CADET NEWS

June

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CUO GURTEG SINGH - NATIONAL CADET OF THE YEAR

LACW (AAFC) BRITTNEY SIEDEDTOPF - NATIONAL INSTRUCTOR OF THE YEAR

DGCADETS-AF UPDATE

Director General Cadets - Air Force
Air Commodore Craig Heap AM, CSC

2025 has again been a dynamic year for the AAFC. AAFC cadet numbers peaked at 11,115 in early April, and are now sitting at 10,500. The cadets and staff I have talked to believe 'Reaching New Heights', the new cadet Program, coupled with the great leadership and support from the adult volunteers, and improved opportunities, which includes flying, are the reason for the growth of cadet numbers. This is great, but for the leadership, please continue to manage your capacity to deliver the program.

Additionally, the AAFC was awarded a CASA Remote Operating Certificate to train cadets through to a Remote Pilot License within our Remotely Piloted Aircraft training School (RPATS). No 1 and 3WG's already have cadets and staff who have been awarded licenses within the RPATS, with No 4 and 7WG's to follow soon with course in July. All WGs have cadets selected for the Silver Cyber Security extension program, with their initial on line activities being enabled very soon. The AAFC Space extension is also available as a new option to inspire cadets into the future.

The CDRAAFC and I are also close to reviewing the final versions of the AAFC Strategy and Plan 2030, which will guide the path for the next five years of the AAFC. Air Force is incredibly proud of the AAFC organisation, and thanks you all for your time, and dedication, whether as a cadet or adult volunteer. I look forward to catching up soon with as many AAFC members as I can over the next six months.

TRI SERVICE LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Leadership in the Australian Air Force Cadets is learnt and developed to encourage our Cadets to think independently and lead others in an atmosphere of teamwork and mutual respect.

Thirty high-performing senior Cadets from the Air Force, Navy and Army recently assembled in Canberra to attend the third annual ADF Cadets Tri Service Leadership Summit. The event engages Cadets in a variety of leadership development activities including field exercises. The attendees also participated in the Last Post Ceremony at the Australian War Memorial and joined **Lieutenant General Susan Coyle, AM, CSC, DSM** at the Royal Military College - Duntroon Officers' Mess for a formal dinner.

DEDICATED SERVICE RECOGNISED

2025 marks a major milestone for **SQNLDR (AAFC) Geoff Strange** as he becomes the first person in the AAFC and the ADF, add an 8th clasp to his Australian Cadet Forces Service Medal and his 5th Federation Star. His 60 years of support in developing the youth of Nth Qld in the Air Training Corps and the Australian Air Force Cadets was commemorated with a special presentation. His dedication and commitment, passion, guidance, and generosity over the past six decades has inspired generations, fostered growth, resilience, and left an indelible mark on countless lives. We extend our deepest gratitude for his extraordinary contribution and lifelong dedication.

AIR FORCE CADETS NATIONAL AWARDS NIGHT

The Annual Air Force Cadets National Awards Night was held in May at the Australian Defence Force Academy in Canberra, where cadets, staff and VIP's gathered from around Australia.

The award selection process begins each year with the AAFC Wings around Australia selecting their own individual Cadet and Instructors of the Year. These are members who have made an exceptional contribution to their Squadron or Wing and demonstrate our values. A National level selection board then selects the National winners from the Wing finalists and they awarded in the Nation's Capital.

This year the awards were presented by Deputy Chief of Air Force, Air Vice-Marshal Harvey Reynolds, AM, and Group Captain (AAFC) Stephen Johns, Commander of the AAFC.

The finalists for National Cadet of the Year were CWOFF Jerry Yu (No. 1Wing), CWOFF Teagan Gilmour (No. 2Wing), CWOFF Lisa Tusnea (No. 3Wing), CUO Gurteg Singh (No. 4Wing), CWOFF Will Colebrook-Smith (No. 5Wing), CUO Mishka Sharma (No. 6Wing), CUO Brendan Elliott (No. 7Wing) and CWOFF Jakub Jenik (No. 8Wing). **The National Cadet of the Year for 2025 is CUO Gurteg Singh from No. 4Wing in Victoria.**

The Australian Air Force Cadets National Instructor of the year finalists were SGT (AAFC) Deb Rutherford (No. 1Wing), FSGT (AAFC) Brendan Zipf (No. 2Wing), FLTLT (AAFC) Andrew Hinton (No. 3Wing), FLTLT (AAFC) Daniel Morris (No. 4Wing), LACW (AAFC) Brittney Siedentopf (No. 5Wing), LACW(AAFC) Tahlia Sawtell (No. 6Wing), FLTLT (AAFC) Glenn Figueiredo (No. 7Wing), PLTOFF (AAFC) Alex Skipsey-Williams (No. 8Wing), and FLGOFF (AAFC) Andrew Mortlock from the Air Operations Wing. **The National Instructor of the year for 2025 is LACW (AAFC) Brittney Siededtopf from No. 5 Wing in Tasmania.**

Congratulations to all winners and runners-up – you all make us proud to be part of the Air Force Cadets.