

Phillip Davies (DS) was born in Ryde, NSW, on 7 July 1940 and was educated at Lithgow High School where he joined the school's Cadet Unit in 1954, rising to the rank of Under Officer and School Prefect in his final year. Phil commenced the four-year course at RMC Duntroon in 1958, reaching the rank of Under Officer in his final year and winning the Minor Tactics Prize. He was commissioned on 13 December 1961 and posted to 1 RAR. In 1963 he was posted to 3 RAR and he first saw active service in Malaysia in 1964. On return to Australia Phil was posted to the newly raised OTU on 1 April 1965 as a Temporary Captain.



The now Captain Davies returned to 1 RAR on 25 September 1967 and served in Vietnam from 27 March 1968 until 28 February 1969 as the Adjutant/Assistant Operations Officer and was involved in the battle at FSB Coral. On return to Australia Phil was promoted to Major and posted to 3 TB Singleton, where he was again instructing National Servicemen. Phil was posted as 2IC of 5/7 RAR, the battalion which was deployed to Darwin to provide Civil Aid following Cyclone Tracy on Christmas Day 1974. The following year he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, and in late 1981 promoted to Colonel which saw him posted as the final Commandant of OCS Portsea. He retired from the Army in 1992 with the rank of Brigadier and found civilian employment until retirement in January 2005. He then immersed himself in many voluntary organisations and the Duntroon Society. In recent years Phil was an irregular attendee at the Victorian Monthly RACV Club Lunches. Phil wrote: 'How fortunate was I to be selected to the staff of the initial OTU intake. Colonel Geddes was just the right man to tackle this task, with his better than the British manner and his understanding of the intake's situation! Well done to all who helped the cause at that time and have proved their character over the ensuing difficult time in Army's history. Your history is still being told as so many of you still charge on helping those you commanded. It was my good fortune to know and work with so many of you during our Vietnam years and beyond. Regards, Phil Davies.'

Phil died on 21 April 2020 following a long illness attributed to SVN service that left him with communication problems towards the end. He left behind his wife Sandra, their two daughters and a son, along with seven grandchildren. Phil will be remembered as a true officer and gentleman, professional in every way, and a real soldier's soldier. He will be sorely missed by his family, RMC classmates and all who were privileged to know him!