Rear Admiral Michael Rothwell, AM, CSC, RAN (Retd)

Managing Director, Michael Rothwell Consulting Pty Limited

Michael retired from the Royal Australian Navy as a Rear Admiral in November 2021 after a 39-year career, and has consulted in Defence industry since July 2022. He is an experienced senior leader with skills in maritime industry, digital transformation, defensive cyber, training, the capability life cycle, risk management and governance, and is adept at presenting complex technical concepts in simple language.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Senior Strategic Advisor, Accenture Australia Defence, and member, Accenture Global Defence Council

Senior Executive | Canberra | 2022 – present

- Advise on the Australian and global defence environment.
- The voice of the Defence client.
- Develop growth strategies.

Commander, Joint Task Force 633, Australian Defence Force

Senior Executive (Rear Admiral) | Middle East Region | 2020 – 2021

- Led 800 ADF and Defence civilian members across ten countries in Afghanistan and the Middle East to deliver Government-directed operational outcomes.
- Responsible for the operations, governance and risk management of Australian forces.
- Conducted international diplomacy with senior international military and government officials.

Head, Information and Communications Technology Operations, Department of Defence

Senior Executive (Rear Admiral) | Canberra | 2018 – 2020

- Responsible for all ICT operations and sustainment, with an annual budget of $1 billion.
- Led a team of 500 ADF, 1,000 APS and 2,500 contractors.

Director General Maritime Operations, Royal Australian Navy

Senior Executive (Commodore) | Bungendore | 2016 – 2017

- Accountable for the planning, execution and operational control of Navy's raise, train and sustain activities for all fleet platforms.
- Primary maritime advisor to the Chief of Joint Operations and Commander of several Joint Task Forces.

Commodore Training, Royal Australian Navy

Senior Executive (Commodore) | Sydney | 2014 – 2016

- Responsible for all of Navy's individual (schoolhouse) training for 2,500 trainees annually, and collective (at sea) training for all fleet assets, with an annual budget of $55 million excluding at-sea costs.
- Modernised the training pipeline, increasing throughput and efficiency through improved contracting and commercial arrangements, better governance and the introduction of technology.
- Introduced synthetic (simulation) training to replace some components of at-sea training for ships and submarines.
- Led the production of the first Navy Training Force Plan, supporting execution of the Navy Campaign Plan.

Amphibious and Afloat Support Group Capability Manager, Royal Australian Navy

Executive Level (Captain) | Sydney | 2011 – 2013

- Planned and led the recovery of amphibious and afloat support capability following the release of the Rizzo Report, and was a key player in the introduction of seaworthiness for Navy.
- From no major amphibious and afloat support ships operational on assuming the position, all were operational by 2013.

Early Military Career

1983 – 2011

Early career was almost all seagoing in frigates and destroyers, later specialising as a Principal Warfare Officer, sub-specialised in communications. Commissioned and commanded the Mine Hunter Coastal HMAS *Diamantina* (2001–2002), during which time the ship was awarded the Kelly Shield for efficiency. Commanded the Amphibious Landing Ship HMAS *Tobruk* (2005–2007), during which time *Tobruk* participated in Operations PERINGATAN (Nias Island Sea King Crash Commemoration), ASTUTE (Maintenance of Peace and Stability in East Timor), CATALYST (Security and Stability in Iraq) and SLIPPER (International Campaign against Terrorism). Has held a wide variety of leadership, operational and staff roles.

EDUCATION

- **Strategic Finance for Leaders**, Harvard Club of Australia, 2016
- **Master of Arts (International Relations)**, Salve Regina University, Newport, Rhode Island, USA, 2010
- **Diploma**, United States Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island, USA, 2009
- **Bachelor of Laws**, Queensland University of Technology, 2002

OTHER ACCREDITATIONS AND QUALIFICATIONS

- **Graduate, Australian Institute of Company Directors**, 2023
- **Risk Management**, Aerosafe Risk Management, 2013
- **Member, Golden Key National Honour Society** for Outstanding Scholastic Achievement, Queensland University of Technology, 2002

AWARDS

- **Member of the Order of Australia, 2014** — for exceptional performance of duty as Director Information, Communication and Technology Capability Coordination in the Chief Information Officer Group, and as Amphibious and Afloat Support Group Capability Manager.
- **Conspicuous Service Cross, 2022** — for outstanding devotion to duty as Commander Joint Task Force 633 on Operations OKRA (the ADF's contribution to the international Coalition against Daesh in Iraq and Syria), HIGHROAD (the ADF commitment to Afghanistan) and ACCORDION (the ADF overarching support mission to all operations in Afghanistan and the Middle East region from within the Gulf States), from November 2020 to August 2021.