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## **Major General Cheryl Pearce AM CSC** **Acting Military Advisor, Office of the Military Adviser**

Major General Cheryl Pearce was appointed as the Deputy Military Advisor on 11 March 2024 and subsequently appointed as the Acting Military Advisor on 23 April 2024. This followed her tenures as Deputy Chief of the Australian Army, her time as Force Commander, United Nations Forces in Cyprus (Jan 2019-Jan 2021) and an appointment as Deputy Commissioner Australian Border Force with the Department of Home Affairs (Aug 2021-Jan 2023). General Pearce graduated from the Officer Cadet School Portsea in Dec 1985 and commissioned into the Royal Australian Corps of Military Police. She has an extensive experience both in and out of Defence. She has been employed in a range of regimental command positions within the domestic and operational environments, as well as various staff appointments at the tactical, operational and strategic levels of Defence. The General commanded the Defence Police Training Centre and 1st Military Police Battalion over the period 2003 to 2006 and in recognition of her exceptional service during her four-year command tenure was appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia. Following numerous staff positions including HQ 1st Division, Army HQ, the Australian Defence College, Joint Capabilities and Special Operations, in 2017 she was appointed as the Commandant of the Australian Defence Force Academy.

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Her operational experience includes deploying as part of the UN in East Timor in 2002 where she was awarded a Chief of Defence Force Commendation for Bravery, and in 2016 as the Commander Task Group Afghanistan where she received a Commendation for Distinguished Service. More recently as Force Commander, United Nations Forces in Cyprus, she was awarded a Conspicuous Service Cross for her outstanding achievements. She attended the Australian Command and Staff College in 2001 and Higher Defence College in 2013. Her post-graduate qualifications include a Graduate Diploma of Management in Defence Studies from the University of Canberra, Masters of Intelligence, Policing and Counter Terrorism from Macquarie University and a Master of Arts (Defence Studies) from Deakin University.