

Air Vice-Marshal Brian Weston, AM, FRAeS (Retired)

After graduating from the RAAF Academy, Brian Weston underwent pilot training with the RAF. After tours on the Sabre and Mirage, he graduated from No 12 Fighter Combat Instructor Course and instructed at No 2 Operational Conversion Unit. Later, he commanded No 75 (Mirage) Squadron, Base Squadron Richmond and the RAAF Tactical Fighter Group (Hornet). His flying career included tours on all four RAAF fighter squadrons; with endorsements on Winjeel, Chipmunk, Jet Provost T3/T4, HunterT7/F6, Macchi, Vampire, Sabre, Mirage and Hornet aircraft.

His professional qualifications/experience include: BSc (1965), MBA (1983), USAF Air Warfare College (1983), Directing Staff of the Australian Joint Service Staff College (1984-1985), Royal College of Defence Studies (1994) and a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society. With Peter Moran, he conducted the *Post Implementation Review of the Defence Regional Support* arrangements of the Australian Defence Force in 1993.

After serving as Assistant Chief of Defence Force for Operations, he transferred to the RAAF Reserve in 1997 and following the Black Hawk mid-air collision, he conducted a *Review of ADF Aviation Safety Management* (1998), with co-chair John Faulkner, the Deputy Chair of Air Services Australia.

Post-RAAF, he served as: *Executive Director of Australian Business Limited Defence Industry Unit*, *Executive Director of the Association of Australian Aerospace Industries*, inaugural 'Industry Chair' of the *Defence Capability Advisory Forum* (1999/2003), a non-executive director of *National Air Support* (2001-2004) – now *Cobham Air Operations, Australia*, Chair of the *SAI Global Certification Board* (2002-2014) and consulted to the *Australian Strategic Policy Institute* on the Joint Strike Fighter Project (2002).

He has published *A History of the Australian Aviation Industry* for the *RAAF Aerospace Centre* (2003); the *Future of Unmanned Aerial Systems* for the *Sir Richard Williams Foundation* (2012); *A Coming of Age for Australia and its Air Force* for the *RAAF Air Power Development Centre* (2013); and has been the *Sir Richard Williams Foundation 'On Target'* columnist in *Australian Aviation* (2017-2019) and the *Australian Defence Business Review* (2019-2022).

He served as an honorary fellow at the *Aerospace, Mechanical and Civil Engineering School at UNSW@ADFA* (2005-2012), and has been a defence and defence industry consultant to *Northrop Grumman* since 2004. He is a Board Member of the *Sir Richard Williams Foundation* (2016-2022), and is a member of the *St Joseph's College, Geelong, Foundation*. He served on the Management Committee of the *Liberal Party of Australia, ACT Division* (2018-2021).

For recreation, he has been preparing and racing historic sports cars in Motorsport Australia events since 1999, accruing over 500 race starts; with spouse Renate acting as Team Boss. He was founding president of the *Group S Racing Association*, serving as president (2006-2010).