



Captain Patrick O'Brien, RAN

Captain O'Brien joined the RAN in 1989 as Training Systems Officer and has dual specialised as a Submariner, serving in HMA Submarines *Orion* and *Onslow* and then the Submarine School at *Platypus*. He was promoted to Lieutenant in 1993, whilst serving in *Orion*.

As a Lieutenant, Captain O'Brien was involved in the development of Maritime Warfare Officer Application Training, validation of Command Designate training for Minor War Vessels and developed the RAN Navigation Officer Competency Standards. He received a commendation in 1996 for his work on the Navigation Review.

Captain O'Brien has worked in the Mine Warfare Faculty, the Fleet Training Liaison Agency before serving in HMAS *Manoora*. He undertook service in the Persian Gulf for Operations *Catalyst* and *Falconer*, and the Solomon Islands for Operation *Anode*. He was then selected as the Officer In Charge of the Sailors' Leadership and Management Faculty, overseeing the leadership and Management training for Junior Sailors - ashore and at sea. He attended the Australian Command and Staff Course in 2006 and promoted to Commander in 2007.

With the standing up of Training Force, in Fleet Headquarters in 2009, Captain O'Brien transitioned Navy Personnel and Training Centre - East to become a new organisation - Commander Individual Training - responsible for training pipeline management across the RAN. Coming full circle, Captain O'Brien returned to the Royal Australian Naval College in 2011 as the Training Commander and Deputy Director Training Authority for Initial Training, Leadership and Management.

Captain O'Brien was appointed as the Commanding Officer of Navy Headquarters South Australia in January 2015 following a deployment to Operation *Resolute* in Headquarters Northern Command. Following his Command, he was promoted to Captain and attended the Defence Strategic Studies Course prior to a Joint posting as the Director of the Defence Education, Learning and Training Authority at the Australian Defence College in 2017. In 2020, he became the first Director Navy Training Strategy and Futures, in Navy's Training Force, prior to his current appointment in 2022 as Commandant of the ADF Training Centre.