

Ms Deborah Jeppesen – Biographic Information

Deborah joined the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) in 1987 after working in the UK and Europe as an adventure sport trainer. She entered as a direct entry recruit on the first pilots course to accept women. On graduation, she was posted to 34 VIP Squadron and flew the Mystère DA20 and then the Dassault Falcon 900. Deborah was then posted to 36 Squadron C130H tactical aircraft. Deborah travelled with both the VIP and tactical squadrons to China, India, Cambodia, the US, Papua New Guinea, Pacific Islands, and the Maldives.

Since leaving the RAAF, Deborah has had a diverse career in private practice as a registered psychologist, and working in Defence as a civilian employee. Deborah's psychological expertise is in leadership, interpersonal influence, neuropsychology, social psychology and elite level performance. Deborah established a behavioural analysis capability in Defence Intelligence Organisation in 2007 providing profiling of political and military leaders for whole of government policy and engagement planning. In 2014, she was awarded the Australian Intelligence Community Outstanding Service Award for innovation in developing this capability and nurturing allied relationships to directly support strategic objectives. Deborah has worked collaboratively on projects with allied security & law enforcement agencies both in the US and UK, on leadership profiling, insider threat, foreign fighters and militant groups. Deborah was awarded the Australian Intelligence Community Medallion in 2013 for providing expertise in support of operations preventing insider attacks.

Deborah has drawn on her psychological expertise to provide training to military personnel deploying to Iraq and Afghanistan particularly in cultural awareness and understanding influence. In 2016, she established Psychological Edge, a consultancy which delivers training in emotionally intelligent behaviour, leadership, negotiation, influence, resilience, and stress regulation. She established this consultancy to meet increasing requests for applied training. Since then Deborah has delivered bespoke performance optimisation training for Australian Special Forces with strategies designed to enhance resilience under pressure. Deborah has also conducted volunteer work with soldiers who are wounded, ill and injured through operations, particularly in emotional self-awareness.

Deborah balances her work and study endeavors with a strong commitment to work-life balance by spending as much time as possible with her husband and three children aged between 18 and 22. She enjoys road cycling, running and world travel.

