Royal Australian Navy

Captain Warren James BAIRSTOW CSC RAN, ACT

For exceptional service to the Royal Australian Navy in the field of command and leadership.

Captain Warren Bairstow's steadfast leadership, initiative and commitment to improving capability and culture have contributed significantly to the operational effectiveness of the Royal Australian Navy. His passion and devotion to the Navy, its capabilities and its people clearly demonstrates his commitment and contributions to supporting Navy's mission.

Captain Shane Andrew CRAIG RAN, NSW

For exceptional performance of duty in Royal Australian Navy command and management positions.

Captain Craig's distinguished performance in Naval Aviation, and as the Naval Adviser to the United Kingdom, has been exceptional. Through application of professional knowledge, initiative and commitment, Captain Craig's dedication to duty as a diplomat has resulted in the achievement of successful international engagement outcomes for the Australian Defence Force and the Royal Australian Navy. His influence and energy in the roles as Deputy Commander Fleet Air Arm and Commanding Officer 816 Squadron enhanced the performance and reputation of the Fleet Air Arm.

Australian Army

Brigadier Michael Charles ASHLEIGH, ACT

For exceptional service as Director Logistics - Army, Director General Strategic Logistics and Commander Australian Army Cadets.

Brigadier Ashleigh has led reform and accountability in strategic logistics and youth development for the Army and Australian Defence Force, resulting in improvements in procurement and sustainment processes, adult and cadet leadership development and youth safety. Brigadier Ashleigh is a proven and influential strategic change leader. His service represents the highest ideals of the Australian Defence Force and reflects great credit upon himself and the Australian Army.

Lieutenant Colonel Alyson Marie AULIFF, QLD

For exceptional service to the Australian Defence Force in malaria research.

Lieutenant Colonel Auliff's distinguished commitment to malaria research spans 20 years, and includes Command of the Australian Defence Force Malaria and Infectious Disease Institute. Lieutenant Colonel Auliff's untiring dedication, inspirational leadership and outstanding diplomacy has been critical in the development of Australian Defence Force Malaria and Infectious Disease Institute into a world renowned resource in the battle against infectious diseases of military importance.

Colonel Nicholas James FOXALL, QLD

For exceptional service in command and leadership and significantly enhancing the operational effects and capabilities of the Australian Defence Force.

Colonel Foxall demonstrated exceptional service to the Australian Defence Force over multiple postings across staff and command positions. His achievements had significant impact to operations, including Operations PHILIPPINES ASSIST, APEC ASSIST 2018 and ATLAS. This included the re-establishment of effects as a driver in the conduct of joint operations, and leading communications and fires architecture interoperability requirements. His leadership and dedication to duty have profoundly enhanced the Australian Defence Force's operational effects.

Major General Andrew William FREEMAN, ACT

For exceptional service to the Australian Defence Force as Commander 17th Brigade, Director General Land Operations, and Director Logistics - Army.

Major General Freeman has made an exceptional contribution to Army and the Australian Defence Force across multiple staff and command appointments, at both the operational and strategic levels. His energetic leadership, outstanding ability to build relationships, and his drive for reform and innovation have achieved enduring results for Army. Through determination, dynamic engagement and broad vision, Major General Freeman has made a substantial and extremely positive contribution to the future of Army's logistics, health and maintenance capabilities.

Brigadier Stephen John JOBSON CSC, NSW

For exceptional service as Commandant Army Recruit Training Centre, Commander 16th Aviation Brigade and Commander Joint Task Force 646.

Brigadier Jobson has provided sustained exceptional leadership over successive appointments. He led innovations in recruit training, by initiating preconditioning programs which reduced injuries, and enhanced Army's cultural reform across a range of training institutions. His leadership revitalised Army Aviation and helped accelerate amphibious capability realisation for the Australian Defence Force. As Commander Joint Task Force 646, his personal influence provided reassurance and inspired a hardened resolve across devastated communities during Operation QUEENSLAND FLOOD ASSIST.

Colonel Andrew John McBARON, NSW

For exceptional service as the Director of Officer Career Management - Army, Career Adviser for General Service Officer Lieutenant Colonels, and Staff Officer Grade One Establishments.

Colonel McBaron's exceptional service, selfless dedication to duty and outstanding leadership in the most challenging of roles has improved Army's organisational structures and greatly enhanced the Career Management of Army's officers. His extraordinary commitment to the development of Army's people capability has brought great credit to himself, the Australian Army and is in the finest traditions of the Australian Defence Force.

Royal Australian Air Force

Air Commodore Wendy BLYTH, ACT

For exceptional service to the Australian Defence Force in C-130J Super Hercules sustainment reform; and in P-8A Poseidon capability development and system sustainment.

Air Commodore Blyth made a superb contribution in C-130J Super Hercules sustainment by reducing long-standing logistics shortfalls, significantly enhancing system capability, and improving aircraft availability and responsiveness to operational needs. Her extraordinary performance in the capability development phase of the P-8 Poseidon aircraft acquisition laid the foundations for the program's success. Further, she expertly managed the P-8 Poseidon capability's transition into operational service through her exemplary leadership and rare engineering skill.

Air Commodore Philip Stephen GORDON, ACT

For exceptional service in aerospace capability development, air combat preparedness and operations management and control for the Australian Defence Force.

Air Commodore Gordon is a commander of inimitable ability who made an extraordinary contribution to Australia's evolving air combat development. His inspirational leadership transformed air combat preparedness by balancing current operational needs with future requirements; whilst his management of air operations, particularly in the Joint environment, has been simply superb. His drive and superior professionalism have delivered leading edge air combat capabilities of great strategic significance to Australia's long-term defence posture.

Group Captain Leanne Patricia LEE, NSW

For exceptional service in airworthiness practice, F-35 Joint Strike Fighter operational certification, and E-7A Airborne Early Warning and Control sustainment for the Australian Defence Force.

Group Captain Lee is a senior engineer of extraordinary skill who made an impressive contribution to Defence over years of devoted service in several crucial areas. She advanced airworthiness across the Australian Defence Force; greatly influenced the engineering effort to bring the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter capability into operation; and created effective relationships with the E-7A Airborne Early Warning and Control sustainment prime contractor that turned a forecasted budget overspend into an underspend without affecting performance or service delivery.

Air Commodore Kenneth John ROBINSON CSC, NSW

For exceptional service to the Australian Defence Force in international engagement, personnel management and administration, and combat support development and sustainment.

Air Commodore Robinson is a superb officer who made exceptional contributions to Defence in several prominent appointments since 2009; through inspirational leadership, superior political acumen, and outstanding dedication in demanding circumstances. His extraordinary achievements in international engagement, particularly with the Five Power Defence Arrangement Nations; his improvements in personnel management and administration; and his advances in combat support, particularly for the flying Force Element Groups have left a most positive enduring legacy.

Air Commodore Gerald Anthony van LEEUWEN CSM, ACT

For exceptional service to the Australian Defence Force in aerospace capability development, major capital acquisition, and air combat sustainment.

Air Commodore van Leeuwen is a senior officer and engineer of extraordinary skill who made an enormous contribution to Defence in managing and leading all aspects of the KC-30A Multi-Role Tanker Transport Advanced Refueling Boom System flight test program; in the acquisition of the C-27J Battlefield Airlifter capability; and in sustainment for the F-35A Joint Strike Fighter and systems. His technical prowess and superb leadership over years of dedicated service have delivered significant benefits in the aerospace sector for Defence.