Rear Admiral Steve Gilmore, AM, CSC, RAN
Head Australian Defence Staff (Washington)
Australian Defence Attaché
Embassy of Australia

Rear Admiral Steve Gilmore, AM, CSC, RAN joined the Royal Australian Navy as a junior entry Cadet Midshipman in 1977. Studying at the RAN College at Jervis Bay he completed secondary, tertiary and initial professional education and training prior to graduating in 1981.

After receiving his full Bridge Watchkeeping Certificate in 1983, he was posted as an Officer of the Watch in the then RAN Flagship, *HMAS STALWART (AD215)*. This was followed by service as the Executive Officer of the Cairns based Patrol Boat *HMAS TOWNSVILLE (PB205)* in 1985-1986.

On completion of the Principal Warfare Officer's (PWO) course and sub specialist training in gunnery and air warfare, Lieutenant Gilmore completed three consecutive postings at sea as PWO(A)/Operations Officer in both Australian and British warships.

From 1992-1994, Lieutenant Commander Gilmore served in Maritime Headquarters as the Fleet Gunnery Officer and as PWO(A) in the Sea Training Group. This position included considerable periods at sea overseeing unit work up and exercise activity. He was subsequently posted as the Executive Officer of the Guided Missile Frigate *HMAS MELBOURNE (FFG05)*.

Promoted to Commander in 1996, he was appointed the RAN Liaison Officer to the US Navy Doctrine Command in Norfolk, Virginia where he served in the International Cell alongside officers representing a number of navies. In this role, he participated in the development of both USN and multi national maritime doctrine.

On return to Australia, Commander Gilmore was posted to Maritime HQ as Commander Plans (N51) during 1998-1999. In this role he was involved in the planning for all ADF and RAN operations and exercises involving major fleet units. He was awarded the Conspicuous Service Cross in the 2000 Queens Birthday Honours list for his service in this position.

Commander Gilmore assumed command of the ANZAC class frigate *HMAS ARUNTA (FFH151)* in 2000. In addition to major Task Group deployments, a highlight of this period was the award of the prestigious Gloucester Cup, which recognised *ARUNTA* as the Navy's best major fleet unit in 2000.

Promoted to Captain in 2001, he attended the Defence and Strategic Studies Course at the Australian Defence College during 2002 and graduated with a Master of Arts in Strategic Studies. Captain Gilmore was appointed as the Director of Maritime Combat Development in the Capability Systems Division of Australian Defence Headquarters in December 2002. During this period he was involved in the generation of capability requirements documentation for major projects such as the Air Warfare Destroyer (DDG), Amphibious Ship (LHD), ARMIDALE class Patrol Boats and replacement underway replenishment ship.

Captain Gilmore was promoted to Commodore in January 2005 and appointed to the position of Director General Navy Strategic Policy and Futures (DGNSPF) in Navy Headquarters. Selected to command coalition Task Force 58 in the Northern Persian Gulf, Commodore Gilmore was deployed as part of Operation CATALYST between April and August 2005. With a small RAN staff, Commodore Gilmore embarked in the cruisers *USS ANTIETAM (CG54)* and *USS NORMANDY (CC60)* and was responsible for the conduct of all maritime security operations. He returned to the DGNSPF position in September 2005. Commodore Gilmore was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the 2006 Queens Birthday Honours list in recognition of his operational service as Commander Task Force 58.

Commodore Gilmore became the Commander of Navy Systems Command in September 2007 and was promoted to Rear Admiral in June 2008. In this role he commanded all Navy shore commands and was responsible for personnel posting and individual training, workplace health and safety, engineering policy and Navy communications/electronic warfare.

After a short period in the new position of Head Navy People and Reputation within Navy Strategic Command, Rear Admiral Gilmore was appointed as Commander Australian Fleet (COMAUSFLT) from October 2009 to December 2011. This role included responsibility for Navy capability generation and warfighting standards across all RAN submarines, surface ships and aircraft.

Rear Admiral Gilmore served as the Deputy Chief of Joint Operations at Headquarters Joint Operations Command near Canberra from December 2011 to November 2013. He assumed the position as the Head Australian Defence Staff (Washington) and Australian Defence Attaché at the Embassy of Australia, Washington DC, in January 2014.