

**Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in the Military Division**

***Royal Australian Navy***

**Rear Admiral Jonathan Paul Earley CSC RAN**

For distinguished service to the Royal Australian Navy in key command and senior leadership positions.

Rear Admiral Earley demonstrated remarkable leadership, judgement and professional expertise to deliver strong results for the Royal Australian Navy, the Australian Defence Force and the Government. His political acumen, intelligence and initiative were constant factors in building trusted productive working relationships both nationally and with international partners. His efforts have contributed to developing a Navy that is available, sustainable and more capable for the environment it will face in the coming years.

**Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the Military Division**

***Royal Australian Navy***

**Commodore Richard Anthony Caton PSM RAN**

For exceptional service in senior Defence management and international relationship roles.

Commodore Caton's leadership, strategic acumen and diligence across multiple roles has optimised business unit output and effectiveness, improved Australia's operational access to partner nations and grown regional maritime domain awareness. Through innovation and building strong relationships at all levels across multiple nations, strategic outcomes for Australia and its international partners have been delivered.

**Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the Military Division**

***Royal Australian Navy***

**Rear Admiral David Peter Mann CSC RAN**

For exceptional service to the Australian Defence Force in senior Command and staff roles.

Rear Admiral Mann's professionalism, foresight and innovative thinking have contributed to the re-shaping of Navy and Defence Force structure and capability. He applied exceptional judgement, analysis and leadership in command of the Navy's Surface Force, and again in establishing the Capability Division within Joint Capability Group. His innate ability to build excellent relationships has enabled him to further Defence's objectives in a complex and challenging environment of accelerated force design and capability development.

**Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the Military Division**

***Australian Army***

**Major General B**

For exceptional service to the Defence Intelligence Enterprise as Director General of Intelligence, Director General Geospatial Capability Integration, and the Head of Intelligence Capability.

Major General B's exceptional leadership in successive senior appointments has directly accelerated service critical capabilities and significantly enhanced the effectiveness of operational information in Defence. He has strengthened the cooperation between the Australian Defence Force and its partners and supported decision-makers at all levels of Government. His service represents the highest ideals of the Australian Defence Force and is of great credit to him.

**Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the Military Division**

***Australian Army***

**Brigadier Matthew Stuart Campbell**

For exceptional performance of duty representing Australia as the Army Attaché Jakarta and as the Head of Australian Defence Staff Jakarta, enhancing the Australian Defence Force's relationship with Indonesia.

Brigadier Campbell's exceptional performance of duty will create lasting generational effects and deeper cultural understanding with a key regional partner through new and enhanced military exercises and exchanges. His exceptional leadership and support to high level Defence and Government interactions directly led to the achievement of Australia's international engagement aims with Indonesia.

**Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the Military Division**

***Australian Army***

**Colonel Martin John Levey**

For exceptional performance of duty to the Australian Defence Force in the fields of Aviation Safety, Human Factors and Organisational Psychology.

Colonel Levey has demonstrated exceptional performance of duty as a psychologist, human factors specialist and inquiry board member over an enduring period of service. His superior perseverance and professional knowledge have directly impacted Defence aviation safety. His extensive personal investment and leadership in improving safety culture in Defence and the community has significantly contributed to preserving the safety and wellbeing of countless Australians.

**Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the Military Division**

***Australian Army***

**Colonel Thomas Robson McDermott CSC**

For exceptional service as the Headquarters Joint Operations Command lead planner for the development of an Australian Defence Force operational contingency plan in support of Australia Defence Force Operations.

Colonel McDermott is an officer of impressive intellect and dedication to duty who made an exceptional contribution as the lead planner for a highly consequential theatre-level operational contingency plan. Colonel McDermott displayed an outstanding leadership style that cultivated strong, cooperative relationships and a collaborative, whole of headquarters effort to generate outcomes that will have lasting positive effects on Defence and Australia's security.

**Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the Military Division**

***Royal Australian Air Force***

**Wing Commander Cameron Murray Douglas**

For exceptional service delivering advanced integrated air and missile defence capability for the Australian Defence Force and the United States Air Force.

Wing Commander Douglas is a gifted engineer and an innovative and influential leader who consistently inspires through technical acumen, work capacity and collaboration. Substantial leadership, planning and negotiation skills were instrumental in improving Internet Protocol Chat capability for the United States Air Force; essential in the integration of the Mode 5 system into the E-7A Wedgetail; and in improving the availability of air battle management systems for Integrated Force operations and training.



**Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the Military Division**

***Royal Australian Air Force***

**Group Captain Marija Jovanovich CSM**

For exceptional service to the Royal Australian Air Force in the provision of command and leadership within the Orion AP-3EW maritime patrol capability.

Group Captain Jovanovich is an exceptional, consummate and professional pilot, leader, mentor and commander who has deftly delivered outcomes at the operational and tactical level for the regional strategic benefit of Australia. Group Captain Jovanovich's leadership in the lead up to the APC-3EW Orion withdrawal from service ensured safe and effective operations through to the planned fleet withdrawal date while continuing to meet heightened operational demands.

**Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the Military Division**

***Royal Australian Air Force***

**Air Commodore Matthew Robert McCormack**

For exceptional service in advancing the F-35A Lightning II air combat capability for the Australian Defence Force.

Air Commodore McCormack has delivered exceptional achievements through leadership, strategic comprehension, vision, tenacity and acumen where these traits have been used to masterful effect in advancing the F-35A Lightning II air combat capability. These efforts have been critical to developing a key pillar of Australia's strike and integrated air and missile defence capability that is widely recognised as an exemplar amongst our allies. This has made an outstanding difference to current and future Air Combat capabilities that will provide lasting benefits for the Australian Defence Force.

**Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the Military Division**

***Royal Australian Air Force***

**Air Commodore Michael Joseph Reidy**

For exceptional service to the Australian Defence Force in cyber and communications appointments.

Air Commodore Reidy, through adroit skills and experience, has tirelessly been a leading change agent employing a record of outstanding technical and strategic achievement to enhance the command and control and cyber readiness of Australian Defence Force operations.

**Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the Military Division**

***Royal Australian Air Force***

**Warrant Officer Vanessa Christine Schneider**

For exceptional service as a Warrant Officer in the Royal Australian Air Force.

Warrant Officer Schneider has made an extraordinary contribution to the Royal Australian Air Force through the development and implementation of the Warrant Officer Employment Continuum, including supporting processes to progress Warrant Officers through the tiered system. Exceptional leadership in multiple positions, and dedication to mentorship across all ranks, has led to enhanced capabilities of individuals and teams across the Royal Australian Air Force.

## **Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the Military Division**

***Royal Australian Navy***

**Commander Luke Kenneth Andrews RAN**

For meritorious performance of duty as a Navy Legal Officer.

Commander Andrews through his professional knowledge and dedication provided superior legal support to Fleet and Navy Headquarters. He coordinated and managed the consolidation of multiple reviews into Navy diving and implemented appropriate assurance measures that provided improvement across the capability. Whether preparing Navy people for hearings or inquiries, mentoring junior Legal Officers or contributing to the Navy's Indigenous Mentor Scheme, he maintained the highest level of professionalism and at all times put the wellbeing of Navy people at the forefront.

## **Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the Military Division**

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

#### **Commander Sandra Lee-Joy Bennett RAN**

For meritorious service as a legal officer in the Royal Australian Navy in sensitive and strategic legal case management roles.

Commander Bennett has provided meritorious service as a Royal Australian Navy Officer, in significant and sensitive legal roles. She has provided extraordinary leadership and advice on criminal investigations, inquiries and litigation for the Australian Defence Force and Department of Defence. These include complex coronial inquests for the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and the Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force. Her unique skills and devotion to duty have ensured the protection of national security information and the promotion of the rule of law.

**Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the Military Division**

***Royal Australian Navy***

**Lieutenant Commander Scott William Clarke RAN**

For meritorious service to the Royal Australian Navy in the field of Human Resource Management.

Lieutenant Commander Clarke directly influenced the successful management of sailors and senior officer portfolios, supporting personnel through promotions and separations from Service with sensitivity and utmost professionalism. His capacity to resolve unique and often complex and sensitive personnel issues has been a hallmark of his service while his support of Navy people has directly impacted the retention rate to the benefit of the Navy.

**Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the Military Division**

***Royal Australian Navy***

**Chief Petty Officer Michael John Cunnington**

For meritorious performance of duty in the field of Navy Seamanship, Boarding Operations and Gunnery.

Chief Petty Officer Cunnington provided meritorious service to the Navy as a Senior Sailor through his training and mentoring of Patrol Boat personnel. His continued willingness to serve at sea and to be involved in the training of the next generation of seaman has contributed to the proficiency and ongoing development of Navy People who in turn will contribute to Navy's long term operational capabilities.



## **Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the Military Division**

***Royal Australian Navy***

**Captain Douglas John Griffiths RAN**

For meritorious service to international engagement for the Australian Defence Force.

Captain Griffiths has displayed inspirational leadership, initiative and meritorious commitment to improving Australian Defence Force international relationships. His thoughtful, insightful and energetic engagement, spanning multiple operations and long-term representational postings, have delivered significant benefits to military operations. Captain Griffiths has also enabled new opportunities for Australian defence industry and enhanced Australia's Defence relationships and reputation as a capable and trusted partner.

**Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the Military Division**

***Royal Australian Navy***

**Commander Simon John Kelly CSM RAN**

For meritorious service in the field of Navy Intelligence and Information Warfare.

Commander Kelly's professional mastery, leadership and devotion in the performance of his duties have significantly improved Navy's and the Australian Defence Force's intelligence and information warfare operational outcomes. His contributions have updated and improved existing maritime intelligence and Information Warfare capabilities to meet contemporary and future contingencies.

## **Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the Military Division**

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

#### **Petty Officer Genene Maria Sanders**

For meritorious service to the Royal Australian Navy in the field of hospitality and support services.

Petty Officer Sanders significantly contributed to the Royal Australian Navy through her dedication, superior trade skill and remarkable ingenuity as a Support Operations sailor. Her unwavering professionalism across postings to multiple ships directly benefited the Navy's people through her continued focus on providing superior hospitality and welfare support services which have been instrumental to enabling and improving the Navy's ability to project effective diplomacy across the region.

## **Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the Military Division**

### ***Australian Army***

#### **Warrant Officer Class One P**

For meritorious performance of duty within Special Operations Command as the Command Chief Clerk and Army People Capability Branch as the Warrant Officer Personnel Policy.

Warrant Officer Class One P displayed meritorious performance of duty at Army People Capability Branch and Headquarters Special Operation Command. He made exceptional contributions to both units as an administrator, policy custodian and mentor during periods of significant change in the structure of the Special Operations Workforce and Defence People Policy. His meritorious performance of duty is an absolute reflection of his commitment to Service and is in keeping with the finest traditions of the Australian Army and the Australian Defence Force.

## **Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the Military Division**

### ***Australian Army***

#### **Warrant Officer Class One Jo-Anne Michelle Downes**

For meritorious service to leadership and training as the Regimental Sergeant Major of the Army Logistic Training Centre, 13th Brigade and the 3rd Combat Service Support Battalion.

Warrant Officer Class One Downes' focused leadership, personal dedication and inspirational vision have driven remarkable achievements in organisational transformation, soldier training, junior leader development and welfare delivery across multiple formations. Specifically, her deep and ethically anchored approach to command and leadership has inspired the highest standards of commitment to land force capability. Warrant Officer Downes' selfless devotion to her community, continuous development, and fundamentally enhancing soldier capability are in the finest traditions of Army.

## **Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the Military Division**

### ***Australian Army***

#### **Warrant Officer Class One Mark Roy Everingham**

For meritorious service in Regimental Sergeant Major appointments with the 22nd Engineer Regiment, Joint Task Unit 629.2.1 and the 1st Combat Engineer Regiment.

