



VICE ADMIRAL MARK HAMMOND, RAN

CHIEF OF NAVY

BIOGRAPHY

Vice Admiral Mark Hammond, AM, RAN joined the Royal Australian Navy in 1986 as an electronics technician at HMAS Cerberus. He was commissioned as a naval officer in 1988 and is a graduate of the RAN Recruit School (1986); the Australian Defence Force Academy (1990); Australian Command and Staff College (2004); and the Centre for Defence Strategic Studies (2014).

He completed seamanship and navigation training in various ships then volunteered for submarine service. Qualifying in Oberon Class submarines in 1994, Hammond joined HMAS Collins as Navigating Officer in 1996 (during First of Class Trials), and later served as Flag Lieutenant to the Chief of Navy. He subsequently completed the Principal Warfare Officer's Course and Submarine Warfare Course in 1998, and served as the commissioning Operations Officer in HMAS Waller. In 2001 Rear Admiral Hammond instructed the Submarine Warfare Officer Course and assumed duties as Executive Officer in HMAS Sheean. In 2003 Hammond completed the Netherlands Submarine Command Course (Perisher) and the US Navy's Prospective Commanding Officer Course.

Serving as Staff Officer Future Concepts at Naval Headquarters in late 2003 he graduated from the Australian Command and Staff Course in 2004. Hammond then deployed on operations with the Royal Navy Submarine force, before assuming command of HMAS Farncomb and completing two years of demanding operations in the Indo Pacific region.

Subsequent shore postings included Assistant Naval Attaché - Washington DC, USA; Director Future Submarines - Operational Requirements; Joint Exercise Director (J75) at Joint Operations Command; Director Submarine Sub-Program (Collins and Future Submarines); and Chief of Staff to the Chief of the Defence Force, performing the latter role for General Hurley from November 2012 to December 2013.

In late 2014 Commodore Hammond was appointed as Director General Maritime Operations, exercising operational control of the Navy's ships, submarines and detachments, before relocating in 2017 to the United States for duties in the Pentagon as the Chief of Defence Force Liaison Officer to General Joseph Dunford, the Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Rear Admiral Hammond returned to Australia in March 2018 to assume duties as the Deputy Chief of Navy. On 17 November 2020 he was appointed as the Commander Australian Fleet based in Sydney and responsible for the raise, train and sustain activities for the Australian fleet.

Vice Admiral Hammond has sea experience in French, British and US nuclear attack submarines, Australian and Dutch conventional submarines, and multiple surface vessels. Academic qualifications include Bachelor of Science (UNSW, ADFA, 1991); Masters in Management (Defence Studies, UCAN, 2004); and Masters in Maritime Studies (UoW, 2005).

Vice Admiral Hammond assumed command of the Royal Australian Navy on 6 July 2022.

In 2009, Mr Beazley was awarded the Companion of the Order of Australia for service to the Parliament of Australia through contributions to the development of government policies in relation to defence and international relations, and as an advocate for Indigenous people, and to the community.