

Representative Colonel Commandant

Brigadier Don Roach, AM



Simon Roach was born on 6 July 1963 in Adelaide, South Australia. He completed his secondary education at Melbourne High School in Victoria in 1981. Known as Don since before joining the Army he entered the Royal Military College in 1982 graduating in 1985 into the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery. Immediately upon graduation he completed a year of postgraduate study attaining a Bachelor of Science with Honours. His first Regimental postings included 8/12 Medium Regiment and 16 Field Battery, 6/13 Field Regiment, Launceston.

Following experience as a Staff Officer Operations on Headquarters 6 Brigade in Enoggera he was posted in 1993 as a United Nations Military Observer with the UN Truce Supervision Organisation in the Middle East. Brigadier Roach was posted to 1 Field Regiment, Enoggera from 1994 to 1996 initially as Adjutant, and upon promotion to Major at the end of 1994 he completed his tenure as Battery Commander Headquarter Battery / Operations Officer, and Battery Commander 105 Field Battery. Brigadier Roach returned to the Regiment in 2002 as the Commanding Officer.

At the end of 1999 following a position in Australian Defence Headquarters as Staff Officer to Head Strategic Policy and Plans Brigadier Roach deployed to Headquarters INTERFET, Dili, East Timor. He served as Staff Officer Grade One Plans and on return to Australia in February 2000 he retained the Plans position with Deployable Joint Force Headquarters.

Following Regimental Command Brigadier Roach was posted as the United Kingdom based Australian Army Senior Standardisation Representative to the ABCA Program. He was appointed Commander Land Command Artillery in January 2006 and served only briefly before returning to East Timor in May 2006 as the Deputy Task Force Commander during Operation ASTUTE. Having held the Director Expeditionary Operations at HQ Joint Operations Command between October 2006 and October 2007 Brigadier Roach deployed on Operation SLIPPER as Deputy Chief of Staff Security Sector Reform in Headquarters Regional Command South in Kandahar Afghanistan; an outstanding coalition operational staff appointment.

Brigadier Roach is a graduate of the United States Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, and in addition to his Bachelor of Science (Honours) he has a Masters of Defence Studies from the University of New South Wales. He was appointed as a Member in the Military Division of the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in 2004 for service as Staff Officer Joint Plans Deployable Joint Force Headquarters and Commanding Officer 1 Field Regiment. He assumed the position of Director General Army Operations, on return from the United States Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, in July 2009.

Following his appointment as the Director General Army Operations, Brigadier Roach was appointed the Deputy Commander of Joint Task Force 633 in Kabul, Afghanistan. On return to Australia, in March 2011 he was appointed Deputy Commander Headquarters 1 Division. He ended his full-time military career in March 2013. He was appointed Representative Colonel Commandant and Colonel Commandant 1 Regiment Royal Australian Artillery on 17 February 2019.

Brigadier Roach is currently the Area Fleet Manager for Volvo Group Australia in Queensland. He is a member of the Defence Reserves Support Council Queensland, the Australian Institute of Company Directors and previously was a Director of Mates4Mates, a charity for the support of wounded, injured or ill current and ex-serving members of the Australian Defence Force and their families.