



ROYAL
AERONAUTICAL
SOCIETY

AUSTRALIAN DIVISION
SYDNEY BRANCH INC

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NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2014

Date: Wednesday, 27th August 2014
Time: 18:00 for 18:30 hours sharp
Speaker: GP CAPT JOHN IBBOTSON
Director Acquisition in the New
Air Combat Capability IPT
Presentation entitled:
'Australia and the F35 Lightning II'



**Venue: Mechanical Engineering Lecture
Theatre, Mechanical Engineering Bldg,
J07, Darlington Campus, Uni of Sydney**

Map refer: sydney.edu.au/maps/campuses/?area=CAMDAR
Refreshments will be available from 18:00 hours. Attendance will attract 1 CPD hour

Synopsis: The F-35A will provide Australia with a fifth generation aircraft capability to enable air superiority into the future. Australia has committed to 72 F-35A aircraft – comprised of three operational squadrons - two at RAAF Base Williamtown and one at [RAAF Base Tindal](#).



In addition, a training squadron will be based at RAAF Base Williamtown. The first F-35 aircraft will arrive in Australia in 2018 and the first squadron, Number 3 Squadron, will be operational in 2021. All 72 aircraft are expected to be fully operational by 2023. The total capital cost of \$12.4 billion for this acquisition includes the cost of associated facilities, weapons and training.

Around \$1.6 billion in new facilities and infrastructure will be constructed, including at RAAF Base Williamtown in New South Wales and RAAF Base Tindal in the Northern Territory. The F-35A (commonly known as the Joint Strike Fighter) is the most suitable aircraft for Australia's future air combat and strike needs, to replace the aging [F/A-18A/B Hornets](#). Fifth generation aircraft provide a networked force-multiplier effect in terms of situational awareness and combat effectiveness. The F-35A's combination of stealth,

advanced sensors, networking and data fusion capabilities, when integrated with other defence systems, will enable the RAAF to maintain an air combat edge.

Profile: GPCAPT John Ibbotson joined the Royal Australian Air Force in January 1982 and graduated from Engineer Cadet Squadron in 1985. As an Electronic Engineer, his first posting was to No 77 squadron as the maintenance flight commander on the Mirage III.

In 1989 he was posted to F/A-18 Hornet Engineering Section in Headquarters Logistics Command in Melbourne responsible for Hornet avionic and training systems engineering and logistics support. Promoted to Squadron Leader in 1995, he was posted to the Directorate of Technical Airworthiness, and provided certification and technical advice to major projects and in service support organizations.

In 1998 he joined the Lead-In Fighter Hawk resident team co-located with the BAE SYSTEMS production facility in Brough, Yorkshire, UK, working closely with BAE SYSTEMS in the design, development, test and acceptance of the Hawk 127 aircraft.

Returning to Australia in 2002, he graduated in Australian Command from the RAAF Staff College, and was promoted to Wing Commander and posted to the Aviation Capability Improvement Team, responsible to the Chief of Air Force (as the ADF Aviation Authority) for identifying and implementing changes in ADF aviation capability. January 2005 saw him posted to the Air to Air Refuelling Project Office as the Engineering Manager responsible for all engineering aspects in the procurement of the A330 MRTT from EADS CASA.

In Nov 2011 he was promoted Group Captain and assumed his current post as Director Acquisition in the New Air Combat Capability IPT, introducing the F35 Lightning II.

GPCAPT Ibbotson is married to Wing Commander Paula Ibbotson – a RAAF Nursing Officer. They have one daughter – Rachel. His interests include reading, rugby, travel and fitness.

RSVP: Registration for the presentation is essential. Please register by copying and pasting into your URL this link: <https://raesaug14.eventbrite.com.au> Your registration will be confirmed by email with an attached ticket. **You must print the ticket and present the ticket at the door to gain entry to the event. Please note:** Non members should enter the code **NM** if requested to enter a RAeS membership number.

Light Supper followed by dinner: *Following the presentation light supper will be provided to give the speaker and attendees the opportunity to mingle and to continue discussions after which the Committee will take John to dinner at the nearby Buon Gusto Italian Restaurant, 368 Abercrombie Street, Chippendale. Attendees are encouraged to join in. Cost will be approx \$40 pp inc soft drink & wine.*