Warrant Officer Class One Everingham's meritorious service across a range of Regimental Sergeant Major appointments has directly and substantially enhanced Defence capability and the lived experience of our people. His consistently superior leadership and people focus has resulted in world class welfare and professional development support to our soldiers. His unwavering dedication to duty has ensured operational success across multiple domestic support operations and has ensured the 1st Combat Engineer Regiment is future-ready and optimised for light littoral operations.

## **Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the Military Division**

### ***Australian Army***

#### **Warrant Officer Class One Peter Anthony Wall**

For meritorious service as the Command Chief Clerk of Forces Command and as a Standards Warrant Officer (Command Support Clerk) at Army School of Ordnance.

Warrant Officer Class One Wall leveraged his technical trade expertise to influence key Army stakeholders, thereby supporting the redevelopment and redeployment of Command Support Clerk trade training in the context of extensive lockdowns. Warrant Officer Wall has had an outsized impact on Army's strategic workforce planning through his innovative use of technological solutions to produce accurate, timely and tailored workforce statistics reporting and analysis to high-level decision making bodies within Forces Command and Army.

**Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the Military Division**

***Royal Australian Air Force***

**Warrant Officer Gary John Anderson**

For meritorious service to the Australian Defence Force in joint leadership roles.

Warrant Officer Anderson has held two critical senior joint appointments since 2019. In each demanding role, as the senior enlisted leader, he has displayed outstanding leadership, astute management and professional mastery to deliver superb outcomes for the Australian Defence Force. His leadership and meritorious devotion to his responsibilities in diverse, challenging and evolving roles has combined to advance the effectiveness of integrated workforces to deliver the Australian Defence Force's operational outcomes.



## **Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the Military Division**

***Royal Australian Air Force***

**Group Captain John Sidney Price (Retd)**

For meritorious service as an Inquiry Officer and facilitator of the administrative inquiry capability in the Royal Australian Air Force.

Group Captain Price has made a prodigious contribution to the Australian Defence Force in a number of sensitive and complex administrative inquiries since 2007. Application of professionalism, emotional intelligence and superior aptitude, ensured ongoing success of the Air Force administrative inquiry process and the military justice system. Moreover, application of such leadership, process knowledge and superb education skills have been effective and inspirational when training and mentoring future inquiry officers.

## **Distinguished Service Medal (DSM)**

### ***Australian Army***

#### **Brigadier James Guthrie Hunter CSC**

For distinguished leadership in warlike operations as the Commander Australian Contingent for Operations OKRA and STEADFAST and Combined Joint Task Force – Operation INHERENT RESOLVE Plans Officer from December 2022 to December 2023.

Brigadier Hunter has made an extraordinary contribution to maintaining the military defeat of Da'esh and progressing the Iraqi and Kurdish Security Forces towards being able to meet independently Iraq's security requirements, through his command of the Australian Defence Force's contributions to both Combined Joint Task Force – Operation INHERENT RESOLVE and North Atlantic Treaty Organisation Mission – Iraq. He is an extraordinary officer who displayed distinguished and inspirational leadership, and extraordinary strategic acumen in a turbulent geo-strategic environment.

## **Commendation for Distinguished Service (CDS)**

### ***Australian Army***

#### **Colonel Geoffrey Neil Costello**

For distinguished performance of duty in warlike operations in Iraq as the Chief of Operations for the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation Mission – Iraq from May to November 2023.

Colonel Costello made an exemplary and lasting contribution to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation Mission – Iraq through extraordinary leadership and commitment to enhancing the planning and management of current operations. He significantly enhanced the safety, security and reputation of the multinational advisory force, and strengthened the reputation of Australia among the international North Atlantic Treaty Organisation coalition.

## **Commendation for Distinguished Service (CDS)**

### ***Australian Army***

#### **Lieutenant Colonel Gerald Murray McGowan**

For distinguished performance of duty in warlike operations in Iraq as the Deputy Director of Plans for Headquarters Combined Joint Task Force – Operation INHERENT RESOLVE and as the Deputy Commander of the Australian Contingent from August 2022 to March 2023.

Lieutenant Colonel McGowan made an exemplary and lasting contribution to Operation INHERENT RESOLVE through extraordinary commitment to improving the operational campaign plan and the welfare of the Australian Contingent. He reinvigorated the unity of international stakeholders directly contributing to ongoing coalition commitment, and significantly strengthened Australia's reputation among the coalition.

## **Conspicuous Service Cross (CSC)**

***Royal Australian Navy***

**Warrant Officer Phillip John Durnan CSM**

For outstanding devotion to duty as the Command Warrant Officer HMAS *Coonawarra*.

Warrant Officer Durnan, through devotion to duty and extraordinary professionalism and leadership, delivered outstanding support to the base and to operational units. He optimised infrastructure development that has produced capability outcomes in support of current operations and provided a strong foundation for future Navy, and indeed Defence, capability in the North.

## **Conspicuous Service Cross (CSC)**

***Royal Australian Navy***

**Commander Nikola Celeste-Marie Ford RAN**

For outstanding achievement as the Maritime Logistics Officer in HMAS *Adelaide*.

Commander Ford provided exceptional and progressive logistical support during Operation TONGA ASSIST 2022 that enabled a sustainable Indo-Pacific Endeavour 2022 deployment and significantly contributed to international diplomacy and regional engagement. Her outstanding social mastery and leadership contributed to enhanced sustainment at the task group level while progressing enduring platform and personnel development in HMAS *Adelaide*.

## **Conspicuous Service Cross (CSC)**

***Royal Australian Navy***

**Warrant Officer Stuart Noel Hammond**

For outstanding devotion to duty in the field of catering services especially in training and policy development.

Warrant Officer Hammond's commitment and professionalism have significantly enhanced the full spectrum of Catering and Hospitality Services across the Australian Defence Force. He continually demonstrated drive and innovation to improve the standard and level of Defence Force catering through improvements in training and doctrine. He used his operational experience, innovation, technical mastery and his maritime mastery to identify and implement cost effective changes that will have a positive long lasting impact on the Australian Defence Force.

