

## **OFFICER (AO) IN THE MILITARY DIVISION OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA**

### ***Australian Army***

#### **Major General Roger John NOBLE DSC AM CSC**

For distinguished service in the appointments of Head Military Strategic Commitments, Deputy Chief Joint Operations and Deputy Commanding General United States Army Pacific.

Major General Noble's exceptional strategic leadership, planning and coordination of national and multi-national stakeholders has strengthened the Australian Defence Force's most important relationships at home and abroad with our allies and partners across the Indo-Pacific region. His actions have significantly contributed to the advancement of Australia's national interests. His service represents the highest ideals of the Australian Defence Force and reflects great credit upon himself and the Australian Army.

### ***Royal Australian Air Force***

#### **Air Vice Marshal Leigh Andrew GORDON AM CSM**

For distinguished service in responsible positions in acquisition and sustainment of aerospace systems For the Australian Defence Force.

Air Vice-Marshal Gordon is a senior officer of exceptional ability who made major advances in aerospace systems acquisition and sustainment over years of devoted service in complex roles. His superb interpersonal skill and program management expertise generated a broad range of capability benefits for Defence in crucial areas of capability, with Australian industry also benefiting from his facilitation of over \$1 billion worth of exports for the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Program with a trajectory to doubling that figure in the coming years.

## **MEMBER (AM) IN THE MILITARY DIVISION OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA**

### ***Royal Australian Navy***

#### **Rear Admiral Robert William PLATH RAN**

For exceptional service to the Royal Australian Navy in senior command and representational positions.

Rear Admiral Plath is a measured and inspiring Officer who has displayed professional excellence, conspicuous dedication to duty and devotion to people throughout his many and diverse Commands. His commitment to enhancing Australia's military relations with the Indonesian Armed Forces, as well as his exceptional leadership of and operational focus within Fleet Command, has been extraordinary and has directly resulted in a range of enduring benefits for the Australian Defence Force.

**Rear Admiral Katherine Anne RICHARDS CSC RAN**

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

Rear Admiral Richards provided sustained exceptional service in a number of significant senior Engineering and Command roles. She demonstrated outstanding professionalism, risk management and strong direction as Chief of Staff Navy Headquarters and in contributing to the rebuilding of Naval Engineering as a professional workforce that supports acquisition, seaworthiness requirements and contributes to the maintenance and improvement of Navy assets and the Fleet's capability. She has been a strong advocate and driving force behind behavioural and cultural changes within Navy.

***Australian Army***

**Brigadier Ana Laura DUNCAN CSC**

For exceptional performance of duty as the Director Strategy, Plans and Assessments in Headquarters Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve while deployed on Operation OKRA during 2019.

Brigadier Duncan's exceptional performance of duty in Headquarters Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve enhanced Coalition capability to defeat Dae'sh. Her foresight and diligence had an enduring and positive impact on Coalition plans to restore stability to Iraq and Syria. Brigadier Duncan's outstanding leadership and commitment reinforced Australia's reputation as a Coalition partner, exemplify Army's Values and are in keeping with the finest traditions of the Australian Army and the Australian Defence Force.

**Colonel John Andrew SIMEONI CSC**

For exceptional performance of duty on operations through senior command, leadership and planning appointments in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Colonel Simeoni consistently demonstrated strong leadership and commitment to duty across a number of demanding senior operational roles. An exceptional officer, he has furthered Australia's national interests to counter violent extremism through operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. Colonel Simeoni made significant contribution to the mentoring of partners, the waging of conventional warfare and the complex security operations necessary to enhance stabilisation efforts.

**Colonel Nicholas Paul SURTEES**

For exceptional service to the Australian Defence Force in the reform and delivery of Military Policing capability.

Colonel Surtees made an exceptional contribution to military policing capability development and delivery over a prolonged period in demanding strategic circumstances. While assuring high intensity operational policing and professional investigative services, he concurrently delivered a series of lasting generational improvements to military policing both in the Australian Army and the wider Australian Defence Force. His inspirational leadership, vision, and outstanding professional effort have well-positioned the Military Police to meet current and emerging challenges and threats.

