



BIOGRAPHY FOR

REAR ADMIRAL R.J. GRIGGS AM CSC RAN

Rear Admiral Ray Griggs was born in Homebush NSW in 1961 and joined the Adelaide Port Division of the Royal Australian Naval Reserve in 1978. He entered the Royal Australian Naval College at HMAS CRESWELL on a short service commission in 1979. During his seaman officer training he served in the aircraft carrier HMAS MELBOURNE and HMA ships YARRA and ADVANCE before spending 12 months loaned to the Royal Navy serving in HMS JERSEY to gain his Bridge Watchkeeping Certificate. In late 1981 he was posted to HMAS PERTH as a Bridge Watchkeeper and deployed to the North West Indian Ocean in support of Australia's independent presence in that region following the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

From 1983 to 1994 the then Lieutenant Griggs completed a series of postings as Navigating Officer of HMA Ships CESSNOCK, TORRENS, TOBRUK, JERVIS BAY and PERTH.

Between his sea postings he served in a range of positions ashore. In 1984 he served as the aide-de-camp to His Excellency the Governor of Tasmania, Sir James Plimsoll, AC, CBE. In 1987 he completed specialist navigation training and in 1991 graduated as a Principal Warfare Officer. 1992 he served as the Staff Officer (Navigation) to the Commander Australian Patrol Boat Forces in Cairns. In 1994 the then Lieutenant Commander Griggs was posted as the Principal Warfare Officer's career manager in the Directorate of Naval Officers' Postings before taking up his appointment as the commissioning Executive Officer of HMAS ANZAC in mid 1995.

On promotion to Commander in mid 1997 he was posted as the Deputy Director Military Strategy and the Director of Future Warfare in the Australian Defence Headquarters. In 2000 he conducted a major review into the RAN's readiness measurement system, MONICAR, prior to returning to the Directorate of Naval Officers' Postings as the Assistant Director, Junior Officers' Postings.

In October 2001 he assumed command of HMAS ARUNTA and was immediately involved in border protection duties as part of Operation RELEX. In 2002 ARUNTA deployed to the Persian Gulf to enforce United Nations sanctions against Iraq and in support of the War on Terror. The ship served with distinction during this period and was recognized for her efforts by being awarded the Duke of Gloucester's Cup for being the most operationally efficient ship in the RAN fleet for 2002.

He was promoted to Captain in January 2003 and that same month was posted as the ANZAC class Capability Element Manager in Rockingham, Western Australia. In 2004 he studied at the National War College in Washington D.C. prior to assuming command of the Australian Amphibious Task Group in mid 2005. He was promoted to Commodore in February 2006 and appointed as the Deputy Maritime (Fleet) Commander until assuming the position of Director General Navy Strategic Policy and Futures in Navy Headquarters in September 2007. In February 2008 he was seconded to the Defence White Paper team where he led the development of the Force Structure Review that provided the force structure underpinning the 2009 Defence White Paper. In early 2009 he attended the UK Higher Command and Staff Course and in June was promoted to Rear Admiral and appointed to his current role as Deputy Head Strategic Reform and Governance.

Rear Admiral Griggs was awarded the Conspicuous Service Cross in 1997, a Commendation for Distinguished Service in 2003 for his work in the Persian Gulf and appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia in 2009. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Queensland, a Master of Business Administration from the National Graduate School of Management at the Australian National University and a Master of Science (National Security Strategy) from the National Defense University in Washington D.C. He is married with two children.