## **Conspicuous Service Cross (CSC)**

***Royal Australian Navy***

**Captain Matthew Dean Hoffman RAN**

For outstanding devotion to duty as Director Undersea and Information Warfare Workforce Development.

Captain Matthew Hoffman demonstrated outstanding devotion to duty as Navy's submarine workforce planner. His efforts, together with his dedication to excellence across several key appointments, were central to the sustainable growth of Navy's Collins Class submarine workforce. His leadership in support of the Nuclear Powered Submarine Task Force, working on the most complex of analytical tasks under incredibly compressed timeframes, has also contributed to the workforce foundation for Australia's future nuclear powered submarine capability.



## **Conspicuous Service Cross (CSC)**

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

#### **Principal Chaplain Andrew John Lewis RAN**

For outstanding devotion to duty as the Director General Chaplaincy – Navy.

Principal Chaplain Lewis demonstrated outstanding leadership, professionalism and dedication as Director General Chaplaincy – Navy. Through inspirational leadership he developed and ensured an agile and innovative chaplaincy capability to meet the diverse religious and spiritual needs of the Australian Defence Force. He provided outstanding representation for the Navy on multiple committees and Boards.

## **Conspicuous Service Cross (CSC)**

***Royal Australian Navy***

**Captain Antony Dionisio Pisani RAN**

For outstanding achievement in the field of Navy Capability.

Captain Pisani demonstrated outstanding leadership in the development of Navy's future surface combatant force both in the sponsorship and management of requirements for the Hunter Class Frigate and the General Purpose Frigate. He was integral to the policy development of Navy's enhanced lethality surface combatant force. His strategic acumen and collaboration across the Department and Government contributed to ensuring Navy's future surface combatant fleet will meet the strategic needs of Australia.

## **Conspicuous Service Cross (CSC)**

***Royal Australian Navy***

**Commander Matthew Eric Ryall RAN**

For outstanding achievement as the Commander Australian Contingent for Operation MANITOU from January 2023 to January 2024.

Commander Ryall has made an exceptional contribution to promoting security, stability, and prosperity in the Middle East and East Africa regions through his command of the Australian Defence Force's contribution to Combined Maritime Forces. He is an exceptional officer, displaying inspirational leadership, unwavering composure, and outstanding strategic acumen in an extremely complex, turbulent, and dynamic operational environment.

## **Conspicuous Service Cross (CSC)**

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

#### **Leading Seaman Ernesto De Joya Sanchez Jr**

For outstanding achievement in imagery and public affairs over multiple regional presence deployments in HMAS *Arunta*, *Ballarat*, *Supply*, and *Toowoomba* from 2020 to 2023.

Leading Seaman Sanchez portfolio's of public affairs products has delivered tangible effects in support of fostering improved relationships with regional partners and improving Australian public awareness of the Australian Defence Force's Indo-Pacific operations. His sustained excellence over this prolonged period has left an enduring visual legacy of the Royal Australian Navy's commitment to regional security initiatives.

## **Conspicuous Service Cross (CSC)**

***Royal Australian Navy***

**Commodore Nigel Justin Smith RAN**

For outstanding achievement as the Director General Guided Weapons and Explosive Ordnance Enterprise Task Force and the Director General Manufacturing Development.

Commodore Smith has consistently demonstrated outstanding adaptive thinking in grappling with the complexity, scale and ambiguity of the unprecedented task of establishing a whole of nation Guided Weapons Explosive Ordnance Enterprise. His outstanding leadership, commitment, technical expertise and judgement have delivered multiple detailed plans, establishing guided weapons manufacturing in Australia in a highly compressed timeframe.

## **Conspicuous Service Cross (CSC)**

***Royal Australian Navy***

**Commander Calvin Lindsey Timms RAN**

For outstanding achievement as the Commanding Officer HMAS *Waller* on Operation VIGILANCE from June to September 2023.

Commander Timms led Waller with outstanding tenacity during the conduct of independent theatre operations in South East Asia during Submarine Deployment 01/2023. Demonstrating exemplary skill and commitment to his task and crew, he ensured Waller's achievements exceeded strategic and operational expectations over the course of the deployment. His outstanding leadership, decisive decision-making and devotion to duty in demanding operational circumstances has seen Australia contribute significantly to allied understanding of the Indo-Pacific region.

## **Conspicuous Service Cross (CSC)**

### ***Australian Army***

#### **Lieutenant Colonel D**

For outstanding achievement as the Commander of Support and Response Team – Europe Rotation 5 over the period July 2023 to January 2024.

Lieutenant Colonel D has made an outstanding contribution to enhancing the operational capacity of the Armed Forces of Ukraine to defend against Russia's invasion. He led a diverse contingent of Australian Defence Force personnel to deliver \$100 million in donated Australian military aid over the period July 2023 to January 2024. Lieutenant Colonel D is an exceptional officer, having displayed inspirational leadership, meticulous planning, and assiduous dedication in a complex and dynamic operational environment.

## **Conspicuous Service Cross (CSC)**

### ***Australian Army***

**Colonel Jacqueline Louise Costello**

For outstanding achievement in the health field as Staff Officer Grade One Psychology and the Senior Health Officer within Headquarters Forces Command.

Colonel Jacqueline Costello transformed Army's Pulse organisational climate survey from a small scale and manual process into a digital climate surveillance system that enables long term trend analysis and supports timely strategic workforce interventions. Her contributions to Army's human performance initiatives have been significant and she has been dedicated in her pursuit of Army wide outcomes through the Run Army Training Program, Human Performance Optimisation Advisory Board, and through her management of Forces Command's human performance research activities.



## **Conspicuous Service Cross (CSC)**

### ***Australian Army***

**Lieutenant Colonel Susana Fernandez**

For outstanding achievement as Commander Joint Task Unit 629.1.1 during Operation NSW FLOOD ASSIST 2021-1 and Operation FLOOD ASSIST 2022-1 from March 2021 to March 2023.

Lieutenant Colonel Fernandez demonstrated superior command and inspirational leadership during multiple national emergencies. Her superior leadership enabled highly effective support to disaster effected communities in the New South Wales Mid North Coast in 2021 and the Northern Rivers Region of New South Wales in 2022 during two periods of national crisis, enhancing the reputation of the Australian Defence Force.

