

Nick COULSON

Graduated from aeronautical engineering at UNSW before joining the Royal Australian Air Force as cadet-aircrew in 1976 and marching out from training as a pilot on the 7 / 7 / 77. He flew Iroquois helicopters with the famous No 9 Squadron then returned to fixed-wing for various postings as a flying instructor. In 1985 he attended the fixed-wing course at the Empire Test Pilot School in the United Kingdom and then spent the rest of his military flying career as a Test Pilot with the Aircraft Research and Development Unit in South Australia. He also has experience as a Weapon Systems Analyst with the Defence Intelligence Organisation and then as the manager of an aircraft acquisition project. He returned to ARDU as Commanding Officer Flight Test Squadron and then his final posting was a brief stint as Officer Commanding No 85 Training Wing.

He resigned from the RAAF at the end of 2001 and took up the position of Test Pilot with the Civil Aviation Safety Authority based in Canberra. His primary responsibility with CASA was participation in the engineering and airworthiness functions through providing guidance and recommendations on operational and flight type matters. This also entailed conducting Flight Type Inspections of aircraft presented for certification. With CASA only employing a single TP during his tenure he was responsible for delivering flight test expertise and advice over all certification categories and in both fixed and rotary wing aircraft.

He finished with CASA in January 2019 and is now in the first flurries of active retirement.

