



Wing Commander (WGCDR) Burr was recently the Commanding Officer of Australia's Premier Fighter Squadron, 77 Squadron. A Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Squadron based at RAAF Base Williamtown, NSW, 77 Squadron operates the FA-18A/B Hornet Strike Fighter. The Squadron's Mission is to *be prepared to conduct sustained combat operations, delivering air combat capability as required in Defence of Australia's interests.*

He currently serves on the Officer Aviation Specialist Stream in Air Combat Group. His conversion training to F-35A commences in 2021.

WGCDR Burr was born and raised on the Gold Coast, QLD, completing high school in 1995 and joining the RAAF the following year. After completing a Bachelor of Science degree at the Australian Defence Force Academy in 1998, WGCDR Burr commenced pilot training at 2 Flying Training School in Pearce, WA. WGCDR Burr graduated Dux of Number 182 Pilots Course in 1999 before being assigned to undertake fast jet training.

WGCDR Burr completed lead-in-fighter training at 79 Squadron on the MB-326 Macchi, relocating to RAAF Base Williamtown and completing introductory fighter training at 76 Squadron in 2000. In 2001, WGCDR Burr commenced training on the F/A-18A/B Hornet with 2 Operational Conversion Unit, graduating with a posting to 75 Squadron at RAAF Base Tindal, NT.

During 2001-2004, WGCDR Burr served as a line fighter pilot at 75 Squadron, during which time he deployed with the Squadron and conducted combat missions in Iraq as part of Operation Falconer. During his tour WGCDR Burr completed his four-ship flight lead and mission commander qualifications, while also attempting (but never really succeeding) to master the art of barramundi fishing in the outback.

WGCDR Burr received the RAAF *Fighter Pilot of the Year* award in 2004 and completed a brief tour with 3 Squadron in RAAF Base Williamtown before being selected for an exchange posting with the Canadian Forces. In 2005, WGCDR Burr completed Canadian F/A-18 Operational Flying Instructor training. He served until 2007 at 410 Squadron in Cold Lake, Northern Alberta, instructing Canadian Fighter Pilots to operate the CF/A-18A/B Hornet while trying, in vain, to keep warm.

In 2007, WGCDR Burr returned to Australia, serving as a Squadron Leader in the position of Plans Officer at 81 Wing Headquarters. In January 2009, WGCDR Burr was posted to Flight Commander at 3 Squadron before being appointed Executive Officer 77 Squadron in late-2009. His most enjoyable posting to date (with the exception of his current job!), WGCDR Burr led 77 Squadron Operations for three years and focused his time and efforts on ensuring the Squadron's junior aircrew maintained a camaraderie and passion for fighter flying. WGCDR Burr was awarded Category A Fighter Pilot in 2010.

WGCDR Burr returned to Canada in 2012, this time completing the Canadian Forces Command and Staff Course in Toronto, Ontario. In 2013, WGCDR Burr was promoted to his current rank and posted to the newly formed position of Deputy Director Joint Strike Fighter Transition Team. WGCDR Burr served in the role for two years, contributing to a large team that achieved some notable highlights for the RAAF F-35A Program: Australia accepting its first two F-35A Joint Strike Fighters in 2014, and subsequent Chief of Air Force approval to commence RAAF F-35A flight training operations later that year.

WGCDR Burr deployed on Operation Okra, Australia's contribution to the mission to degrade and defeat Daesh, in late-2015. On Operations WGCDR Burr served in the Combined Air Operations Centre as both the Australian Target Engagement Authority for dynamic targeting and the Task Group 630 Task Unit Commander for RAAF personnel at Al Udeid Qatar.

WGCDR Burr commenced his current duties in Jun 2016 and led 77SQN combat missions against Daesh from Jan-May 2017.

WGCDR Burr is married to Louise, also a RAAF member. They have three young children and are renovating their home together, so any spare time is usually spent bouncing between soccer games, swimming lessons, the supermarket and the local hardware store.