



Air Commodore CRAIG HEAP, CSC, RAAF

Class of 1982

In his final years of schooling at Sydney Technical High School, Craig Heap represented his 1st grade Rugby Union (for two years) and 1st grade Volleyball. He joined the RAAF in 1984 as a direct entry pilot and was posted to 34 SQN as a VIP co-pilot for 12 months. He then completed the Aircraft Systems Course at the School of Air Navigation before posting in 1987 to 5 SQN as an Iroquois helicopter pilot.

On promotion to Squadron Leader in 1996, Air Commodore Heap served as the B flight Commander and 11 SQN Qualified Flying Instructor for three years until the end of 1998. During this posting Air Commodore Heap acted as the Detachment Commander on numerous joint and combined exercise and operations, in Australia and overseas.

In late 1998 Craig was posted to the Central Flying School as the A Flight Commander, in charge of the RAAF Flying Instructors Course, being appointed as the Chief Flying Instructor, Central Flying School, in 2000. In 2001, he was selected to attend the Canadian Forces Command and Staff Course in Toronto, Canada, being promoted to Wing Commander, while in 2005 he was awarded the Chief of Defence Force Commendation for his service on the Australian Command and Staff College.

In 2007 Air Commodore Heap was posted as the Director of Studies Air and Chief of operations at the Australian Command and Staff College, 2008 saw him commence duties as the Chief of Staff to the Chief of Defence Force, from which he was posted to the Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies in January 2010, completing a Master of Arts (Strategy) Degree at Deakin University. From November 2010, Air Commodore Heap returned to the Middle East as the Joint Task Force 633 Air Component Commander until June 2012, for which he was awarded the Commendation for Distinguished Service in the 2012 Queen's Birthday Honours' list. In October 2011 Air Commodore Heap assumed the post of Officer Commanding 92WG.

During early 2014 Air Commodore Heap was deployed to Perth as the Commander of the Multi-National Air Task Group searching for the missing Malaysian Airline Flight MH370 and was subsequently awarded the Conspicuous Service Cross (CSC). Later that year he assumed the post of Director General Aerospace Development on promotion to Air Commodore.

On 2 December 2015 Air Commodore Heap assumed command of Surveillance and Response Group and was simultaneously appointed the Senior Australian Defence Force Officer (SADFO) at RAAF Williamtown.