

BIO- AVM DAVE ROGERS AM RAAF (Retd)

Dave Rogers came from Bexley in Sydney where he was educated at Sydney Technical High School (1956-60). As a Cadet Under Officer in the ATC, he won a flying scholarship and attained his Private Pilot Licence at the age of 16.

He joined the Air Force at 18 as a cadet aircrew in 1962 and following graduation served in Butterworth, Singapore and Borneo, flying Sabres on operational missions during Confrontation with Indonesia. He also served in Ubon, Thailand as part of Australia's contribution to SEATO and Vietnam.

He served as an instructor on Vampires in Perth until being selected in 1968 for the first F-111 crew training in the USA. He returned to Amberley and flew the Canberra for 18 months.

In 1970, he returned to the USA for training on the F-4E Phantom. He flew the delivery flight from St Louis to Amberley, these aircraft being leased by the RAAF until the F-111C arrived. Dave flew the last Phantom flight in the RAAF as CO of 1SQN in 1973.

After Staff College and a tour in Canberra, in 1978, he was appointed CO of 6SQN on the F-111 and introduced the newly modified RF-111 reconnaissance version. In October 1978 following a mechanical failure, his aircraft caught fire, along with his navigator Pete Growder, he was forced to eject from an F-111 near Auckland NZ.

In 1982, after a tour at Operational Command, he completed Joint Services Staff College; his course being the first Australian military group to visit Beijing and Shanghai in China. He then took over as CO of the Base Squadron at Richmond for three years, then the biggest unit in the Air Force, his performance for which he was appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia in 1986.

In 1985, he returned to the USA as the Hornet Project Manager in Washington DC then back to Canberra in 1988 and shortly after, promoted to AIRCDRE as DGPP. In early 1991, he was appointed by CAS, after a series of Defence reviews, to head a select group to develop a plan for the future organization of the RAAF, which was subsequently implemented over the next four years. He finally returned to Amberley in late-1991 as the Commander of the F-111 Strike Reconnaissance Group and senior RAAF Officer in Queensland.

In 1994, he was promoted to Air Vice Marshal and appointed Deputy Chief of the Air Staff where he served until 1997 when he was appointed as Assistant Chief of the Defence Force (Development) until he retired in 1998.

Since then, he has been the Patron of the Pathfinders, 30SQN Beaufighter Association, a five-year term as the Chairman of the Air Force Cadets National Council and other organizations. He restored two Triumph sports cars and for the last 20 years, has been enmeshed in the management of the historic car movement in the ACT.