



**CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE FORCE
ORDER OF THE DAY**

CENTENARY OF THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

Today the Royal Australian Air Force marks 100 years of service to Australia.

From modest beginnings at a single base – Point Cook – Air Force has evolved into a world class, fifth generation force which contributes air, space, and cyber power for joint effects.

More than 350,000 Australians have served in the Royal Australian Air Force since 1921. As many as 11,191 have given their lives in service, most during the Second World War. As a consequence, 3,145 Air Force members have no known grave. Their service and sacrifice will be remembered forever.

In its first century, Air Force has supported Australia through war fighting, peacekeeping, search and rescue, disaster relief, humanitarian tasks, and assisting other Government departments in Australia and around the world. Air Force members have developed a proud reputation for courage, innovation, and perseverance.

The speed and reach of our Air Force means it is often among the first to respond when Australians or our international friends need support, such as in Operation BUSHFIRE ASSIST last year, as well as historically during Cyclone Tracy in Darwin and the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami. On any given day, Air Force assets may be supporting Australia's national interests as far afield as Alaska, Afghanistan, or Antarctica.

Air Force is an integral pillar of our joint force and its enduring relationships with Navy, Army, Defence Industry, and our international partners are crucial to ADF operations. These relationships will become even more important as together we face an increasingly complex strategic environment in the coming decades.

I thank all Air Force members – past and present – for your committed service and hard work. You have developed a proud legacy for future generations to follow.

For 100 years, the Royal Australian Air Force has supported Australia and its people. It always will.

Then. Now. Always. *Per ardua ad astra!*

Angus J Campbell AO, DSC
General
Chief of the Defence Force

31 March 2021