

# Chief of Navy Address at the Decommissioning of HMAS *Darwin*

Sydney

9 December 2017

Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentleman, and most importantly, the current and former members of HMAS *Darwin's* ships company, their families and their friends.

At 1050 on Saturday 21 July 1984 HMAS *Darwin's* Executive Officer, LCDR Tim Scott, gave the order for *Darwin's* ships company to march on to the parade ground at Todd Pacific Shipyard in Seattle.

With that order *Darwin's* service in the Royal Australian Navy commenced.

Since that date the men and women who have proudly sailed in *Darwin* have given her life and can no doubt attest to her unique personality and idiosyncrasies.

To these people, to the men and women who have sailed in *Darwin*, thank you.

Your service has been often arduous, frequently dangerous, and always worthwhile.

You showed professionalism, courage and compassion in carrying out your duty – exactly what I expect, exactly what Australia expects – and I have not been disappointed.

You should be proud of your service and the contribution that you made to our Navy and our Nation — whether it was on the Australia Station, undertaking operations in the Middle East region on no less than seven occasions, supporting the new

nation of Timor-Leste, or supporting maritime stability and security in South East Asia and the South West Pacific.

Today, after more than 33 years of service and having sailed over a million nautical miles around the globe, *Darwin's* service comes to an end.

I thank you for your service and am grateful for what you have done for this Navy and this nation.

Bravo Zulu to you HMAS *Darwin*, and to all who sailed in her.