

**UNCLASSIFIED**

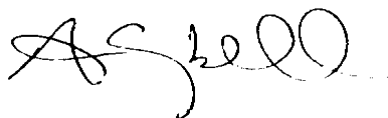
Department of Defence

**DEFGRAM 147/2019****Issue date: 28 March 2019****Expiry date: 21 June 2019**

---

**STAR RANK APPOINTMENT – CHIEF OF AIR FORCE**

1. Further to the Government's announcement, I would like to congratulate Air Marshal Mel Hupfeld, AO, DSC on his selection as Chief of Air Force, from 04 July 2019.
2. In a period of increasing strategic uncertainty, rapid change and complex operational challenges, Air Marshal Hupfeld has been well prepared for this appointment. In addition to his current appointment, as Chief Joint Operations, Air Marshal Hupfeld has gained extensive leadership and operational experience through senior roles including Director Combined Air Operations Centre, Commander Air Combat Group, Air Commander Australia, Head Force Design and Head Capability Systems. His experience in all of these roles makes him ideally suited to continue the development of the Air Force as a modern and effective force capable of undertaking regional and global operations as part of a genuinely joint ADF.
3. The current Chief of Air Force, Air Marshal Leo Davies, AO, CSC, will hand over command of the Royal Australian Air Force on 03 July 2019, after what will have been 40 years of exemplary service. Air Marshal Davies has been relentless in implementing the transformational work under Plan Jericho, to embed a culture of innovation, integration and 'jointness', that will continue to shape the Air Force for generations to come.
4. I extend my personal thanks to Air Marshal Davies' wife, Rhonda, who has devoted an extraordinary amount of her time and energy supporting Air Marshal Davies through his distinguished career. I offer my best wishes to Air Marshal Davies and Rhonda in all their future endeavours.

**Angus J Campbell, AO, DSC**

General

Chief of the Defence Force

**Contact officer:****CAPT Jan Noonan, RAN**

Director of Senior Officer Management

Telephone: 02 6265 2372

Email: [jan.noonan@defence.gov.au](mailto:jan.noonan@defence.gov.au)**UNCLASSIFIED**