

# ADF Flight Screening Prep Course (Defence Force Pilot Selection Preparation Training)

## INTRODUCTION

If your dream is to be a Pilot in the Australian Defence Force (ADF), whether as a fast jet pilot in the Royal Australian Air Force, or rotary wing pilot in the Royal Australian Navy or Australian Army, one of our Defence Force Pilot Selection Training Courses is for you.



Aerospace Airtrainer CT/4 A19-073:73 of No.1 Flying Training School. Standard training finish for type of Light Orange and White, with Silver undersides.

ADF CT4 Basic Trainer (retired!)

The courses have been developed and refined over several years by the Sunshine Coast Flying School's Chief Flying Instructor, Colin Appleton. Colin is one of Australia's most experienced aerobatics instructors. Colin was trained by WGCDCR Noel Kruse, Retd. ([www.flybetter.com.au](http://www.flybetter.com.au)) based on Noel's advanced pilot training syllabus which, like current ADF basic flight training, introduces three dimensional flight (aerobatics) from the student's



F18 Hornet

first lesson. Colin's son Jason is a current serving RAAF pilot as well as a keen aerobatics pilot. Colin holds a CASA Flight Instructor Rating with specialist endorsements to conduct aerobatics training in most basic and advanced aerobatic aircraft types. He

also holds a Senior Instructor rating with Recreational Aviation Australia (RAA) giving him firsthand experience on the differences in scope, methods and standards between military aviation, general aviation and recreational aviation flight training in Australia. Over the past 3 years Colin's ADF Prep Course has achieved a 90% success rate!

Although hands-on flight experience is not a pre-requisite for pilot selection at ADF Flight Screening, having several hours of quality flight training that will prepare you for ADF's Pilot Training is highly advantageous, even if you already have logged many hours of flying and hold a PPL or CPL.

The ADF Pilot selection process changed in early 2018. The CT4 aircraft previously used for Flight Screening and the ADF Basic Flight Training (BFTS) course have been retired. Pilot candidates are now assessed on the PC21 Flight Simulator. Selection remains highly competitive. The selection

criteria is far more complex than assessing a candidate's aptitude or flying skills. We know the current selection criteria so we can help guide you through this process. One important factor that is often overlooked by ADF pilot applicants is the candidate's suitability to become a commissioned officer. When you join the ADF you are becoming an officer first, and a pilot second! Our course helps you assess your personal strengths and weaknesses and provides advice and insights into preparing yourself for the ADF Pilot Selection Agency Officer Selection Board (OSB) at the end of Flight Screening.



Figure 1 - Robin 2160 Instrument Panel

## THE AIRCRAFT

On our courses you will be taught, as far as practical, the same techniques, principles, procedures and disciplines that you will encounter during your ADF Pilot Selection process. Obviously we do not operate the PC 21 aircraft! All our courses use the Robin 2160 aerobatics

trainer as the primary training aircraft. The Robin 2160 has flight characteristics that will introduce you to military style flying. In addition, depending on your aptitude and previous flying experience you may be given the option to add on 2 x 30 minute flights in the awesome Extra 300 advanced aerobatics aircraft. The Extra 300 is a tandem seat aircraft like the PC 21. In the Robin we will focus on basic flying skills, basic aerobatic manoeuvres, your 'G' tolerance and spinning, military style, addressing any undesirable 'civilian' bad habits. The Extra will expose you to more extreme 'G' forces. The optional time in the Extra 300 requires you to process information and react twice as quickly as in the Robin! It also gives you an understanding and opportunity to experience high manoeuvrability and high G forces (+/-8G..!) that you will encounter later in your ADF pilot training.

With close ties to serving ADF Pilots our course material is constantly updated to reflect the current ADF pilot selection requirements and we can put you in direct contact if you have any questions we can't answer, or if you just need sound advice from an active ADF pilot. Our ADF Flight Screening Prep.



