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COLONEL COMMANDANT 20TH STA REGIMENT RAA

Colonel (Hon) Phil Swinsburg

Phil Swinsburg is a retired Australian Army Lieutenant Colonel, having previously served over 24 years in the active military and have three tours of Iraq and one of Afghanistan. Phil Swinsburg was instrumental in the first major Unmanned Aerial Systems Deployment with the Australian Army in 2006 and 2007 to Iraq and Afghanistan and was the lead for the system selection and deployments.

Phil Swinsburg was the first Commanding Officer of the Army's 20th Surveillance and Target Acquisition Regiment. Phil Swinsburg has also seen service with the United Nations, serving as the assistant Military Advisor to the United Nation in Iraq from 2008 to 2009 where he wrote the UN military engagement strategy for northern Iraq.

During his time with the United Nation Phil spent 12 months working with the Kurdish forces in Northern Iraq, and planned and conducted over 200 patrols, in an around the areas of Kirkuk, Mosul and wider Iraq. Phil Swinsburg has a Masters in Strategy, a Masters in Operational Planning and Degree in Disaster Management from UNE.

Upon retirement from the active military in 2010, Phil Swinsburg started his own company called Unmanned Systems Australia, where he specialises in Autonomous System Consulting and the provision of Drone services.

Unmanned Systems Australia has been involved in the delivery of a VTOL Unmanned System to the Royal Australian Navy, and for lease to the Australian Army. Phil Swinsburg has been involved in various projects including Defence Studies for the South Australian Government, evaluation of surveillance systems for the Counter IED task Force, and reviews of optimum basing and capability options for the RAAF future Medium and High Altitude Unmanned Aerial Systems.

In 2013/14, Unmanned Systems Australia worked with the Google X team as part of Project Wing and was the Chief Pilot for the first commercial parcel delivery by an unmanned aircraft system in Queensland Australia. Unmanned System Australia continues to work in the drone delivery sector with Wing and has been operating a drone delivery service since May 2017. Recently operations expanded in the ACT, with operations being conducted into residential areas, the first operational deployment of drone delivery in the world. Since May 2017, Unmanned Systems Australia has conducted over 2500 commercial deliveries and over 8500 flights in Australia, both for ongoing testing and deliveries.

Phil Swinsburg continues to lead the flight operations team for Project Wing and has recently been appoint as Head Global Flight Operations for Wing, overseeing the expansion of the drone delivery capability in Australia, US and Europe.