

Bio – Wing Commander Mike Oram

Wing Commander Mike Oram joined the Air Force in 1979 as an Air Traffic Control Officer. Several postings in South Eastern Australia, including a period as the Air Traffic Control Instructor at No 1 Flying Training School (1FTS) at Point Cook, followed. A highlight of this period was a tour of duty with the Multinational Force and Observers in the Sinai Desert. In 1987 Wing Commander Oram transferred to Army Aviation, and following flying training at 1FTS and No 5 Squadron RAAF, was posted to 9 Squadron RAAF (subsequently 5th Aviation Regiment) to fly the Black Hawk (Where he was privileged to serve under Wing Commander [later Air Chief Marshal Sir] Angus Houston). A most enjoyable stint at Townsville was capped off by a period as a Black Hawk Troop Commander. Wing Commander Oram completed a PC9/A Flight Instructors Course in 1992, after which he was posted to the ADF Helicopter School, initially to instruct on the Basic Pilot Course and later the Helicopter Flight Instructor Course. In 1996 Wing Commander Oram returned to the RAAF and in the intervening period has served as a line pilot, Flight Commander and Commanding Officer at No 32 Squadron. (Personally significant to Mike as his Uncle, Keith McKay, spent much of his wartime service as a Navigator and Wireless Air Gunner with 32 Squadron.) The Squadron command tour was interrupted by a period of six months as Officer Commanding Air Training Wing and Senior Australian Defence Force Officer East Sale. No Air Force Pilot can entirely avoid ground tours – flying has been punctuated by staff positions at HQ Air Training Wing and HQ Training Command, and a valuable year at Command and Staff College in Canberra. After rising to the rank of Wing Commander, and facing the prospect of further promotion and a permanent departure from flying duties, Wing Commander Oram transferred to the Aircrew Specialisation Scheme, taking a voluntary reduction in rank to Flight Lieutenant, and spent several years instructing Pilots, Air Combat Officers and Naval Aviation Warfare Officers at East Sale. Unfortunately, such an enviable lifestyle could not go unnoticed forever and in early 2017 the Air Force decided it was time for Mike to dig out his old rank slides and deploy to Operation Highroad as the Deputy Senior Air Advisor to the Afghan Ministry of Defence in Kabul. A challenging but rewarding tour of duty was capped off by the award of the United States Meritorious Service Medal. Wing Commander Oram is currently working as the Safety and Operational Airworthiness Manager at Air Force Training Group.

Wing Commander Oram is a second generation Air Force pilot, his father, Johnny Oram, having been awarded the DFC and Bar for his service as a Lancaster bomber pilot during World War 2. He is married to the beautiful Carol and father to two gorgeous girls, Matilda (17) and Kate (15).

Wing Commander Oram holds a Masters degree in Management from the University of Canberra as well as numerous other aviation related academic qualifications.