



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

Aerospace Operational Support Group



RAAF Base, EDINBURGH SA 5111, AUSTRALIA

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CDR AOSG 23/11
AOSG/OUT/2011/

Mr David Kerr
State President
The Naval Association of Australia
13 Sutherland Avenue
SEMAPHORE PARK SA 5019

Dear David

APPOINTMENT OF AIR COMMODORE NOEL DERWORT CSC – COMMANDER AEROSPACE OPERATIONAL SUPPORT GROUP

I am writing to inform you that I am departing the position of Commander Aerospace Operational Support Group, Senior Defence Force Representative – South Australia and Senior Australian Defence Force Officer – Edinburgh on posting overseas in June 2011.

It has been a challenging time for Aerospace Operational Support Group (AOSG) and RAAF Base Edinburgh during my tenure with the works associated with the re-location of 7RAR, increased emphasis on Information Warfare and Intelligence products, ongoing flight test requirements and of course the work to upgrade the range at Woomera. AP3C Orions continue to support operations in the Middle East and our Northern waters, JINDALEE radar remains the eyes over our northern approaches, and the Air Base continues to expand in function and modernise. It has been incredibly rewarding for me personally and for all the staff at RAAF Edinburgh. Perhaps most satisfying is that the position of Commander AOSG has been upgraded to Air Commodore rank reflecting the importance and responsibility of the position as a critical part of capability in Air Force and Defence.

From 11 May 2011, my replacement, Air Commodore Noel Derwort, CSC will be posted into the position of Commander Aerospace Operational Support Group and will commence the representational duties of Senior Defence Force Representative – South Australia and Senior Australian Defence Force Officer – Edinburgh. The biography of Air Commodore Noel Derwort is enclosed for your information.

It has been a true privilege and an honour to command AOSG and represent both CDF and CAF as the senior Defence and Air Force representative in South Australia. The opportunity to work closely with members of Federal and State Government, local councils, Defence support organisations and other organisations in South Australia has been fantastic. Both Linda and I feel privileged to have met, and worked with, so many incredible people both professionally and socially. Whilst I recognise that Defence makes a significant contribution to South Australia, it would not be possible, nor desirable, to do so without SA being a great place to operate and live. This is primarily as a result of the people who make it all happen.

Air Commodore Noel Derwort, CSC

Air Commodore Noel Derwort will assume command of Aerospace Operational Support Group on promotion in May 2011. Immediately prior to his posting to AOSG he was the Director of the KC-30A Transition Team. Taking on this role in December 2006 he was responsible to Chief of Air Force, through CDR ALG for all aspects of the introduction of the KC-30A into operational service with the RAAF. AIRCDRE Derwort was also specifically appointed as the Operational Airworthiness Authority Representative (Acquisition) and Training Authority for the KC-30A.

Air Commodore Derwort was born in Perth in 1967. He completed his schooling in Perth prior to joining the RAAF in 1985 on No 137 Pilots Course. He graduated from Defence and Strategic Studies Course in 2006, including completion of a Master of Arts (Strategic Studies). He has also completed RAAF Command and Staff College where he completed a Master of Defence Studies.

His experience within the RAAF includes postings to No's 37 and 34 Squadrons as well as RAAF College, No 2 Flying Training School and Central Flying School where he served as the Chief Flying Instructor. He assumed the position of Deputy Commander – Operations at Headquarters Northern Command in January 2005 and then Chief of Staff in April 2005 for the introduction of the Joint Offshore Protection Command. His other staff appointments have included Staff Officer to the Chief of Air Force and Deputy Director Rapid Mobility in Air Force Headquarters. AIRCDRE Derwort has also completed an exchange instructional posting with the United States Air Force on T-38's with the 54th Flying Training Squadron. His military flying experience exceeds 5000 hours and includes: CT4A, CT4B, MB326 Macchi, C130E, T-38, PC9A, B707, F900, CL604, B737 (BBJ) and most recently A330. He is a qualified flying instructor and examiner.

During his time at Central Flying School, AIRCDRE Derwort was awarded a Category A Qualified Flying Instructor rating, as well as performing as a low level aerobatic display pilot. He commanded 34 SQN during which time he was responsible for the introduction and transition into service the new Special Purpose Aircraft (SPA) (B737-BBJ and CL604) fleet.

He has been awarded a Conspicuous Service Cross for his role in the SPA introduction, a United States Air Force Commendation Medal and an Air Officer Commanding Training Command Commendation.

Air Commodore Derwort holds an Airline Transport Pilots License as well as a grade one civil instructor rating. He is married to Pauline and his interests include his five children, as well as cooking, regaining his fitness, restoration and renovations, reading and recently attempting golf.