

AIR FORCE

AIR COMMODORE PHIL CHAMPION

Chief of Staff, Air Force Headquarters

Air Commodore Champion joined the Royal Australian Air Force in 1983 as an Airborne Electronics Analyst. Although still only a trainee, he was fortunate enough to acquire about 100 hours on the P3B aircraft before it was retired and replaced by the P3C. On graduation, Air Commodore Champion joined Number 10 Squadron for his first operational flying tour. Following this, he was then posted to Number 292 Squadron as an instructor before returning to Number 10SQN for a second flying tour. As a Junior Officer in 1993 Air Commodore Champion was posted to the Australian Joint Acoustic Analysis Centre (AJAAC) as the Training Officer where he received a Maritime Commander Commendation. After 2.5 years he was then posted back to Number 10SQN for a third flying tour.



In 1998, Air Commodore Champion was promoted to the rank of Squadron Leader and posted to the Australian Defence Force Warfare Centre as a Joint Warfare Instructor; instructing on the Joint Operations Planning Course and the Joint Targeting Course. Following this posting, he then completed the inaugural Joint Australian Command and Staff Course in Canberra in 2001; receiving three awards: Chief of Defence Force prize; Academic Achievement prize and the Air Force Single Service Component prize. Following Staff College; Air Commodore Champion was then posted to Number 11 Squadron as a Flight Commander (2002), followed in his second year as XO 11 Squadron (2003). At the end of 2003; Air Commodore Champion deployed to Task Force 57 in Bahrain, integrating as the Plans Officer.

Promoted to Wing Commander in 2004, Air Commodore Champion then spent 1 year in Maritime Patrol Group Headquarters as Staff Officer Capability Development before being posted to Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand as the Australian Defence Force embed and J55/J8 from 2005-2008. Air Commodore Champion was then posted back to Number 92 Wing as the Chief of Staff before being selected to command Number 11 Squadron from 2009 to 2012.

Following Unit Command, Air Commodore Champion was promoted and posted as the Australian Defence Force embed to the Supreme HQ Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) in Mons Belgium where he oversaw NATO strategic operations in Afghanistan on behalf of SACEUR. In 2015 Air Commodore Champion was posted back to Adelaide as Officer Commanding Number 92 Wing where he has led the transition from the AP-3C Orion to the P8-A Poseidon aircraft. Air Commodore Champion has 5000 Flying Hours on the P3 Orion aircraft.

Air Commodore Champion was posted to United States Pacific Command in January 2017 as the Deputy J5 RA. He is married to Angela who accompanied him on posting to Hawaii and he has two grown up daughters who are attending University in Australia.

Air Commodore Champion commenced duties as Chief of Staff, Air Force Headquarters in late 2018.

