

VALE - RADM NIGEL COATES AM RAN

FM: CHIEF OF NAVY

SUBJ: RADM N.S. COATES AM, RAN

1. IT IS WITH GREAT SADNESS THAT I REPORT THE PASSING OF RADM NIGEL COATES AM, RAN, ON 2 JUN 10 AFTER A SHORT BUT AGGRESSIVE ILLNESS.
2. RADM COATES JOINED THE NAVY AS A CADET MIDSHIPMAN IN 1975, GRADUATING FROM HIS INITIAL TRAINING WITH THE QUEEN'S GOLD MEDAL AS THE DUX OF HIS GRADUATING YEAR. HE WAS SUBSEQUENTLY AWARDED THE JUBILEE SWORD FOR DUX OF SEAMAN OFFICER TRAINING BEFORE BEING TRAINED AS AN AIR INTERCEPT CONTROLLER AND A PRINCIPAL WARFARE OFFICER (DIRECTION).
3. RADM COATES THIRTY FIVE YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE INCLUDED COMMAND OF HMA SHIPS CANBERRA (1996-97) AND ANZAC (2001-02), WITH BOTH SHIPS RECEIVING THE DUKE OF GLOUCESTER CUP FOR BEING THE MOST EFFICIENT SHIP IN THE RAN DURING HIS TENURE. OTHER KEY CAREER APPOINTMENTS INCLUDED COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE ADFA CORPS OF OFFICER CADETS, COMMANDER SEA TRAINING, CHIEF OF STAFF TO THE CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE FORCE, CHIEF OF STAFF HEADQUARTERS AUSTRALIAN THEATRE, DIRECTOR GENERAL NAVY PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND, ON PROMOTION TO REAR ADMIRAL IN JULY 2007, COMMANDER AUSTRALIAN FLEET.
4. RADM COATES RECEIVED A CDF COMMENDATION FOR HIS WORK AT ADFA AND WAS APPOINTED A MEMBER OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA FOR HIS SERVICE IN COMMAND OF HMAS ANZAC, PARTICULARLY FOR HIS LEADERSHIP DURING ANZACS OPERATIONAL DEPLOYMENT TO THE ARABIAN GULF IN 2001. WITH HIS PASSING , NAVY HAS PREMATURELY LOST AN OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUAL AND CONSUMMATE PROFESSIONAL, WHO COMMITTED HIS ENTIRE WORKING LIFE TO SERVING HIS COUNTRY WITH GREAT SKILL, DIGNITY AND HONOUR. THE NAVY, AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE AND THE BROADER AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITY HAVE LOST ONE OF THEIR FINEST MILITARY LEADERS AND A GREAT MATE.
5. ON BEHALF OF MY ADMIRALS AND THE BROADER NAVY FAMILY I EXTEND MY SINCERE CONDOLENCES TO RADM COATES WIDOW, VICKIE, CHILDREN TIM, BEN AND STEPHANIE, PARENTS MAC AND GWENDA AND SIBLINGS HUGH AND SANDY. I ALSO REQUEST THAT YOU SUPPORT ME IN PRESERVING THE FAMILYS PRIVACY IN THIS DIFFICULT TIME.
6. DETAILS OF MEMORIAL ACTIVITIES FOR RADM COATES WILL BE ADVISED BY SEPARATE MESSAGE IN DUE COURSE.