

AIR COMMODORE TONY McCORMACK

Air Commodore McCormack joined the Royal Australian Air Force in 1981 as an aircrew trainee and graduated as a Navigator the following year. On commissioning, he was posted to No. 36 Squadron at RAAF Richmond, New South Wales to fly the C130H Hercules transport aircraft.

In 1984 Air Commodore McCormack was posted to No. 92 Wing at RAAF Base Edinburgh, South Australia to fly P3C Orion maritime patrol aircraft. Over the period of his maritime flying assignments he qualified in the crew lead positions of Tactical Coordinator and Sensor Employment Manager and conducted operational deployments to Northern Australia, South-East Asia, the South Pacific, the Middle East and twice represented Australia in the prestigious Fincastle Anti-Submarine Warfare competition. In total he has amassed 6000 flying hours.

As a senior officer, Air Commodore McCormack served as the Executive Officer of No. 11 Squadron, a maritime patrol squadron, and held staff appointments as Plans Maritime at Headquarters Air Command, Deputy Director International Engagement at Air Force Headquarters, Director Surveillance and Response in Capability Development Group and the Director Future Military Commitments and Director Current Military Commitments, Military Strategic Commitments Branch in the Vice Chief of Defence Force Group. He has also served in diplomatic posts as the Assistant Defence Adviser to New Zealand and the Assistant Air and Assistant Naval Attaché to the United States of America.

Air Commodore McCormack has held Command appointments as Commanding Officer No. 11 Squadron, Commander Task Group 633.2 in the Middle East in 2006 and as the Task Force 633 Air Component Commander, also in the Middle East from October 2013 to April 2014. In 2010-2011 he Commanded Headquarters United Nations Command (Rear) located at Yokota Air Base in Tokyo, Japan. Of note, he was the first non-United States officer to hold this Command and during this assignment was significantly involved in Operation TOMODACHI, the humanitarian relief effort in response to the Great Northeast Japan earthquake and tsunami.

Air Commodore McCormack's most recent position was as the Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff for Plans and Policy at United Nations Command and U.S. Forces Korea located at Yongsan Garrison in Seoul, Republic of Korea. As the first foreign exchange officer on the staff he was responsible for providing strategic advice to the Commands and was also the primary lead in the revitalization of United Nations Command.

Air Commodore McCormack is a graduate of the RAAF Staff College and is an alumni of the Australian National University National Security College. He has been awarded the Australian Active Service Medal with the Iraq 2003 and International Coalition Against Terror Clasps, the Afghanistan and Iraq Campaign Medals, the Australian Service Medal with the South East Asia Clasp, the Defence Force Service Medal, the Australian Defence Medal and has also been awarded a Chief of Defence Force Gold Commendation. The United States of America has awarded him the Legion of Merit (twice), the Meritorious Service Medal and the Civilian Award for Humanitarian Service. The Republic of Korea has awarded him the Order of National Security Merit Cheonsu Medal, the highest award that can be bestowed upon a General Officer.

