



MILITARY VETERANS GROUP



OCTOBER LUNCH GUEST SPEAKER

MAJGEN LIZ COSSON AM CSC



MAJGEN Cosson joined the Australian Army in 1979 as an officer cadet, and was commissioned into the Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps. During the early part of her career she held a number of appointments as a supply and administrative officer.

In 1991 she was appointed to a position at the Royal Australian Air Force Logistics Command where she was responsible for the support to army aviation aircraft. For her work in improving the availability of the UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter fleet and supporting the fleet deployment to Cambodia, she received a commendation from the Air Officer Commanding Logistics.

From 1995 Liz served in a number of appointments within Land Command, including a regimental appointment with the 11th Brigade and a logistics staff officer appointment at Headquarters Land Command. In November 1999 she deployed as the Chief of Staff of the Peace Monitoring Group, Bougainville.

She was awarded the Conspicuous Service Cross in the 2001 Australia Day Honours "for outstanding achievement as the Chief of Staff, Peace Monitoring Group, Bougainville, and in logistic planning and management of the Combat Force as the Staff Officer Grade One Logistics, Land Headquarters".

In December 2005 she became the first woman to be promoted to the rank of Brigadier in the Australian Army and in March 2007 she assumed the role of Head Defence Support Operations in an acting capacity. In November 2007, the role was confirmed and she became the first woman to be promoted to the rank of Major General in the Australian Army. She was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in the 2011 Australia Day Honours List as a result of her "exceptional service" in the positions of Director General Regions and Bases, and as Head Defence Support Operations.

Since her retirement in November 2010 Liz has filled a number of senior Public Service appointments including in the Department of Immigration and Border Protection and the Department of Health. MAJGEN Cosson is presently Secretary of the Department of Veterans' Affairs, a position she has held since May 2018.