



Wing Commander Collette Richards – Aviation Medicine Workshop Melbourne– Thursday 13 October 2016

Wing Commander Collette Richards joined the Royal Australian Air Force in 1998 as a Graduate Medical Student. After graduating from medical school, she completed intern and residency years at Flinders Medical Centre South Australia, and undertook initial officer training in 2003. She accompanied her husband on his overseas posting immediately following officer training, returning to a posting with 2 Air Transportable Health Squadron, RAAF Williamtown in 2004.

She undertook training as an Aviation Medical Officer, and completed her initial aeromedical evacuation and operational health support training. Between 2005 and 2007, she gained extensive operational experience in Iraq, Afghanistan, Indonesia and Timor Leste.

She was posted to the United Kingdom at the end of 2007 gaining promotion to Squadron Leader. During this posting she completed the Diploma in Aviation Medicine and worked at the Royal Air Force Centre for Aviation Medicine as an Instructor.

On return to Australia in 2009, she was posted to 4 Expeditionary Health Squadron, RAAF Edinburgh, and completed the requirements for Fellowship of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, and became a Senior Aviation Medical Officer. She gained further operational experience in support of humanitarian assistance and border security operations.

She was posted to the RAAF Institute of Aviation Medicine, RAAF Edinburgh for the first time in 2010 as the Chief Instructor, and fulfilled the role of Temporary Commanding Officer prior to proceeding on maternity leave later that same year.

She was promoted to Wing Commander in 2011, and was posted to Joint Base Pearl Harbor – Hickam in Hawaii, on exchange with the United States Air Force, initially to 13th Air Force, and subsequently to Headquarters Pacific Air Forces. She fulfilled the role of Chief of Operations and Exercises, undertaking theatre security cooperation taskings in the Asia Pacific region, and promoting interoperability between the RAAF and the US Air Force.

On return to Australia in 2014, Wing Commander Richards was afforded the honour of Commanding the RAAF Institute of Aviation Medicine, which is a role she currently holds.