## **Conspicuous Service Cross (CSC)**

### ***Australian Army***

**Lieutenant Colonel Hugh Michael Grogan**

For outstanding achievement in enhancing Australian Defence Force preparedness planning and governance.

Lieutenant Colonel Grogan, through outstanding leadership, initiative, strategic acumen and dedication to achieving outcomes has implemented significant practical improvements to Defence's preparedness system. The advances to the Defence preparedness system enable the Government objectives outlined in the Defence Strategic Review to be delivered and have included development of the Strategic Materiel Reserves framework

## **Conspicuous Service Cross (CSC)**

### ***Australian Army***

#### **Brigadier Damian John Hill AM**

For outstanding achievement as the Director General Joint Collective Training, Headquarters Joint Operations Command.

Brigadier Hill achieved outstanding results in the design and conduct of joint, combined and multi-agency training programs. Australia's reputation with contributing nations has been significantly enhanced through the development of a modern joint collective training program which establishes a sophisticated collective training cycle, directly contributing to preparing and testing joint contingency forces. This new system will have a lasting impact on the Australian Defence Force's operational capability.

## **Conspicuous Service Cross (CSC)**

### ***Australian Army***

#### **Brigadier Nerolie Irene McDonald**

For outstanding devotion to duty as Director General Pacific and Timor-Leste.

Brigadier McDonald's outstanding leadership and dedication to duty played a pivotal role in shaping, coordinating and leading Australia's defence engagement in the Pacific and Timor-Leste. Her selfless devotion, superior interpersonal skills and astute management of the Defence Cooperation Program have significantly advanced Australia's relationships in the region. Brigadier McDonald's achievements, including the management of an integrated workforce, represents the best traditions of the Australian Defence Force and her commitment to One Defence serves as an inspirational example.

## **Conspicuous Service Cross (CSC)**

***Royal Australian Air Force***

**Group Captain James William Blagg**

For outstanding achievement in Australian Defence Force air capability sustainment contracting.

Group Captain Blagg's outstanding leadership and deft negotiation skills were crucial to the successful implementation of contracted P-8A Poseidon and MQ-4 Triton sustainment activities. A detailed analysis, novel approach and superb stakeholder engagement delivered Through Life Support agreements resulting in outstanding commercial and operational outcomes for Defence. An officer possessing outstanding commercial acumen, Group Captain Blagg's outcomes have delivered significant organisational improvements within a complex commercial and operational environment.

## **Conspicuous Service Cross (CSC)**

***Royal Australian Air Force***

**Air Commodore Anthony Phillip Jones (Retd)**

For outstanding achievement in the Australian Defence Force as Director of the Indonesia Safety and Airworthiness Program.

Air Commodore Jones has made a profound contribution to Defence and Australia's bilateral relationship with Indonesia. Through applied inspirational leadership, exceptional professionalism, outstanding skill, perseverance and sharing of experience over an extended period of time, this has ably assisted a strategic neighbour and enhanced the reputation of the Australian Defence Force.

## **Conspicuous Service Cross (CSC)**

***Royal Australian Air Force***

**Group Captain Darrell Robert May**

For outstanding achievement in space operations in Joint Capabilities Group.

Group Captain May, as the Director Space Operations from 2022 to 2024, was responsible for coordinating Space Command's contribution to Joint Operations Command through the provision of space services to the integrated force. His innovation, determination and foresight were critical to the successful development of the Joint Force Space Component. His vision, tireless work and tremendous ability to generate international space relationships and associated operational processes were essential to realising the Australian Defence Force's Joint Force Space Component.

## **Conspicuous Service Cross (CSC)**

***Royal Australian Air Force***

**Wing Commander Lachlan James Melville**

For outstanding achievement in leading and managing Australian Defence Force acquisition of Integrated Air and Missile Defence capabilities.

Wing Commander Melville's leadership and expertise has progressed Australian Integrated Air and Missile Defence capability projects with the highest level of project management complexity, under complex and challenging circumstances. Through his outcomes, a Competitive Evaluation Process has been developed, that has become the benchmark for industry to work with Defence during the early stages of acquiring military capability.



## **Conspicuous Service Cross (CSC)**

***Royal Australian Air Force***

**Wing Commander Jamie Robertson Minor**

For outstanding achievement in Australian Defence Force Air Operations planning for Operations BEECH, CARNELIAN and SOUTHERN DISCOVERY from January 2022 to December 2023.

Wing Commander Minor is an exceptional officer who has demonstrated outstanding leadership, professional mastery, and dedication to consistently deliver outstanding plans and execution of Australian operations in response to global crises. He was instrumental in the development and conduct of the evacuation of 57 Australians and 96 foreign nationals from Sudan for Operation CARNELIAN, and underpinned the development of plans to successfully evacuate 384 personnel from Israel for Operation BEECH following the Hamas attacks of October 2023.

## **Conspicuous Service Cross (CSC)**

***Royal Australian Air Force***

**Wing Commander Benjamin David Sawley**

For outstanding achievement as Commanding Officer Number 1 Flying Training School, Royal Australian Air Force.

Wing Commander Sawley is a remarkable and dedicated officer who provided superior leadership as Commanding Officer Number 1 Flying Training School. As a result of transforming the pilot training system to meet Defence Force Strategic requirements, this significantly increased the Number 1 Flying Training School throughput and graduation rates at a time of strategic need. An exemplary officer of immense skill, Wing Commander Sawley's selfless determination has significantly changed culture and contributed to the success of Australian Defence Force pilot training.

## **Conspicuous Service Cross (CSC)**

***Royal Australian Air Force***

**Flight Lieutenant Matthew Robert Thurling**

For outstanding achievement as the Aeronautical Life Support Mustering Capability Advisor in delivering a transformational change program to create an effective Tri-Service Life Support capability.

