

BIO MARK BOAST

Mark joined the RAN and commenced pilot training in 1979. He subsequently qualified on the A-4 Skyhawk and even had a short spell on the Mirage IIIIO. In 1984 he left to join the Royal Navy following the demise of the Australian Fixed Wing Fleet Air Arm.

A first tour flying the Canberra T17 to settle in to UK life was followed by Harrier training and conversion to the Sea Harrier FRS1.

In 1990 he undertook the US Navy Test Pilots course and subsequently returned to Boscombe Down as the Sea Harrier FRS2 test pilot - as well as Hunter and Buccaneer project pilot!

Subsequently he returned to operational flying as Senior Pilot of 800 Sqn and after a year off learning to drive ships on HMS LONDON, became Commanding Officer of 899 Sqn, the RN's Sea Harrier training and test unit.

Following his flying appointments, Mark was Staff Officer for the Future Carrier Borne Aircraft (subsequently JSF). His final role was Change Management Officer for the Naval Aviation Headquarters before taking his children's advice and returning to Australia in 2004 before the accent suffered irreversible damage.

He continued his defence interest as a consultant and participated in Systems Engineering and advice roles for projects across the 3 Services. Most significant were AIR7000 Phase 1 (UAV), AIR5428 Pilot Training, Joint Fires concept/implementation, Counter IED program and Base Security.

Mark is a partner and works in Spearpoint Solutions and Technology, a solely Australian and veteran owned Small/Medium enterprise which offers clothing and equipment for Defence, Law Enforcement and outdoor enthusiast customers. He is a keen two wheels enthusiast and is attempting to prolong his length and quality of life through yoga and teacher training - successfully so far.