

Air Vice-Marshal Bob Richardson, AO, AFC (Ret'd)

After pilot training in 1962 AVM Bob Richardson flew Sabres in Southeast Asia with 77 and 79 Squadrons and was then a Qualified Flying Instructor at Point Cook, working for Graham Dyke.

He trained as a test pilot at Empire Test Pilot School in 1968, before four tours at Aircraft Research and Development Unit (ARDU) over the next fifteen years.

He later worked in Defence Strategic Policy, and after Royal College of Defence Studies in London was the RAAF Training Commander before he spent two years as co-author of Defence White Paper 1994. He was then promoted to Chief of Air Force Personnel and Budget, and for a short while Deputy Chief of Air Staff after David Rogers, before he transferred to the Active Reserve in 1997.

While chief test pilot at ARDU for five years, Bob was seconded to Materiel Division to carry out the largest ever evaluation of new tactical fighter aircraft to follow the Mirage, spending long periods in Canberra and overseas from 1979 to the Hornet decision in 1981.