

## **Biography: Paul Symon, AO**

Director-General Australian Secret Intelligence Service

Paul Symon was schooled in Melbourne at Scotch College. In 1979 he attended the Royal Military College Duntroon, graduating in 1982 as senior cadet and Sword of Honour winner. A 35 year military career followed, culminating in the rank of Major General.

His final appointments in Defence were as Deputy Chief of the Army and as Director of the Defence Intelligence Organisation.

As a Brigadier, in 2006 Paul was appointed Australian Commander Middle East. This gave him national command responsibility for all personnel in Iraq and Afghanistan. Prior to that, in 2003, he was senior military adviser for the Regional Assistance Mission in the Solomon Islands (RAMSI).

Paul was also appointed Australia's senior military officer in East Timor in the months preceding the ballot for East Timor's independence in 1999. His team found themselves negotiating with senior militia and Falantil, as well as the Indonesian military, during a period of high tension and duress. Prior to that, he served with the United Nations in Southern Lebanon and on the Golan Heights.

Paul was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (AM) for his service in East Timor. He subsequently became a recipient of the Officer of the Order of Australia (AO).

Paul holds two Master's degrees: from the University of New South Wales and from Deakin University.

In mid-2015, Paul left the military and joined the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. He was subsequently appointed as Director-General of the Australian Secret Intelligence Service from 18th December 2017. Paul is married to Kate and has two adult children.