



**CHIEF OF AIR FORCE, ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE (RAAF)**  
**CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE (USAF)**



**JOINT GUIDANCE**

**FOR THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE-UNITED STATES AIR FORCE RELATIONSHIP**

**Service Chief Vision Statement.** The RAAF and USAF partnership is aligned at the strategic level to accelerate and enhance operational integration, tactical interoperability, and the development of air power effects that we deliver to our joint forces.

Australia and the United States enjoy over 100 years of mateship – a friendship formed in the trenches of World War I, the aerial battles over Europe and the Pacific in World War II, South-East Asia, and more recently, the deserts of the Middle East. Throughout times of peace and conflict, our forces continue to serve and fight together to meet common dangers. We thrive because of common values, common trust, and the uncommon resolve we share.

The weight of global economic and military power, and associated influence, is shifting to the Indo-Pacific. In that shift, we seek to maintain an Indo-Pacific that is secure, open, transparent, inclusive, and rules-based, underpinned by democratic principles. However, we face an Indo-Pacific environment of continuous strategic competition that is categorised by increasingly aggressive actors bent on destabilizing the region and coercing states to their will.

In this rapidly evolving competitive environment, we must enhance the ability of our air forces to simultaneously address *today's* air power challenges, develop operating concepts and capabilities for *tomorrow's* emerging threats, and design forces capable of adapting to whatever path the *future* takes.

In doing so, we must be operationally resilient and capitalise on collaboration opportunities that we find now, while building our air forces that will remain effective as the future military environment rapidly evolves.

**Objective.** Generate air power that supports our mutual national security approaches to deter aggression and confront threats to a free, stable, and open international system. We will accomplish this through:

- Integrated regional engagement, strategic messaging, and effective information sharing founded on the principles of our relationship.
- Shared approaches to security challenges and collaboration on an effective mix of warfighting capabilities and concepts. We will do this by leveraging open, agile, and frank engagement between our air forces, managed through the Air Senior National Representative (ASNR) forum.
- Credible, sustainable and interoperable air forces that are prepared to conduct and sustain missions across the spectrum of operations, within our mutual national interests, across the Indo-Pacific and beyond.

**Principles.** Relations between our two air forces will always be conducted with respect for one another's independence and sovereignty. To ensure our engagement is targeted and productive, we will use the following overarching principles to guide our relationship and set the priorities for our teams:

- **Mutual Understanding.** To set a coherent approach and work more effectively inside our bureaucracies, the principal medium through which we guide our relationship will be our ASNR forum, co-chaired by the Deputy Chief of Air Force, RAAF, and the Vice Chief of Staff of the USAF.

The RAAF and the USAF possess common or complementary air power capabilities alongside mutually reinforcing understandings of the air domain and strategic environment. These perspectives will inform ASNR discussion and be used to increase our air forces' abilities to support our respective national interests.

- **Interoperability by Design.** We have a rich history of operating together, incrementally raising the levels of interoperability between our air forces. This approach requires deeper information sharing and earlier collaboration in capability choices if we are to meet the joint and combined force needs of today and the demands that will be made of us in the future.
- **Purposeful Collaboration.** We will identify a broad range of activities with clear mutual benefit, including: research and concept development, capability development, strategic planning, operational employment, logistics and sustainment. We will continue to establish and execute collaborative projects that deliver critical warfighting effects to achieve key military objectives.
- **Organizing for Action.** We will organize our collaboration within the ASNR framework to achieve these goals:
  - Synchronise future operational and logistics concepts for effective combined training, war-gaming, and operations across all mission areas.
  - Collaboratively develop RAAF-USAF capabilities for the future force, ensuring cooperation early to facilitate long-term partnerships, acquisition, and joint sustainment across the lifecycle of the programs.
  - Integrate command and control (C2) to coordinate RAAF-USAF operations across all domains. An all-domain C2 construct will provide the joint force flexibility to support unilateral, bilateral, and multilateral operations.
- **Urgency.** We must act quickly to meet the threats to our national security and strategic goals for the region. Critically, we must also work with our bureaucracies to accelerate achievement of our vision articulated in this joint guidance.
- **Future Alignment.** We will continually assess our ability to integrate within a combined force. The ASNR principals will keep us informed of opportunities, risks, and challenges on a regular basis. Closer integration and alignment will build our collective combat power, resilience, and ability to shape, deter, and respond to the changing world.

This guidance is not an international agreement and does not give rise to rights or obligations under international law. We issue it to convey our intent to work together to direct and support the development and operations of our air forces.



**Robert Chipman**  
Air Marshal, RAAF  
Chief of Air Force



**Charles Q. Brown, Jr.**  
General, USAF  
Chief of Staff of the Air Force