

GRAHAM BENTLEY, AM CAREER HISTORY

Graham Bentley was born in Ballarat Victoria, the son of a RAAF Navigator. He was educated in numerous schools throughout South East Australia. He joined the RAAF in June 1974 and after graduating dux of his Navigator course in 1975 was posted to to fly P-3.

Mr Bentley completed several postings flying in Maritime Patrol aircraft including an exchange tour in Nova Scotia, Canada. Mr Bentley completed a second exchange to Commander Patrol Wings U.S. Pacific Fleet Headquarters as Readiness Plans Officer and as Assistant Chief of Staff for Training. He accumulated over 5000 hours flying in P-3 aircraft.



Senior Air Force appointments included: Director Plans at Headquarters Air Command, Coordinator of the Australian Global Hawk Deployment, Director General Policy and Plans – Air Force, Air Attaché in Washington and was the Director General Joint Combined Exercises, in the Australian Joint Operational Headquarters.

He was Commanding Officer of the School of Air Navigation and Commander of the Maritime Patrol Group. In 2003 he was the initial Commander of the Australian Joint Task Force 633 in Iraq, commanding all Australian Forces in the Middle East Area of Operations and Afghanistan during Operations Falconer and Catalyst. In 2004 he was responsible for the establishment of and was the inaugural Commander of Surveillance and Response Group.

Mr Bentley is a graduate of RAAF Command and Staff College, the Australian Joint Services Staff College and the Australian Defence College. He holds a Graduate Diploma of Business Management, and a Graduate Diploma of Strategic Studies. He has attended the Harvard School of Government and the Australian Company Directors Course.

Mr Bentley was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (Military Division) in 2004 for his service as Commander of Joint Task Forces 633 on warlike operations. He received a Commendation from the Secretary of the US Navy for his efforts while at Headquarters Commander Patrol Wings U.S. Pacific Fleet.

Mr Bentley resigned from the Air Force as an Air Commodore in October 2008. He joined Lockheed Martin Aeronautics in late October 2008 as Director of International Business Development in Australia..

Graham is married to Anne, a school teacher, and they have two children, Adam and Sarah. He is an avid golfer.