian Regiment (RAR), the Parachute Training School, Headquarters 1st Brigade, Headquarters 3rd Brigade, Headquarters 1st Division, and Chief of Staff of the Royal Military College. He has also commanded a Regional Force Surveillance Company in the Torres Strait, served in 1st Battalion, RAR, and commanded 3rd Battalion, RAR. He has deployed to Bougainville, East Timor (in 2000/01 and again in 2006) and Afghanistan.

In January 2010, Colonel Mumford left full-time service and transferred to the Army Reserve. He served in Headquarters 1st Division and Headquarters 2nd Division, before resuming full-time service as Chief of Staff of Headquarters 2nd Division in 2015, before leading the 2nd Division's transformation activity in 2016. Colonel Mumford is a Distinguished Graduate of the US Marine Corps' Command and Staff College. He also holds the degrees of Bachelor of Arts, Master of Business Administration, Master of Divinity, Master of Military Studies and Master of Operational Studies. He is currently attending the Defence and Strategic Studies Course at the Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies at the Australian Defence College.

Bridget Musker

New Zealand Defence Force

Bridget Musker is the Deputy Chief Financial Officer at the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF). She joined the NZDF in 2012 and is responsible for providing financial leadership to determine NZDF's long-term strategic financial direction. Prior to joining the NZDF, Bridget worked for 16 years at Deloitte, joining as a graduate in 1994 and reaching the position of Associate Director in Accounting and Advisory.

Bridget graduated from Victoria University with a Bachelor of Commerce and is a qualified Chartered Accountant, and member of the Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand. She is currently attending the Defence and Strategic Studies Course at the Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies at the Australian Defence College.

Commander Nigel Ryan

Australian Federal Police

Commander Nigel Ryan has 22 years' policing experience with the Australian Federal Police (AFP). From 2008 to 2013, he was the advisor to the Commissioner of Police for media and political issues. Between 2013 and 2015, he was responsible for the implementation and management of the Federal Government's National Anti-Gangs Squad initiative.

During 2014, Commander Ryan was responsible for the AFP's coordination of the MH17 disaster in the Ukraine and the response from the Australian Government. More recently, Commander Ryan has performed roles as the National Coordinator of Crime Operations and People Smuggling.

Since 2002, Commander Ryan has been a recognised drug expert after having studied with the National Crime Squad of England and Wales at Cambridge University. This work has also resulted in an ongoing role with the National Rugby League as the AFP's drug liaison and presenter to the player register. He has also provided drug presentations to a range of high-profile Australian sporting teams.

Commander Ryan has a Bachelor Degree in Policing Studies, a Diploma in Project Management and a Graduate Certificate in Applied Management. He attended the Defence and Strategic Studies Course at the Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies at the Australian Defence College in 2016, graduating with a Master of Arts (Strategic Studies) from Deakin University. He is currently the Manager of International Engagement for the AFP's International Operations.

Colonel Daryl Tam

Singapore Armed Forces

Colonel Daryl Tam was commissioned in 1992 and posted to 6th Battalion, Singapore Infantry Regiment. In 1994, he attended the National University of Singapore, graduating in 1996 with a Bachelor of Arts (Merit) in Political Science and Philosophy. He became an Artillery Officer in 1997 and served in 20th Battalion, Singapore Artillery, 21st Battalion Singapore Artillery, 23rd Battalion, Singapore Artillery, School of Artillery and Headquarters, Singapore Artillery. Other appointments include staff appointments in General Staff in Army Headquarters, Joint Plans and Transformation Department and Joint Intelligence Department.

Colonel Tam attended the Defence and Strategic Studies Course at the Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies at the Australian Defence College in 2016, graduating with a Master of Arts (Strategic Studies) from Deakin University. He is currently Deputy Commander (Intelligence)/Head Operations Development Group, UAV [Unmanned Aerial Vehicles] Command. He is also holding the concurrent appointment of Commander 9 Division Artillery.

Colonel Vikas Raj Gupta

Indian Army

Colonel Vikas Raj Gupta was commissioned into the Army Air Defence Corps of the Indian Army in December 1996, after graduating from the Indian Military Academy, Dehradun. He has served in a range of regimental, staff, training and command appointments, including the Air Defence Missile Regiment, a Mountain Brigade deployed in counterinsurgency operations, at the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla, and at the Army Air Defence College, Gopalpur-on-Sea (Odisha). In 2013, Colonel Vikas was appointed Commanding Officer of an Air Defence Missile Regiment, which he commanded until September 2016.

In 2003-04, Colonel Vikas undertook the Long Gunnery Staff Course at the Army Air Defence College, and attained a Masters degree in Air Defence Systems and Electronic Warfare. In 2006-07, he attended the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington (Tamil Nadu), attaining a Masters degree in Defence and Strategic Studies from Madras University, India. He is currently attending the Defence and Strategic Studies Course at the Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies at the Australian Defence College.

Air Commodore Guy Wilson

Royal Australian Air Force

Air Commodore Guy Wilson graduated from pilot training in 1990. His early postings included RAAF Base Edinburgh to fly DC-3 Dakotas at the Aircraft Research and Development Unit, RAAF Base Richmond to fly C130E Hercules, a staff position at Headquarters No 86 Wing Richmond, and 33 Squadron to fly the Boeing 707 air-to-air refuelling and transport aircraft. From 2000-04, he performed the roles of Tanker Flight Commander and then Executive Officer of 33 Squadron, which included deployment as Executive Officer of the 84WG detachment to Kyrgyzstan to fly air refuelling missions over Afghanistan.

Following completion of the Australian Command and Staff College in 2005, Air Commodore Wilson was posted to Headquarters Joint Operations Command. In June 2006, he was appointed Deputy Director of the KC-30A Transition Team. In 2008, he was appointed the Commanding Officer of 33 Squadron, and moved the squadron to its new base at RAAF Base Amberley. In 2011, Air Commodore Wilson was appointed Chief of Staff of Headquarters Air Mobility Group. In late 2013, he was appointed Officer Commanding 86 Wing.

Air Commodore Wilson has a Masters of Management in Defence Studies from the University of Canberra. He attended the Defence and Strategic Studies Course at the Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies at the Australian Defence College in 2016, graduating with a Masters degree in Politics and Policy from Deakin University. He is deploying to the Middle East for most of 2017 as the Deputy Commander of Joint Task Force 633.

Andrew Wimhurst

Australian Attorney-General's Department

Andrew Wimhurst graduated from the Australian National University in 1994 with an Honours degree in English literature. He joined the Attorney-General's Department in 1995, initially working on foreign policy matters. Andrew was seconded to the Department of Defence in 2001, before returning to the Attorney-General's Department to work on security policy development.

From January 2007, Andrew worked as a Director managing several policy advice sections across a range of areas, focusing on legislation development and implementation advice, and social cohesion policy advice. Andrew has studied Arabic in Jordan, Syria and Saudi Arabia. He attended the Defence and Strategic Studies Course at the Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies at the Australian Defence College in 2016, graduating with a Master of Arts (Strategic Studies) from Deakin University.