

## Air Commodore (Dr) Mark Lax OAM, CSM (Retd)

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Air Commodore Mark Lax joined the Royal Australian Air Force Academy in January 1974 and graduated dux of his class. After navigator training, he had operational, flight test and instructional tours before completing a number of staff positions. In the later years, Air Commodore Lax went on to hold a number of posts in Canberra developing higher level policy and defence strategy. These included Director General Policy and Plans in Air Force HQ, DG Military Strategy and DG Strategic Policy in the Strategy Division.

Air Commodore Lax retired from the PAF in January 2007 and for two years was managing editor of the ADF Journal. In 2008, he was appointed to the Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal until July 2015. In 2011, he completed his PhD in military history and now writes and lectures on Air Power, Strategy and Military History.

As well as the Universities of Melbourne and New South Wales, Mark is a graduate of the RAAF Academy, the Royal Air Force College Cranwell, RAAF Staff College, the USAF Air War College and a post-graduate fellow of the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.

He now considers himself a military historian and is writing the Official History of the RAAF 1972-1996 for the RAAF's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. He enjoys cricket, reading, writing and publishing on military aviation. He is also a past president of Canberra Legacy and the Australian Society of World War I Aero Historians.