

## Head of Regiment

### Brigadier Damian Hill, AM



Brigadier Damian Hill joined the Army via a scholarship to the Australian Defence Force Academy in 1993, graduating from the Royal Military College in 1996 to the Royal Australian Artillery (RAA). He has fulfilled the full suite of Regimental positions including Section Commander, Gun Position Officer, Signals Officer, Forward Observer, Battery Captain, Battery Commander and Commanding Officer.

Aside from his Regimental postings, Brigadier Hill has served within the Deployable Joint Force Headquarters (DJFHQ) and within Army Headquarters. Brigadier Hill attended Australian Command and Staff College in 2008. In 2009, Brigadier Hill was posted to the

United States Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory (MCWL) in Quantico, as the Plans Officer. For his service with MCWL, Brigadier Hill was awarded the United States Meritorious Service Medal.

In 2016, Brigadier Hill assumed command of the Combat Training Centre (CTC), responsible for the conduct of advanced collective combat training to high readiness land forces. In 2017 Brigadier Hill was temporarily assigned Commander of the 3rd Brigade which included command of Joint Task Force (JTF) 661 Operation QUEENSLAND ASSIST established in the aftermath of Tropical Cyclone Debbie. In 2018 Brigadier Hill undertook the duties of Chief of Staff to the Vice Chief of Defence Force, followed by attendance at the Defence and Strategic Studies Course in 2019. Brigadier Hill is currently posted to Force Integration Division as the Director General Capability Interoperability, Test and Evaluation (CIT&E) and in this role is responsible for the provision of interoperability direction and doctrine to the ADF.

Brigadier Hill has three deployments to Timor Leste; INTERFET in 1999, AUSBATT 6 in 2002 and with Joint Task Force (JTF) 631 in 2006. Brigadier Hill was awarded a Chief of Defence Force Commendation for his work with JTF 631 and was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in June 2018.

Brigadier Hill has been awarded a Bachelor of Arts, Graduate Diploma of Defence Studies and a Graduate Diploma of Management in Defence Studies from the University of New South Wales and a Master of Arts in Strategic Studies from Deakin University.

Brigadier Hill is an Australian Rules umpire and a long standing member of the Army AFL committee. Brigadier Hill is married to Katrina, a career social worker and they have four children.

## LIEUTENANT COLONEL MATTHEW HODDA

### CO/CI School of Artillery & DHOR



Lieutenant Colonel Hodda entered the Royal Military College – Duntroon in July 2004 and graduated to the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery in December 2005. He has served across all three combat brigades, the School of Artillery, Headquarters Forces Command and Army Headquarters. All these experiences have provided him a diverse perspective on organisational cultures, capability management and realisation, and workforce management.

His first posting was to the 8th/12th Medium Regiment where he fulfilled the roles of Troop Commander, Gun Position Officer and Joint Fires Team Commander within the 101st Medium Battery. As a junior officer Lieutenant Colonel Hodda deployed on OP ANODE II in 2006 as a Rifle Platoon Commander, and again in 2008 with the 7th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment Battlegroup as part of the Mentoring and Reconstruction Task Force – One. He spent much of the deployment as a Joint Fires Team Commander supporting the Operational Mentoring and Liaison Team and completed his tour in the Battlegroup Joint Fires Effects and Coordination Centre. During this deployment Lieutenant Colonel Hodda was awarded the Commander Joint Task Force 633 Silver Commendation.

On return from operations in 2009 Lieutenant Colonel Hodda briefly posted to the 4th Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery. In 2010 he posted to the School of Artillery as an Instructor-in-Gunnery where he developed an enthusiasm and passion for training. In 2012, Lieutenant Colonel Hodda served on the 3rd Brigade Headquarters as the S5 – Plans during the readying cycle. This enabled him to understand and synchronise manoeuvre and supporting effects, as well as the relationship between tactical action, its connection to the achievement of operational effects and their overall contribution to strategic outcomes. In his final year as a Captain, Lieutenant Colonel Hodda was selected as the Aide-de-Camp to Commander Forces Command which afforded him an insight into the higher echelons of Army and wider Defence.