## **Major General Murray Ronald THOMPSON CSC**

For exceptional performance of duty as Director Force Development - Army, and Commander Defence Strategic Communications.

Major General Thompson is an officer of rare skill and ability who made an exceptional contribution to Army capability and Defence communications. His extraordinary vision to see opportunities and convert those into action through superb planning, combined with inspirational leadership and an immense capacity for work, have provided enduring benefits to Defence. Specifically, development of enhanced operational effectiveness for Army, and conspicuously driving network and communications service improvements for Defence.

## ***Royal Australian Air Force***

### **Air Commodore Phillip John CHAMPION**

For exceptional service to the Australian Defence Force in international engagement and capability development.

Air Commodore Champion displayed incisive leadership, political finesse, and superior managerial skill in highly complex and demanding appointments throughout years of devoted service. His keen intellect and conspicuous professionalism delivered superb outcomes in international engagement as Liaison Officer in Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe; in advancing capability development as the Officer Commanding Number 92 Wing, and regional and multinational engagement as Advisor in the United States Indo-Pacific Command that will endure for generations.

### **Group Captain Philip Richard EDWARDS**

For exceptional service to the Australian Defence Force in the development and delivery of air power education.

Through superb scholarly leadership, resourceful collaboration, and with outstanding vision, initiative and dedication to duty over more than a decade; Group Captain Edwards made an exceptional contribution to air power education in the Australian Defence Force and wider international community that resulted in an enduring positive impact on personnel across all rank levels. His exceptional service significantly advanced understanding of the application of air power, and the benefits of knowledge as a force multiplier to a broad military and civilian audience.

### **Wing Commander Randall Alexander McCUTCHEON**

For exceptional service in support of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter program in developmental and operational testing; and during the introduction of the F-35 capability into Australian service.

Wing Commander McCutcheon made an exceptional and lasting contribution to the broader F-35 Joint Strike Fighter enterprise, and during the capability's transition into Australian service. He advanced Australian Defence Force air combat systems through exemplary leadership, outstanding professionalism, and conspicuous devotion to duty; while strengthening relationships and cooperation with partner armed services to advance F-35 capability development. His considerable efforts in realising Australia's Joint Strike Fighter capability will have positive impacts for decades to come.

**Group Captain Angus Lindsay PORTER**

For exceptional service in air combat operations management, organisational development, and the strategic planning for the Australian Defence Force.

Group Captain Porter is an officer of extraordinary skill who made a superb contribution in several areas crucial to Defence. He distinguished himself in his involvement in the largest composite air deployment since the Vietnam War; introduced significant cultural and organisational improvements in Number 34 Squadron whilst also preparing the organisation to operate the Dassault Falcon 7X business jets. He was instrumental in the founding of the Military Strategic Plans Division delivering a functional organisation that meets Defence's planning requirements now and well into the future.

**Warrant Officer Jennine Patricia RICHES**

For exceptional service in leadership and personnel welfare for the Australian Defence Force.

Warrant Officer Riches has been a luminary and staunch advocate for the welfare of all personnel within her purview throughout three decades of most devoted service. In addition to superbly executing her ceremonial and disciplinary duties, she was conspicuous in driving improvements across every organisation she has been involved with. More importantly, she provided exceptional support to the women and men of the Royal Australian Air Force, actively fostering and developing their professionalism whilst striving to preserve and protect their welfare and wellbeing.

**MEDAL (OAM) OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA IN THE MILITARY DIVISION**

***Royal Australian Navy***

**Principal Chaplain Collin Gregory ACTON RAN**

For meritorious service to the Royal Australian Navy in the field of Chaplaincy.

Principal Chaplain Acton led the reinvigoration and contemporising of the Navy Chaplaincy Branch and established a modern capability that will benefit Navy well into the future. Throughout his career, he has provided expert pastoral care and spiritual support to Navy people in extraordinary circumstances, enabling Navy's preparedness. He actively embraced Navy's cultural reforms, policies and initiatives, leading their development and implementation where appropriate.

