

8202730 SERGEANT STEVEN CUTTS, ASTTECH SNCO Project Support and Manufacturing

Sergeant Cutts grew up in the inner southern suburbs of Adelaide and has had a life-long passion for aviation and the military. He enlisted in the RAAF in October 1995 as an Aircraft Structural Technician, after spending 11 years in the crash repair industry refinishing motor vehicles.

On graduation from RAAF School of Technical Training in January 1997, he was posted to 501 Wing to conduct deep-level maintenance on F-111s. Due to family health issues, he was posted to 10 Squadron mid-1999, and later 11 Squadron and 92 Wing, conducting and supervising structural repairs on AP3-C Orions for a total of nine and a half years. It was during that period when he was fortunate enough to deploy on operations Slipper, Catalyst, Relex and Resolute.

In 2009 he was posted to Aerospace Operational Support Group Aerospace Systems Test Squadron (ARDU), embedded with the maintenance contractors, where he gained valuable experience in fabricating components for non-standard modifications and test equipment. He also conducted operational level maintenance on F/A-18A/B Hornet, PC-9 and S-70A-9 Blackhawk aircraft. The challenge of precision fabrication, and the opportunity to work on a wide variety of aircraft made this one of the most interesting posts he has held.

Once his time was completed there, Sergeant Cutts was posted to 37 Squadron to conduct and supervise structural repairs on C130-J Hercules. Whilst there, he was able to gain experience across the full range of maintenance levels, as well as learning how Air Mobility units function while deployed in places as diverse as Townsville, the Philippines, the Middle East and the USA.

He was posted on promotion to Sergeant to 35 Squadron at the start of 2015, where he worked with a small team of Structural Technicians to build up the section in knowledge, skills and equipment as the Unit prepared to achieve Full Operational Capability of the C-27J Spartan.

His time with 35 Squadron was both challenging and rewarding, but after over 20 years in aircraft maintenance SGT Cutts decided that a change was needed to learn how to function in a joint environment and to further develop himself as a SNCO. This led to him taking a position with ADFA in 2018, initially as Divisional SNCO and then later as a Training Development Assistant.

Leaving ADFA at the end of 2020, SGT Cutts returned to Adelaide to post into Air Warfare Engineering SQN, where he is responsible for the General Engineering Section.

Sergeant Cutts has been a member of Military Christian Fellowship (MCF) since his time in Amberley and has valued the connections made through MCF in each location. He has been consistently and ably supported throughout his career by his wife Debbie, and has enjoyed the ongoing challenge of watching his three adult children grow up. He keeps active by cycling as often as he can, and gardening when he has one to work.

