



## **Air Vice-Marshal Hans Jorg Friederich Roser, AM**

9 September 1933 – 1 December 2020

Hans was raised in the Freiburg region of Germany and emigrated with his family to Australia in 1949. In January 1955, Hans entered RAAF College at Point Cook as a member of No 8 Course and graduated as a pilot in December 1958.

His first posting was to No 23 Squadron at Amberley and then to No 76 Squadron at Williamstown in 1960, flying Vampires. He completed No 5 Sabre Conversion at No 2 Operational Conversion Unit in 1961 and was a member of No 76 Squadron when it re-equipped with Sabres.

After a tour in Department of Air in Canberra as a Personal Staff Officer, he was posted to No 78 Wing Butterworth, Malaysia in 1965, serving as a squadron pilot and later flight commander in No 3 Squadron. He completed four tours with No 79 Squadron in Ubon, Thailand. On return to Australia, he completed a Mirage OCU in 1968.

In 1969, Hans was selected to undergo USAF F-4C training at Davis Monthan AFB, before completing a tour of duty in South Vietnam at Cam Ranh Bay with the 12th Tactical Fighter Wing, flying Phantom aircraft on strike operations. For service with the USAF, Hans was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross with Oak Leaf Cluster (US) and the Air Medal (US).

On return to Australia and completion of No 25 Course, RAAF Staff College in 1971, he was promoted to wing commander and served at Headquarters Operational Command. In January 1974, he assumed command of No 75 Squadron at Butterworth after which he returned to Canberra, on promotion to group captain, as the Director of Air Force Plans.

Hans was appointed Officer Commanding RAAF Laverton in January 1979. Two years later he was promoted to air commodore and posted as Director- General of the Tactical Fighter (Hornet) Program. He served as leader of the program until 1986 and said it was his most satisfying posting. He was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for his leadership and performance.

On promotion to air vice-marshal, Hans was appointed Commander Integrated Air Defence System in Butterworth before returning to Canberra as Assistant Chief of the Air Staff – Materiel. He was subsequently appointed Assistant CDF (Personnel) until his retirement in the early 1990s.

Hans was chairman of several industry associations and a member of several Australian and overseas boards, including Eurocopter International Pacific. From 2000 to 2003 he was CEO of Thales International Pacific Holdings. More recently he was a director of ADI Limited and Thales Australia Holdings.

To all who had the privilege of knowing him, in both military and civilian life, Hans was a true gentleman and the epitome of a leader. They don't come any better.

(Courtesy Wings Magazine, Autumn 2021)