

## Martin “Marty” Susans

Martin Susans joined the RAAF as a trainee pilot in 1964. On gaining his wings, he converted to the Sabre and served a tour in Butterworth and Ubon before returning to Williamtown to complete the Mirage OCU. He then joined No 3 Squadron which was re-equipping with the Mirage and preparing to relocate to Butterworth. It was during this period that Martin was forced to eject from a Mirage with engine failure one dark night over the Barrington Tops. Although a second Squadron Mirage was lost due to ricochet damage, the Squadron successfully deployed to Butterworth in February 1969 with aircraft A3 81-100 inclusive.

With the hold-up of the F111 acceptance program in 1970, the Government leased 24 new F4E aircraft from the US as an interim strike force. Martin joined other RAAF crews to train in the US and ferry the aircraft to Amberley. Three years later he was selected to complete the first F111 Course held in Australia.

Career broadening finally caught up, with a posting to be ADC to the AOC Support Command, followed by a second tour with 3 Squadron in Butterworth as a Flight Commander. After Staff College, a staff job in Defence Central awaited. Thence, Director of Aircrew Publications and CO Base Squadron at the new Tindal Air Base.

Martin finished his career as a staff officer in Air Force Office and then took to establishing a commercial vineyard and winery in Murrumbateman.

Still flying to this day, Martin has a house/hangar at Temora where he keeps a light aircraft, regularly used for outback touring.

