

Commodore R.G. Morrison CSC RAN

Director General Public Private Partnerships

Commodore Robert (Bob) Morrison joined the Royal Australian Naval College from Brisbane in 1978, graduating with the Queen's Gold Medal prior to commencing a career as a Seaman Officer.

Early in his sea going career Commodore Morrison served on exchange with the United States Navy 7th Fleet based in Japan, in the aircraft carrier HMAS MELBOURNE and in the destroyers, HMAS BRISBANE and HMAS VAMPIRE. Later he served as the commissioning Navigator of the patrol boat HMAS GAWLER, as Commanding Officer of the amphibious landing craft HMAS BETANO and as Executive Officer HMAS TOBRUK, Navy's heavy landing ship. The pinnacle of his sea going career was as Commanding Officer of the versatile amphibious ship HMAS MANOORA. Early in his tour MANOORA deployed to the Solomon Islands for peacekeeping duties and also to the Philippines and Vietnam. In September 2001 the ship played a leading role in response to the situation of the asylum seekers onboard the MV TAMPA off Christmas Island and their subsequent voyage to Nauru. Commodore Morrison was awarded the Conspicuous Service Cross in the Queen's Birthday Honours for achievements during the extended Nauru operation. Not long after returning to Australia, MANOORA deployed to the Middle East to support Coalition Forces on operations following 9/11. He received a Commendation for Distinguished Service for achievements on station in the Persian Gulf.

Commodore Morrison's early career shore postings included Flag Lieutenant to the Chief of Navy, Secretary to the RAN Acceptance Board and as a Junior Officer's career manager in the Directorate of Naval Officers' Postings in Navy Office. From 1997 he served in Defence Headquarters as Deputy Director, and later Director Maritime Support Forces Development, sponsoring future amphibious, hydrographic, patrol boat and Navy infrastructure projects. A highlight of this period was the rapid acquisition of HMAS JERVIS BAY, a large wave-piercing catamaran used by the ADF in Dili during the early stages of the East Timor operation in 1999. In 2003 following his command of MANOORA, Commodore Morrison returned to Canberra as Director Senior Officer Management responsible to the Chief of the Defence Force, then General Peter Cosgrove, for career management support of the Defence senior leadership team. In 2005 he was appointed Director Navy Training working with all Navy's training authorities. For a most rewarding period from late 2006 he had the privilege to command HMAS ALBATROSS, the RAN Air Station located on the NSW South Coast and more recently served as Chief Staff Officer to the Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Russ Crane.

Commodore Morrison is a graduate of the Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies, Australian Defence College and Deakin University Masters of Arts program. He is married to Lyne and they have two school age children, a son, Tom and a daughter, Mackenzie. A keen golfer, gardener and DIY home renovator, Commodore Morrison is also an ardent supporter of the Brisbane Broncos and the Queensland State of Origin football teams.