

**Rear Admiral Raydon Gates AO CSM, RAN
Head of Australian Defence Staff (Washington)
Defence Attaché**

Rear Admiral Raydon Gates, AO CSM RAN is the Head of Australian Defence Staff – Washington and Defence Attaché. He is responsible for enhancing the Defence alliance and security relationship between Australia and the United States of America.



BIOGRAPHY

Rear Admiral Raydon Gates graduated from the Royal Australian Naval College in 1974.

His early career was spent primarily at sea serving in over 15 ships with two postings to the United Kingdom for specialist warfare training. His sea service culminated with the command of the guided missile frigates HMAS CANBERRA in 1991-93 and HMAS ADELAIDE 1995-97. He was awarded the Conspicuous Service Medal for his command of CANBERRA during an operational deployment to the Middle East enforcing United Nations sanctions against Iraq. He was awarded the French Order of Maritime Merit for his command of ADELAIDE during the Southern Ocean rescue of the stricken yachtsmen, Thierry Dubois and Tony Bullimore.

His shore postings have included operational and personnel positions in Sydney and Canberra in various headquarters.

Rear Admiral Gates has been awarded a Master Degree in Business Administration, a Graduate Diploma in Strategic Studies, and a Diploma of Company Directorship. He is a graduate of a number of strategic leadership management programs from Mt Eliza Management College, Australian Graduate School of Management, Oxford University and Harvard University.

He was promoted Rear Admiral in January 2001 and appointed the inaugural Commander of the Australian Defence College in Canberra responsible for joint staff training of officers from O-1 to the O-6 rank levels. He was Maritime Commander Australia July 2002 to June 2004 responsible for the entire Australian Fleet. He commanded the Fleet during the Iraq War and the continuing Global War on Terror. He was appointed an Officer in the Order of Australia in the 2005 Australia Day Honours List for his distinguished service as a Flag Officer. Rear Admiral Gates was accredited as the Australian Defence Attaché and Head Australian Defence Staff (Washington) in August 2004.

Rear Admiral Gates, a native of Western Australia, is married to Alison and they now reside in Washington DC.

[downloaded from <http://www.adsusa.org/MEDIA/DOCS/Gates.doc>]