Figure 2 Our Extra 300

Courses (FSP), while matched to your individual aptitude, are divided into 3 streams:

## COURSES

- 1. BEGINNER** – This course is designed for basic Flight Screening Program (FSP) candidates with little or no flying experience. You must have less than 10 hours total flying experience prior to FSP.
- 2. INTERMEDIATE** – Designed for those candidates who have more than 10 hours flying experience. The focus in this course is to 'unlearn' the bad habits you would have gained in your civilian flying training and instil good flying habits and techniques expected at Flight Screening.
- 3. ADVANCED** - For candidates who have more than 20 hours total flying experience. The focus in this course is also to 'unlearn' the bad habits you would have gained in your civilian flying training and prepare you to compete in the advanced ADF Flight Screening group. (Note: during ADF Flight Screening, candidates with more than 20 hours flying experience are placed in an advanced group with a more demanding assessment criteria)

All three courses are run by the Sunshine Coast Flying School and are based on a minimum 5 hours of dual flying plus detailed briefings, including hard copies of all briefings and course training notes for later reference. While all courses will be 'individualised', as a general guide, a minimum of 5 hours flying will be



conducted in our Robin 2160. The option to add 1 or 2 x 30 minute advanced handling and aerobatics flights in our Extra 300 will depend on our assessment if this will be of benefit to you.

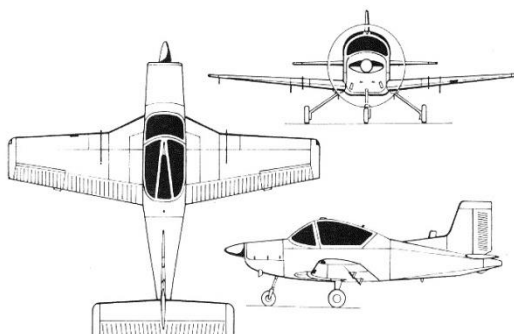
You may elect to fly more or less hours depending on your performance and of course, budget. All three courses cover ALL aspects of the aircraft flight envelope include stalling, basic aerobatics, unusual attitude recoveries, fully developed spin recovery as well as OSB preparation advice.

[Our Robin 2160](#)

## WHAT DOES IT COST?



CT4 Instrument Panel



Our courses are all personalised 'one on one' instruction and will be structured to your individual aptitude, learning rate, time between lessons and, of course, your budget! Your previous flying experience can also be a disadvantage as it will take time to correct undesirable traits and habits. Your 'learning rate' is a key assessment criteria for the ADF so our courses focus on helping you develop the ability to absorb new information and apply it consistently in a stressful environment. We have found that completing our prep training of 5 hours flying over 2 -3 days, one week or max two weeks before you commence the ADF Flight Screening will definitely give you a competitive advantage over the other candidates on your Flight Screening course. You should budget according to the following:

**ALL COURSES:** Include 5 hours dual flying and landing fees in the Robin 2160 aircraft, all briefings including hard copies of briefings and course training notes.

**COURSE PRICE: \$2,195.00 (incl. GST)**

**OPTIONAL:** 2 x 30 minute dual flights in the Extra 300 aircraft, all briefings including hard copies of briefings and training notes.

**PRICE: \$1,138.00 (incl. GST)**

For those who are not sure about committing to the cost or time for the full course, you are welcome to book in for individual lessons and 'pay as you go'. The prices for 'pay as you go', including aircraft hire, instructor, full briefing, hard copies of briefing materials and training notes are:

\*Robin 2160 - \$379.00 p/h dual + \$20.00 landing fee, Incl. GST.  
Long Briefings (40min) - \$55.00 each Incl. GST

\*Note: a minimum of 5 hours flying in the Robin 2160 over a 2-3 day period is highly recommended to ensure the full scope of the ADF Flight Screening is adequately covered.

Please understand that your 'motivation and commitment' to becoming a military pilot are critical. If you are not 100% sure that a career as an ADF Pilot is really what you want, the ADF Pilot Selection process will detect this and you will not be successful. We therefore recommend that if you have any doubts or are just 'giving it a shot' as one possible career path, please talk to us and do an assessment flight before applying to the ADF or signing up for any of our courses.



Figure 3 - The new PC 21 RAAF Advanced Trainer