Flight Lieutenant Thurling's expertise, skill, dedication and depth of understanding of aviation capability requirements have enabled him to successfully address significant, long standing Aeronautical Life Support workforce shortages, and ensured mustering was appropriately postured to deliver effective and enduring capability across all three Services. His efforts and steadfast commitment have significantly enhanced Aeronautical Life Support capability outcomes for the Australian Defence Force.

## **Conspicuous Service Cross (CSC)**

***Royal Australian Air Force***

**Wing Commander Janine Frances Tillott**

For outstanding achievement implementing Gender in Military Operations reform for the Royal Australian Air Force.

Wing Commander Tillott's remarkable initiative, tenacity and skill were crucial in her role as Command Gender Advisor in Headquarters Air Command to deliver Gender in Military Operations reform for the Royal Australian Air Force. Her marvellous contribution has left a defining legacy with enduring benefits across Defence while elevating Australia's reputation for leadership in this field internationally.

## **Conspicuous Service Cross (CSC)**

***Royal Australian Air Force***

**Group Captain David Trevor Torrington**

For outstanding achievement in the development and execution of C-27J Spartan operations for the Australian Defence Force.

Group Captain Torrington applied exceptional vision, initiative and leadership to achieve significant operational enhancements for the C-27J Spartan platform. These efforts generated an increased aircraft availability and expansion of operational capabilities, in combination with an enhanced aircrew training continuum. As a result these outstanding achievements subsequently supported the development of a regional air mobility presence, incorporating an enduring program of rotational C-27J Spartan deployments to strengthen defence partnerships within the Pacific region.

## **Conspicuous Service Cross (CSC)**

***Royal Australian Air Force***

**Squadron Leader James Alexander Wheeler**

For outstanding achievement in enhancing F-35 survivability and F-35 Mission Data collaboration for the Royal Australian Air Force and F-35 Program nations.

Squadron Leader Wheeler is an extraordinary officer who displayed conspicuous, selfless dedication and remarkable influence as the Australia, Canada, and United Kingdom Reprogramming Laboratory Operations Flight Commander. Leveraging exceptional interpersonal and leadership skills, superior foresight and technical competence, Squadron Leader Wheeler deepened Australia's relationship with the United States Air Force and F-35 partners, and through decisive personal efforts enhanced F-35 survivability and lethality.

## **Bar to the Conspicuous Service Medal (CSM and Bar)**

***Royal Australian Navy***

**Warrant Officer Mark Daniel Verhoeven CSM**

For meritorious achievement in construction engineering and shipbuilding within the Royal Australian Navy Offshore Patrol Vessel Program.

Warrant Officer Verhoeven has demonstrated meritorious dedication and technical mastery to the Naval Construction Branch and SEA1180 Offshore Patrol Vessel Program. His leadership, perseverance and meritorious service led to the remediation of a safety critical deficiency and the enhancement of maritime capability for the Arafura Class Offshore Patrol Vessels. Demonstrating superior skill during challenging, diverse and demanding situations, his efforts will have enduring benefits for the Royal Australian Navy's future capabilities.

## **Conspicuous Service Medal (CSM)**

***Royal Australian Navy***  
**Leading Seaman L**

For meritorious achievement in the provision of Geospatial-Intelligence support to operational design and review of Australian Defence Force joint operations.

Leading Seaman L's extraordinary commitment to Geospatial-Intelligence support directly contributed to the enhancement of Australian Defence Force operations in the Indo-Pacific Region. During the operational design and review of Operation SAVILLE and two future Australian Defence Force joint operations, conscientious application of intelligence expertise significantly contributed to strengthening joint operations decision making and operational response control measures



## **Conspicuous Service Medal (CSM)**

***Royal Australian Navy***

**Lieutenant Commander Dean James Dvornicich RAN**

For meritorious achievement as the Marine Engineer Officer HMAS *Supply*.

Lieutenant Commander Dvornicich demonstrated superior technical mastery, leadership and professional acumen as the Marine Engineer Officer in the Auxiliary Oiler Replenishment ship HMAS *Supply*. His steadfast leadership and technical expertise in the face of unrelenting material challenges made a decisive contribution to maintaining the ship's capability in order to achieve its mission, positively reinforcing the Navy's reputation with our international partners.

## **Conspicuous Service Medal (CSM)**

***Royal Australian Navy***

**Petty Officer Mark James Leach**

For meritorious devotion to duty while deployed on operations in HMAS *Farncomb*.

Petty Officer Leach is a Senior Sailor of outstanding leadership qualities and courage. Displaying a humanistic and professional approach to his duties as Sonar Manager in HMAS *Farncomb* while deployed on operations, he selflessly risked his own well-being in assisting a fellow crew member who had washed overboard. Taking decisive action, he entered the water and ensured his shipmate's safety from significant safety hazards. Following the incident, he employed confidence and humour in reassuring all involved crew members, supporting the submarine's ongoing operations.

## **Conspicuous Service Medal (CSM)**

***Royal Australian Navy***

**Leading Seaman Katherine Maree Lyon**

For meritorious devotion to duty in the field of Fleet Engineering administration.

Leading Seaman Lyon applied professional and social mastery skills in contributing to the coordination of Navy Officers and Senior Sailors as they progress through the engineering charge continuum. Additionally, her leadership during Navy Engineering Community Engagements and her personal mentoring of Junior Sailors, demonstrated her commitment to fostering growth in the number of technically qualified and experienced Personnel, thereby enhancing Navy's operational readiness.

## **Conspicuous Service Medal (CSM)**

***Royal Australian Navy***

**Chief Petty Officer Michael Brendon Nowill**

For meritorious devotion to duty as an Aviation Technician within the Fleet Air Arm.

Chief Petty Officer Nowill contributed to the capability of the Fleet Air Arm and the Navy through the application of his professional and technical mastery, leadership and mentoring. His initiative and devotion to duty have been instrumental in the development of the Fleet Air Arm Defence processes, procedures and the growth and retention of aspiring Aviation Maintenance Technicians and Aerospace Engineers.