In 2015, Lieutenant Colonel Hodda promoted to Major and was selected to command 'A' Battery, 1st Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery. At Career Management – Army's request, Lieutenant Colonel Hodda remained in the 1st Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery as the Operations Officer during 7th Brigade's progression towards online contingency force responsibilities. A highlight of his command was the deployment his Battery to Malaysia as the Officer Commanding Rifle Company Butterworth in 2016. He attended Australian Command and Staff College in 2018 and has spent the last three years as a Career Advisor within Career Management – Army. He assumed command of the School of Artillery in December 2021.

Lieutenant Colonel Hodda is a graduate of the Australian Command and Staff Course and holds a Master of Military and Defence Studies. He is married to Lisa, who is also an Army officer and is posted to Headquarters 17th Sustainment Brigade. Together, they have two children, Ava and Sam. He is a passionate rugby union supporter and a tragic Queensland Reds.

## **Regimental Master Gunner**

### **Warrant Officer Class One Anthony M Hortle, OAM**



Warrant Officer Class One Anthony Hortle was born in Canberra in 1968 and completed his secondary schooling at Mt St Patricks, and Tweed River High Schools on the Tweed Coast of New South Wales.

Warrant Officer Class One Anthony Hortle joined the Australian Regular Army in March 1987, and on completion of Recruit Training was allocated to the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery. After completing Initial Employment Training as an Operator Command Post Air Defence, he was posted to the 16 Air Defence Regiment, Woodside South Australia. He has predominantly served with the 16 Air Defence Regiment fulfilling the full range of appointments, from Gunner

Signaller to Sergeant Rapier Air Defence System Commander.

In 1994 he participated on Exercise Long Look, serving with 16 Regiment Royal Artillery, Germany, working with Tracked Rapier Air Defence System. In 2000 he was posted to the School of Artillery, Puckapunyal, as an Instructor Ground Based Air Defence.

In 2001 he was promoted to Warrant Officer Class Two and posted back to 16th Air Defence Regiment as a Troop Sergeant Major. During this appointment he saw active service with a Troop on-board HMAS Kanimbla during Operation SLIPPER.

In June 2002 he undertook Long Term Schooling, based from the Combat Arms Training Centre, where he completed several courses in relation to LASER and RADAR Systems. This led to his posting and appointment as the Senior Sergeant Major Instructor Gunnery Ground Based Air Defence at the School of Artillery in 2003.

In 2005 he was posted back to the 16 Air Defence Regiment as a Battery Sergeant Major. During this appointment he deployed to Malaysia as the Company Sergeant Major, Rifle Company Butterworth Rotation 73.

He was promoted to Warrant Officer Class One in 2007 and appointed the Regimental Sergeant Major Instructor Gunnery Ground Based Air Defence. In 2009 he was appointed as the Regimental Sergeant Major of the Adelaide Universities Regiment, followed by Regimental Sergeant Major of 16 Air Defence Regiment, later 16 Air Land Regiment. In August 2012 he deployed to Afghanistan as the G7 Training Resources with the Afghan National Army Officer Academy Project Team, on his return he was appointed Regimental Sergeant Major of the School of Artillery.

In 2016 he was appointed as the Regimental Sergeant Major of 6 Combat Support Brigade. He was also appointed to the Order of Australia in the Australia Day Awards, receiving a Medal of the Order for his service within 16 Air Defence/Land Regiment and the School of Artillery. In 2018 he was appointed Regimental Sergeant Major of the Royal Military College-Australia. Unfortunately, during this posting, he suffered a Thyroid Toxicoses episode, which saw him re-post to Joint Operations Support Services – South Australia as the Ceremonial Warrant Officer for South Australia in 2019.