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Keynote Speaker

AVM Mel Hupfeld

Head Force Design, Australian Department of Defence



Keynote Title:

Force Design: Evolution not revolution

Biography:

Air Vice-Marshal Mel Hupfeld was born in Sydney in 1962. He joined the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) in 1980, graduating from the RAAF Academy in 1983. Air Vice-Marshal Hupfeld's flying career began on the venerable Dassault Mirage III before transitioning to the McDonnell-Douglas (now Boeing) F/A-18 Hornet. He has exercised command at all levels, including time as the Director of the Combined Air Operations Centre in the Middle East Area of operations, the Commanding Officer of Air Combat Group, and the Air Commander Australia. Air Vice-Marshal Hupfeld was awarded a Distinguished Service Cross for his performance as Commanding Officer 75 Squadron on Operation FALCONER, and in 2015 was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for distinguished service to the Australian Defence Force in senior command and staff appointments.

On 1 April 2016, Air Vice-Marshal Hupfeld took up his current role as Head Force Design in the Vice Chief of the Defence Force Group. Force Design Division provides an enduring force design cycle that ensures a joint force by design. Force Design Division manages: Joint concepts; preparedness; lessons; and doctrine to enable the joint force to achieve Defence objectives. Force Design develops and test force options in order to deliver a balanced and affordable Future Force that protects Australia and its national interests.

Abstract:

In 2016, the Australian Government released the First Principles Review – the most significant structural and organisational review since the 1973 Tange Review – aimed at creating a unified and integrated Defence organisation that is consistent in its strategy, clearly led by its centre, and postured to protect Australia's security and prosperity in an increasingly complex strategic environment.

A key recommendation of the review was to deliver an end-to-end capability development function that provides a whole-of-capability and whole-of-life approach to investment, which importantly recognises Industry as a fundamental input to capability. This approach enables Defence to provide Government with a clear, coherent, relatable and consistent capability narrative.

Directed by Government policy, driven by strategy, and incorporating analysis of possible future operating environments, Force Design delivers evidence-based capability investment and force structure options that ensure alignment between strategy, capability, and resources. This new approach moves Defence away from separate equipment, infrastructure, information and communication technology, science and technology and workforce plans to a single Integrated Investment Program.

Our goal is to achieve better design up front, leading to more effective and efficient delivery of capability further down the Capability Life Cycle, to achieve an affordable, highly capable, agile and potent Australian Defence Force.