

New Chief of Defence Force

The Prime Minister and Defence Minister Senator Marise Payne announced in a joint statement on 16 April 2018, the appointment of LtGen Angus Campbell AO DSC as the Chief of the Defence Force, to replace Air Chief Marshal Mark Binskin in July this year.

LtGen Campbell joined the Army in 1981 and was appointed Chief of Army in 2015. He is widely known as the Commander of the anti-people smuggling program, Operation Sovereign Borders, setup by Tony Abbott. "His guidance will be instrumental as Australia modernises its military capabilities and continues its operations both in our region and around the globe," the Prime Minister and Minister for Defence Senator Marise Payne said.

"The government extends its deepest gratitude and thanks to retiring Chief of the Defence Force ACM Binskin who has served with our nation with great distinction during a period of high operational tempo." In his four-year term, ACM Binskin has overseen Australia's contribution to the counter-Daesh coalition in the Middle East and the ADF's transition from combat operations to the current train, advise and assist mission in Afghanistan.

The government has also recommended the Governor-General appoint VADM David Johnston AM as Vice Chief of the Defence Force. "As Chief of Joint Operations VADM Johnston has been instrumental in the planning and conduct of our military campaigns and exercises over the past four years" the joint statement from the Prime Minister and Defence Minister said.

AVM Mel Hupfeld AO DSC has been recommended as the new Chief of Joint Operations. AVM Hupfeld is currently the head of Force Design and responsible for the development of Australia's future force.

Vice Chief of Defence Force VADM Ray Griggs AO CSC will retire from the ADF in July but the Prime Minister and Senator Payne hinted he will take another public sector role soon. "Acknowledging his significant contribution over four decades in the ADF, the government looks forward to VADM Griggs continuing his contribution to public service in the future," the joint statement said.

Chief of Navy Tim Barrett AO CSC will also retire from the ADF in July after a 42-year career. Barrett has overseen the Royal Australian Navy as it undertakes its largest modernisation since WWII.

RADM Mike Noonan AM has been recommended to replace Barrett as Chief of Navy, and MajGen Rick Burr AO DSC has been recommended to replace LtGen Campbell as Chief of Army. Chief of Air Force AIRMSHL Leo Davies AO CSC, who was appointed to a four-year term in July 2015, will continue to serve as Chief of Air Force.



Outgoing CDF, ACM Mark Binskin AC, at the announcement by Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and Defence Minister Sen Marise Payne of the new CDF, LtGen Angus Campbell AO DSC. *Photo: Defence Dept*