## **Conspicuous Service Medal (CSM)**

***Royal Australian Navy***

**Chief Petty Officer Matthew Lee Ostrowski**

For meritorious achievement in support of the Collins Class Submarines.

Chief Ostrowski's contribution to rectify the contamination of heavy metals in potable water has removed the need for the Collins Class Submarines to store bottled water to provide safe drinking water at sea. The rectification of the system will save countless hours of ongoing maintenance work along with the associated high financial outlays. His drive, determination, and innovation led to the identification and implementation of a relatively simple solution to what had been an enduring and perplexing issue in the Collins Class Submarines.

## **Conspicuous Service Medal (CSM)**

***Australian Army***  
**Corporal L**

For meritorious achievement in the development of Standard Operating Procedures and Training Laboratories in support of the Integrated Battlefield Telecommunications Network Release Three.

Corporal L has demonstrated unwavering dedication to the Australian Defence Force. He has exhibited excellent technical understanding of strategic and tactical elements that significantly surpass his rank and experience. His efforts in addressing training deficiencies and developing training and policy material has significantly improved the integration of telecommunications technology and enhanced the provision of communications across tactical and strategic elements of the Australian Defence Force.

## **Conspicuous Service Medal (CSM)**

***Australian Army***  
**Craftsman N**

For meritorious achievement in the application of remarkable judgment in non-warlike situations as a Heavy Marine Maintainer within the 2nd Commando Regiment.

Craftsman N demonstrated a superior level of dedication to duty and technical mastery during 2024 in his meritorious achievements as a Heavy Marine Maintainer within the 2nd Commando Regiment's Technical Support Platoon. Craftsman N displayed remarkable initiative in maintaining specialist Special Force marine equipment and boats through his achievements in identifying and rectifying significant faults in material readiness. He has enhanced the capability of Special Operations Command and the Australian Army.

## **Conspicuous Service Medal (CSM)**

### ***Australian Army***

#### **Major Drew Warwick Burkitt**

For meritorious achievement as the Detachment Commander Task Unit Chinook during Operation BUSHFIRE ASSIST 2019/20 from January to February 2020.

Major Burkitt has enhanced the Australia Defence Forces reputation within Australia and internationally through his exemplary leadership and command of Task Unit Chinook during Operation BUSHFIRE ASSIST 2019/20. His command ability ensured rapid deployment of Task Unit Chinook, seamless integration of international forces and sustained safe and effective aviation operations in response to the bushfire crisis in Victoria, South Australia and New South Wales.



## **Conspicuous Service Medal (CSM)**

***Australian Army***

**Major Cameron Steven Dunne**

For meritorious devotion to duty as the 5th Aviation Regiment CH-47F Chinook helicopter Qualified Flying Instructor.

Major Dunne's exemplary professionalism and devotion to duty have been crucial to the development and deployability of the Australian Army's CH-47F Chinook helicopter capability. Through rare determination, inspirational leadership and sustained commitment he has ensured the 5th Aviation Regiment has been able to successfully respond to eight major domestic and regional disaster response missions over four years.

## **Conspicuous Service Medal (CSM)**

### ***Australian Army***

#### **Warrant Officer Class One Susan Louise Gallacher**

For meritorious devotion to duty in providing transition support to Army's people and their families transitioning from Defence as an Army Transition Warrant Officer.

Warrant Officer Class One Gallacher's meritorious devotion to duty over the last eight years has been commendable. Her compassion, empathy and understanding in tailoring the right transition support, and ensuring it is a natural part of the service journey, has had a direct and positive effect, and better prepared Army's veterans and their families transitioning from Defence. Warrant Officer Gallacher's devotion to duty is in keeping with the finest traditions of the Australian Army and the Australian Defence Force.

## **Conspicuous Service Medal (CSM)**

### ***Australian Army***

#### **Warrant Officer Class One Daniel Johnathan Heller**

For meritorious achievement as the Tier A, Aircrew Employment Category Manager of the Army Aviation Training Centre.

Warrant Officer Class One Heller has displayed exemplary initiative and commitment to make a conspicuous contribution to Army aviation employment category management and Aircrew trade capability generation and monitoring. His personal enthusiasm, perseverance, applied intellect and critical thinking skills have directly contributed to the long-term enhanced performance of the Army Aviation personnel system. His significant and meritorious achievement is in keeping with the highest professional, ethical and leadership standards of the Australian Army.

## **Conspicuous Service Medal (CSM)**

### ***Australian Army***

#### **Warrant Officer Class One Craig Allan Hodge**

For meritorious achievement as Training Warrant Officer and Acting Regimental Sergeant Major of the 12th/40th Battalion, the Royal Tasmania Regiment.

Warrant Officer Hodge demonstrated his professionalism and unwavering dedication in the generation of operational capability from the 12th/40th Battalion, the Royal Tasmania Regiment. His exemplary efforts as the Training Warrant Officer and acting Regimental Sergeant Major during the COVID-19 pandemic in increasing Navy, Army and Air Force personnel capability and qualifications will continue to yield significant results across the Australian Defence Force.

## **Conspicuous Service Medal (CSM)**

### ***Australian Army***

**Captain Natasha Pauline Kirkham**

For meritorious achievement in leadership and strategic engagement while serving as Troop Commander 127th Signal Troop, 1st Signal Regiment.

Captain Kirkham made a meritorious contribution to Australia and its strategic interests through her remarkable leadership of communications infrastructure projects in the South-West Pacific. Her tireless commitment to planning and remarkable interpersonal skills led to several successful deployments in 2023, and set conditions for future project objectives. Her meritorious achievements enhanced Australia's relationship with its Pacific partners.

## **Conspicuous Service Medal (CSM)**

### ***Australian Army***

#### **Warrant Officer Class Two Andrei Andreyevich Mazourenko**

For meritorious achievement as the senior Direct Fire Support Weapons tactician at the School of Infantry, and as a Company Sergeant Major and Operations Warrant Officer at the 2nd Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment.