**Captain Stephen BECKMANN CSC RAN**

For meritorious service in the field of Defence strategic communications.

Captain Beckmann's meritorious service and extraordinary contributions to Defence communications span four decades. His peerless enterprise network knowledge and experience, inspirational vision and leadership, combined with a natural bias for action and outcomes; has been instrumental in providing communications services that enable improved business and operational effects from the tactical to strategic levels.

### **Warrant Officer Sherylee Georgette FOLKES**

For meritorious service to the Royal Australian Navy in leadership roles at sea and ashore.

Warrant Officer Folkes is an exceptional senior sailor who consistently performed with the highest professional standards across a range of challenging leadership and welfare postings at sea and ashore. She worked tirelessly to apply inclusive and empathetic mentoring and leadership in the development of her teams during a period of acute workforce shortages. Her performance has been an example of the dedication and drive required to generate a resilient workforce capable of serving in the modern Royal Australian Navy.

### **Warrant Officer Matthew Ian HURLEY**

For meritorious service in the fields of Clearance Diving and leadership as a Warrant Officer in the Royal Australian Navy.

Warrant Officer Hurley is an exceptional senior sailor who provided outstanding service to the Royal Australian Navy in the fields of Clearance Diving and in a series of demanding leadership roles. Warrant Officer Hurley demonstrated unwavering devotion to duty, professionalism, moral courage and enthusiasm. At sea, ashore and on operations his leadership inspired people of all ranks and across the Australian Defence Force.

### **Captain Stephen John HUSSEY RAN**

For meritorious performance of duty in the fields of submarine operations, training and capability development.

Captain Hussey contributed significantly to the development of submarine capability through appointments in operational command, training and his involvement in the Collins class upgrade. He shaped complex planning for the introduction into service of the Attack class submarine whilst contributing to the Life of Type Extension for the Collins class submarines, thus ensuring the Nation can rely upon an established, proven and capable submarine force.

### **Chief Petty Officer Jeremy Mark PITCHFORD**

For meritorious service in the field of maritime Communications and Information Systems support.

Chief Petty Officer Pitchford is an exceptional sailor who consistently performed to the highest professional standards across a range of challenging postings at sea and ashore. His commitment, innovation and professional knowledge contributed to enhancing the utilisation of Information and Communication Technology systems and, in doing so, positively impacted operational procedures and capabilities within Navy. His performance, dedication and drive have been exemplary in complex operational circumstances.

### **Chief Petty Officer Daniel Anthony RYAN**

For meritorious service as an Armidale Class Patrol Boat Marine Technician while deployed on Operation RESOLUTE from 2007 to 2020.

Chief Petty Officer Ryan has been pivotal in delivering significant operational outcomes within the patrol boat group and has been the standout mentor in the Marine Technician community. Over a sustained period during unprecedented operational tempo, he cultivated a positive, capability driven work-ethic. His outstanding professionalism, dedication to duty and commitment to excellence were instrumental in sustaining the seaworthiness of maritime platforms crucial to Australian border protection operations.

## ***Australian Army***

### **Warrant Officer Class One Michael James BATES**

For meritorious service in the appointments of Regimental Sergeant Major 21st Construction Regiment, Regimental Sergeant Major 3rd Combat Engineer Regiment; Career Adviser Royal Australian Engineers and Regimental Sergeant Major Army Ceremonial.

Warrant Officer Bates made a significant contribution to the Australian Army. Over an extended period he has shown personal dedication, influencing the development of junior leaders and successfully executing complex and high profile ceremonial activities. Warrant Officer Bates exemplifies good soldiering and his contribution to activities of national significance has considerably augmented the reputational integrity of Army and Australian Defence Force.

### **Warrant Officer Class One Paul Michael CASEY CSM**

For meritorious service as the Command Chief Clerk at Headquarters Forces Command, the Command Chief Clerk at Headquarters 2nd Division and as a Defence One Module Coordinator within the Army People Capability Branch.

