

Incoming Patron-in-Chief 2010

Lieutenant Colonel Dechlan Ellis



Lieutenant Colonel Dechlan Ellis recently returned to Australia after completing a six month tour of duty on operations in Afghanistan and the Gulf States. He was the inaugural Chief Engineer in Joint Task Force 633 on OPERATION SLIPPER responsible for engineer support to all Australian forces in the Middle East Area of Operations. This deployment came unexpectedly as Lieutenant Colonel Ellis is now a retired Royal Australian Engineers officer and was recalled for active service at short notice in August 2009.

Lieutenant Colonel Ellis was a student at Melbourne High School from 1982 to 1985. He was a CUO in the Cadet Unit, captain of the School debating team and a proud member of Waterloo House.

After completing his HSC, he was part of the first intake at the Australian Defence Force Academy in 1986. He graduated first in his class from the Royal Military College, Duntroon in 1989 and was awarded both the Sword of Honour and the Queen's Medal. He completed 20 years full-time service in the Royal Australian Engineers before transferring to the Standby Reserve. He started his second career with international project delivery and design consulting firm, Sinclair Knight Merz Pty Ltd (SKM) in 2005.

Lieutenant Colonel Ellis held a wide range of appointments in Army, including command of the 21st Construction Squadron, previous overseas service with the United Nations in southern Lebanon, with the 12th Chief Engineer Works in Papua New Guinea and on representational duty as Aide de Camp to the Chief of Army. Lieutenant Colonel Ellis is a graduate of the Australian Command and Staff College. He was awarded a Land Commander's commendation in 2005 for his service as Officer Commanding 21st Construction Squadron.

Lieutenant Colonel Ellis has also held a range of leadership roles at SKM. He is about to take on a new role as the manager for the Buildings and Infrastructure group across south-east Australia. He was appointed as a shareholder with SKM in 2007 and is a member of the Board's Risk Committee.

Lieutenant Colonel Ellis is a Member of the Institution of Engineers, Australia, a Chartered Professional Engineer, a registered Master Project Director with the Australian Institute of Project Management, a registered PRINCE2 project management practitioner and an accredited professional with the Green Buildings Council of Australia. He holds Masters Degrees in Management and in Engineering Science, and a Bachelor of Civil Engineering (Honours). Lieutenant Colonel Ellis is the immediate past chairman of the Australian Society for Defence Engineering in Victoria and is currently the Deputy Patron in Chief of the Green Maroon and Black Patrons Club of the Melbourne High School Old Boys Association.

Lieutenant Colonel Ellis and his wife, Tabatha, have two sons, Zachary (16) and Sebastian (14). His other interests include running, cycling, sailing, music, theatre, and relaxing on their family bush property at Elmhurst in central western Victoria. He is also active in Landcare and a volunteer fire fighter with the Country Fire Authority.