Warrant Officer Class Two Mazourenko displayed superior commitment to enhancing operational capability and reputation across multiple appointments. His personal contribution to the enhancement of capability through meritorious training design and management has directly underpinned the successful integration of new direct fire support weapon capabilities into the Australian Infantry and ensured the operational readiness and employability of Joint Pre-Landing Force and Australian Defence contingency force elements.

## **Conspicuous Service Medal (CSM)**

### ***Australian Army***

#### **Warrant Officer Class One Lance Ivan Peterson**

For meritorious achievement as a senior Warrant Officer and Employment Category Manager in the Groundcrew Mission Support trade in the Australian Army.

Warrant Officer Class One Peterson has served Army's aviation capability with visionary trade leadership, excellent technical skill and exemplary commitment. He has made a significant and lasting contribution to the modernisation and enhancement of the Groundcrew Mission Support trade and the quality of trade training standards, and in doing so has significantly improved aviation mission readiness. His achievements are in keeping with the highest professional, ethical and leadership standards of the Australian Army.

## **Conspicuous Service Medal (CSM)**

### ***Australian Army***

#### **Warrant Officer Class One Shane Robert Smith**

For meritorious achievement to the Australian Defence Force in the development and delivery of a framework for armoured vehicle training.

Warrant Officer Class One Smith has made an exemplary contribution through his leadership of Boxer Combat Reconnaissance Vehicle training policy and doctrine development, the development and delivery of crew training, together with the provision of specialist technical support. He is a remarkable Warrant Officer displaying significant professional excellence, inspirational leadership and initiative, and exemplary dedication to duty in delivering a key armoured vehicle capability into the Australian Army.



## **Conspicuous Service Medal (CSM)**

***Australian Army***

**Major Katelyn Clare Thorne**

For meritorious achievement in streamlining operational reporting, systems administration and governance for the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation on Operation PALADIN from July 2022 to July 2023.

Major Thorne is an exceptional officer who made a conspicuous contribution by removing redundant forms and duplicate operational reporting in an international operational environment to the benefit of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation. Displaying the ability to identify a problem, develop a solution and implement a change management strategy resulting in immediate operational reporting to Headquarters United Nations. Pivotal in improving Operation PALADIN administrative systems and better value for money accommodation for the Australian Defence Force.

## **Conspicuous Service Medal (CSM)**

***Royal Australian Air Force***

**Warrant Officer Rita Diana Coles**

For meritorious achievement as the Senior Air Operations and Air Force Liaison Officer, Defence Cooperation Program, Papua New Guinea.

Warrant Officer Coles' through expert technical skills and superior leadership enabled tactical and strategic objectives to be achieved in the air domain, whilst building the Papua New Guinea ground support capability from inception. Through an unwavering approach and a focus on the people of Papua New Guinea, significant operational achievements by the Royal Australian Air Force have been enabled, strengthening the Defence and Government relationship between Australia and Papua New Guinea.

## **Conspicuous Service Medal (CSM)**

***Royal Australian Air Force***

**Squadron Leader Luke Daniel Georgeson**

For meritorious achievement in modernising the Royal Australian Air Force Tactical Air Control Party, making significant contributions to evolving Air Force command and control capabilities and enhancing air land integration with the Australian Army.

Squadron Leader Georgeson is an impressive Officer whose conspicuous performance as the 7th Brigade Air Liaison Officer significantly enhanced Air Force's reputation as a key joint force contributor and delivered lasting benefits for the command and control of air power. Squadron Leader Georgeson led a successful transformation of the Tactical Air Control Party into a contemporary, resilient and highly effective air-land integration capability.

## **Conspicuous Service Medal (CSM)**

***Royal Australian Air Force***

**Flight Sergeant Peter John Greentree**

For meritorious achievement in the application of exceptional skills, judgment and dedication as an Aircraft Technician and Maintenance Executive at Number 36 Squadron.

Flight Sergeant Greentree's conspicuous leadership, agility and resourcefulness significantly improved the maintenance safety systems, regulatory compliance and human performance optimisation for the Number 36 Squadron technical workforce. This exemplary performance has generated remarkable efficiencies that have enhanced C-17A readiness and responsiveness to achieve mission objectives for the Australian Defence Force.

## **Conspicuous Service Medal (CSM)**

***Royal Australian Air Force***

**Squadron Leader Ryan John Milsop**

For meritorious achievement as the Australian Liaison Officer at the United Arab Emirates Air Force Air Warfare Centre, located at Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates.

Squadron Leader Milsop is an aviator of excellent quality who made a conspicuous contribution as Australia Liaison Officer to the United Arab Emirates Air Force through applied dedication and achievement. Incisive leadership and initiative, resulted in improvements to the quality of training, and demonstrating superior acumen, delivered this training to a multinational audience, significantly raising the reputation of the Royal Australian Air Force while strengthening a key strategic partnership with the United Arab Emirates.

## **Conspicuous Service Medal (CSM)**

***Royal Australian Air Force***

**Wing Commander Brad Anthony Sheldon**

For meritorious achievement in the development of the cyber-warfare workforce and the cyber-warfare capability of the Australian Defence Force.

Wing Commander Sheldon's intellectual leadership has been a driving force in developing Defence's cyber-warfare capability. Through remarkable vision in the development of operational concepts, force structures and partnerships, Defence is able to scale evolving cyber-warfare capabilities rapidly, and significantly enhances the cyber-warfare contribution to the integrated force. Based on a shared joint foundation, the Cyber Professional Framework is now recognised across government, industry and with key international partners.

## **Conspicuous Service Medal (CSM)**

***Royal Australian Air Force***

**Corporal Simon Edward Tapply**

For meritorious achievement in the enhancement of adversary tactics analysis within the Royal Australian Air Force.

Corporal Tapply's initiative and technical acumen have transformed the Australian Tactics and Adversary Studies Element. These efforts have addressed a critical workflow gap as well as exploited new datasets to analyse adversary tactics, have considerably improved the team's efficiency, reduced training complexity, and significantly elevated the quality of intelligence outputs. This unwavering dedication to excellence exemplifies the highest standards of service and has considerably enhanced the Royal Australian Air Force's understanding of key threat actors.