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# Air Commander Australia

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## Air Vice-Marshal Gavin Turnbull - Air Commander Australia (ACAUST)

Air Vice-Marshal Turnbull is a pilot with more than 3600 flying hours on rotary wing and fast jet aircraft. He completed his basic training in 1984 and spent the next four years flying UH-1H helicopters as a member of No. 9 Squadron, Amberley. This period included a short tour with the ACMFO (peace keeping forces) based in the Sinai Desert.

Air Vice-Marshal Turnbull trained as a flying instructor in 1989, following which he instructed at the advanced flying training school (2FTS) in Pearce Western Australia. In 1991, Air Vice-Marshal Turnbull transferred to fast jets and trained on Macchi, and then F/A-18 at Williamtown NSW. Following training, he was posted to No. 75 Squadron in Tindal NT, completing a three and a half year tour as both line aircrew and as a Flight Commander. The following two years were spent in Headquarters Air Command as part of the planning cell, where he was responsible for the planning of fast jet major exercises and international deployments.

Air Vice-Marshal Turnbull was next posted to Executive Officer No. 77 Squadron (F/A-18) in 1998, where he remained for 18 months prior to completing Navy Command and Staff Course (Sydney) in the latter half of 1999. He then returned to Williamtown in 2000 into the Capability Management and Development role within Headquarters Tactical Fighter Group (later reformed into Air Combat Group).

Air Vice-Marshal Turnbull was appointed to Command No. 77 Squadron (F/A-18) in January 2002, and remained in Command until December 2004, followed by appointment as Director, Airworthiness Coordination and Policy Agency (DACPA-ADF), responsible to the Chief of Air Force for Airworthiness Management of Australian Defence Force Aircraft and aviation systems and Airworthiness Policy development.

Air Vice-Marshal Turnbull deployed to the Middle East in March 2007 as Chief of Staff in the Australian National HQ in Baghdad serving a six-month tour; followed by appointment as Officer Commanding No. 81 Wing (F/A-18) from 1 Nov 2007. Following his command tour, Air Vice-Marshal Turnbull was appointed Director, Military Strategic Commitments in Canberra from January 2011. He deployed to

the Middle East in January 2012 completing a tour as Director, US Central Command 609th Combined Air Operations Centre. He returned to Australia May 2012 to take up appointments as Director General Air Command Operations (Headquarters Air Command) and Director General Air (Headquarters Joint Operations Command).

Air Vice-Marshal Turnbull was promoted and appointed to his current position as the Air Commander Australia (ACAUST) on 5 September 2014.

Air Vice-Marshal Turnbull is married to Jackie and has four sons and one daughter.