Warrant Officer Casey provided meritorious service in a range of senior administrative positions during 37 years of service. His administrative support within Army People Capability Branch enabled the successful integration of Defence One. As the Command Chief Clerk of Headquarters 2nd Division and Headquarters Forces Command he implemented significant efficiencies, enhanced the delivery of essential workforce management processes and strengthened support to operations. His sustained achievement has enhanced personnel capability within Army.

### **Warrant Officer Class One Sean William CHAINEY DSM**

For meritorious service as the Regimental Sergeant Major of the Royal Australian Engineers and the 2nd Combat Engineer Regiment.

Warrant Officer Chainey is an exceptional soldier who provided dedicated service over many years in a number of Regimental Sergeant Major positions. He consistently demonstrated outstanding leadership, initiative and devotion to duty, enhancing joint training; ensuring joint and single service needs are met with efficiency. His contribution to workforce planning, trade management, training and doctrine have been critical in ensuring the capabilities provided by the Royal Australian Engineers remain relevant to current and future operating environments.

### **Warrant Officer Class One Paul Richard DAVIES**

For meritorious service in Band Sergeant Major positions, as a Career Advisor in the Directorate of Soldier Career Management - Army, and as Regimental Sergeant Major - Australian Army Band.

Warrant Officer Davies' demonstrated outstanding leadership and initiative as band sergeant major of three of Australia's highest profile military bands. His training, mentoring and persuasive advocacy led to an increase in the number of opportunities for musicians to serve outside the Band Corps. This initiative resulted in a less-fragile and less-insular musical workforce in the Army and increasing the number of musicians serving in the Army. His efforts are in keeping with the finest traditions of the Australian Army and the Australian Defence Force.

### **Warrant Officer Class One John Robert FRANKLIN**

For meritorious service as the Band Sergeant Major of the Band of the 1st Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery.

Warrant Officer Franklin executed his appointment as the Band Sergeant Major to an exemplary standard for two decades. Resulting from his service, the Band of the 1st Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery flourished, becoming a cohesive and highly effective organisation that provides quality musical support to the Australian Defence Force and a valued method by which the Australian Army achieves community, Indigenous and international engagement objectives, domestically and regionally.

### **Warrant Officer Class One Stephen Robert HILL CSM**

For meritorious service as the Squadron Sergeant Major of the 1st Topographical Survey Squadron; Career Manager at the Directorate of Soldier Career Management - Army and Warrant Officer Class One Military Geospatial Intelligence in Army Headquarters.

Warrant Officer Hill made an exceptional contribution to developing Army's geospatial-intelligence systems and managed scores of complex personnel welfare cases with a unique and remarkable blend of compassion and modest leadership. His foresight, mentoring and training of others has been pivotal to advancing Army's crucial Land Geospatial Intelligence capability. His superior trade knowledge enhanced the delivery of technical geospatial training and the raising of Army's first imagery analyst capability.

## ***Royal Australian Air Force***

### **Warrant Officer Shane William GRIST**

For meritorious performance of duty in aircrew survival training and infrastructure redevelopment at the Royal Australian Air Force Combat Survival Training School.

Warrant Officer Grist consistently displayed outstanding skill and conspicuous devotion to duty as an Instructor, Operations Officer and Reserve Liaison Officer at the Royal Australian Air Force Combat Survival Training School. His superb achievements in coordinating complex training support requirements; leadership of crucial training area infrastructure redevelopments; and effective Reserve workforce planning and engagement have significantly improved Australian Defence Force survival training capability and enhanced aircrew survivability during operations.

### **Wing Commander Ian Grant MURPHY CSC**

For meritorious service in Work Health and Safety for the Royal Australian Air Force.

Wing Commander Murphy is an officer of exceptional ability who improved the work health and safety systems in the Royal Australian Air Force over many years of devoted service. Displaying incisive leadership he identified areas for improvement, trialled various programs, and was the catalyst for launching an active safety culture. His outstanding efforts improved the safety of the working environment for thousands of Royal Australian Air Force personnel, whilst his effective engagement and liaison with Comcare has significantly enhanced the reputation of the Royal Australian Air Force.