

AIR FORCE

AIR COMMODORE DAVID STRONG

Air Mobility Group AMG – Richmond

Air Commodore (AIRCDRE) Strong was born in Sydney, Australia. He joined the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) in January 1985 and graduated from the Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA) in December 1987 with a Bachelor of Science Degree majoring in mathematics and fluid dynamics. AIRCDRE Strong completed Pilots Course in 1989 and then proceeded directly to Flying Instructors Course at RAAF Base East Sale. He has held a range of squadron, staff, training and representational appointments both in the military and civilian industry.

Appointments as a junior officer were with No.1 Flying Training School as a Qualified Flying Instructor (QFI) and then as a fighter pilot with 77 Squadron. In 1995-97 he served as a QFI with No.2 Operational Conversion Unit flying F/A-18A Hornets. A career highlight was being part of the instructional team for a Fighter Combat Instructors Course, the members of who went on to serve in Iraq on operations with 75 Squadron. In late 1997 he resigned from the military to instruct on Hawk MK65 jets with BAE Systems and the Royal Saudi Air Force in Dhahran and Tabuk, Saudi Arabia.



AIRCDRE Strong returned to the RAAF in 2001 and served as an Air Accident Investigator and Fast Jet Desk Officer at the Directorate of Flying Safety where he completed a number of aircraft accident investigations. In 2004 he was appointed as the Officer Commanding Air Force Squadron at ADFA. After these staff posts he returned to flying instruction as the A Flight Commander and then Executive Officer of 76 Squadron operating the Hawk MK127. In early 2008 AIRCDRE Strong was posted to Capability Development Group and was responsible for the Air 5438 Hawk Lead in Fighter Capability Assurance Project.

In 2010, AIRCDRE Strong was appointed as the Operations Flight Commander at 33 Squadron introducing the KC-30A Multi Role Tanker Transport aircraft into service. Part of this role included gaining experience on the Airbus A330 operating as a Captain with Qantas. AIRCDRE Strong assisted in achieving the KC-30A Initial Operating Capability in the minimum time. He successfully operated the aircraft in Air to Air Refuelling and Air Logistics Support roles including Operational Test and Evaluation missions. He ensured safe and effective integration of the KC-30A into exercises such as Pitch Black, Talisman Sabre and Arnhem Thunder and prepared it for successful operations in the Middle East Region, starting in 2014.

In 2013, AIRCDRE Strong achieved a Masters Degree in Military and Defence Studies at the Australian Command and Staff College and in 2014 he served as the Deputy Director Air Combat Capability at Air Force Headquarters. He was appointed in 2016, as Commanding Officer of No.2 Flying Training School operating Pilatus PC-9 aircraft. Under his command 2FTS successfully graduated 120 pilots, flew over 22,000 flight hours and was recognised and rewarded for significant improvement and innovation in training.

In 2018, AIRCDRE Strong served as Director J33 Current Operations at Headquarters Joint Operations Command and Director J35 Domestic and Regional Operations, prior to an operational tour in Afghanistan as the Senior Air Advisor to the Afghan Air Force and NATO Resolute Support mission. In 2020 AIRCDRE Strong served as Chief of Staff for Air Mobility Group, then Officer Commanding 84 Wing operating the C-130J and C-27J aircraft and responsible for Air Mobility Training and Development Unit. He is now the commander of Air Mobility Group.

AIRCDRE Strong is married to Caroline and they have two daughters. AIRCDRE Strong enjoys golf, cycling, skiing, hiking, photography and riding his motorcycle in his spare time.

