

AIR FORCE

AIR COMMODORE JOHN MEIER

Director General History and Heritage – Air Force

Air Commodore Meier grew up in Ipswich, QLD not far from RAAF Base Amberley prior to entering the RAAF in 1979 as a Ground Defence cadet at OCS Portsea. After graduating from Portsea and completing two years as a Ground Defence Officer, he transferred to the Navigator category and graduated from No 63 Navigator's Course in 1982.

Following his graduation the then Flying Officer Meier was posted to No 292 Squadron for conversion training prior to flying the P-3B Orion with No 11 Squadron at RAAF Edinburgh. He progressed through the various sensor stations on the aircraft becoming a TACCO on the P-3C aircraft and, with his crew, won the Marconi Trophy for No 11 Squadron in 1988 and then competed in international ASW competition, the Fincastle Trophy. During this period he also completed the Weapons Systems Course at RAAF East Sale. A highlight of his tour with No 11 Squadron was successfully completing search and rescue missions off both the east and west coasts of Australia.



He was promoted to Squadron Leader in 1991 and was posted to Headquarters Air Command as the P-3 Planner. At the end of this posting Air Commodore Meier moved to the ADF School of Languages to study French after which he attended the French Command and Staff Course at the Ecole Militaire in Paris. After graduation he was posted to the Weapons Requirements position in Aerospace Development where he worked on future air to air and air to surface weapons for the RAAF.

In August 1997, on promotion to Wing Commander, Air Commodore Meier joined Air Force Headquarters as Deputy Director Capability Review. After two years, he was posted to Defence Intelligence Organisation as SO1 Special Operations Support during which he was closely involved in the preparation and deployment of Australian forces to Timor and ADF support to the 2000 Olympics.

Towards the end of 2000 he was promoted to Group Captain and appointed as the Defence Attaché at the Australian Embassy, Paris. During his Paris tenure, he had the great privilege to meet many Free French Air Force veterans and attend ANZAC Day ceremonies with his New Zealand peers on the Somme battlefields. He returned to Australia in 2004 to attend the Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies and after graduating he returned to Air Force Headquarters where he was appointed Director Combat Capability Management until the end of 2006. In January 2007 he moved to the Defence Intelligence Organisation as the Director Weapons Systems. In March 2008 he was posted to the Middle East as Chief of Staff, Joint Task Force 633 until September 2008. He was awarded a CJTF 633 Silver Commendation during this posting.

He was promoted to Air Commodore on 20 October 2008 and took up the appointment of Director General Joint Evaluation and Exercises at HQ Joint Operations Command, where he oversaw the Talisman Sabre series of exercises and established an operational analysis and lessons learnt capability. In August 2010 he was again posted to the Defence Intelligence Organisation as Director-General Weapons and Technical Intelligence. He was awarded the New Zealand Chief of Defence Force Commendation in 2013.

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After a career spanning 34 years in the Permanent Air Force, he retired on 01 November 2013. He subsequently transferred to the RAAF Active Reserve and was appointed as an oral historian. His primary task was recording the recollections of RAAF members who deployed on operations from World War II until today. One of the oldest veterans he interviewed was a RAAF WWII Hurricane and Spitfire pilot who served in the Middle East, with the youngest member being a young air combat officer who deployed on the first Super Hornet operation in the Middle East. In March 2016, the Deputy Chief of Air Force appointed him as the inaugural Director-General History and Heritage – Air Force (DGHH-AF). His vision for this new Branch is to bring the story of the people and the endeavour of the Air Force to the wider RAAF and Australian community.

John is married to Anne and they have two adult children, Kurt and Christine. Anne is a Public Servant within the Family Court of Australia while Kurt is a serving member of the RAAF, and Christine is a primary school teacher. John has a Graduate Diploma in Applied Science, Diploma in Applied Languages (French), Bachelor of Asian Studies and a Masters in Strategic Studies. He is a keen hiker, amateur military historian and fly fisher.

When he is not working at RAAF Amberley or Fairbairn as DGHH-AF, he and Anne enjoy their home at Mt Crosby in south-east Queensland.

