

WING COMMANDER GRANT KELLY



Deputy Director Historic Unrecovered War Casualties, History and Heritage Branch, AFHQ

Wing Commander Kelly was born in Brisbane and completed his secondary education at Craiglea State High School, Queensland, Australia. He joined the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) in February 1982 as a member of Number 62 Navigator Course, School of Air Navigation where he graduated as a navigator in 1983.

After graduation, Wing Commander Kelly was posted to Number 11 Squadron, RAAF Edinburgh to fly P3 Bravo and subsequently P3 Charlie Orion Maritime Patrol aircraft. He later flew F111C strike aircraft at Number 1 Squadron, before applying to transfer for pilot training. Wing Commander Kelly graduated as a pilot from Number 154 Pilots Course in 1991. He flew C130E Hercules transport aircraft in strategic and tactical roles at Number 37 Squadron as a pilot and Flight Commander. Wing Commander Kelly later flew HS748 and King Air KA350 aircraft in Air Combat Officer training and light transport roles with Number 32 Squadron.

He commanded Number 32 Squadron 2003-2005; retiring the HS748 aircraft, re-deploying the maintenance workforce and completing the introduction of the KA350 capability. Wing Commander Kelly transferred to the Operational Air Reserve Group in 2006 and flew with Number 32 Squadron before rejoining the Permanent Air Force in 2012. He commanded Task Group 633.2 (Air Mobility Task Group) on Operation ACCORDIAN from January to July 2017.

His military education includes Weapons Systems Course and he is a graduate of University of Southern Queensland, University of Canberra and RAAF Staff College. He holds a Bachelor of Applied Science (Psychology) and Masters of Defence Studies.

Wing Commander Kelly's staff appointments include Directorate of Capability Management (Operations), Planning and Policy Branch in Air Force Headquarters. His training appointments include Air Power Studies Developer at RAAF Staff College and as a member of Directing Staff (DS) at the Australian Command and Staff College. After re-joining the Permanent Air Force in 2012, he worked in Simulation policy within Strategy and Planning Branch in Air Force Headquarters. He then led a team developing the KC-30A pod and boom Air to Air Refuelling capability as Number 86 Wing KC-30A Transition and Receiver Clearance Manager. Wing Commander Kelly's last staff job before Historic Unrecovered War Casualties was as the Group Aviation Safety and Standards Officer at Headquarters Air Mobility Group. Wing Commander Kelly left the Permanent Air Force in 2019.

In 2002, Wing Commander Kelly was awarded a Commander Australian Defence College Commendation in May 2002 for his work in development of the Australian Command and Staff College (ACSC) Air Force Single Service Curriculum and ACSC Communications Curriculum.

Wing Commander Kelly is married to Sam (Leanne), an Environmental Health professional, and they have a daughter, Georgia and son, Rhys. His interests include cycling, home projects, gardening, martial arts, and adventures.