

## **Biography – 8296636 LTCOL Michael Charles Squire, RAA**

Lieutenant Colonel Michael Charles Squire is a serving officer in the Australian Regular Army. Michael was raised on his family's wheat and sheep farm in Mukinbudin, Western Australia. He attended public boarding school and spent several years working as a farm labourer across the Wheatbelt. Michael graduated the Royal Military College – Duntroon, in December 2003.



Michael's junior military experience was predominantly in artillery command positions (air defence, counter fires and air land operations) and instructional postings (Duntroon and School of Artillery). He gained operational experience in Timor Leste and Iraq, and international engagement experience from Exercise Long Look (an attachment to the British Army in Germany) and Rifle Company Butterworth. Mike's most significant achievements as a junior officer included preparing short-notice forces and capability for operational deployment, refining the curriculum for Air Defence Officer's military education, and refining advanced Air Defence live-fire practices.

In 2016, Michael attended the Australian Command and Staff College (Joint), attaining a Distinction in a Masters of Military and Defence Studies from the Australian National University. He then proceeded on posting to the Pacific North West of the United States as an embedded exchange officer with America's First Corps (I Corps). Mike was extended in his position at I Corps, at the request of the Commanding General (LTG Gary J Volesky), to complete 32 months of service as one of the lead Future Operations planners for the Corps.

Michael gained several notable experiences during his time with I Corps: In 2017-18 he was a lead planner for the Corps in several significant multi-national Joint exercises. From September 2017 until August 2019, he was the lead-planner for the Multi-Domain Task Force Pilot Program (MDTF); this was a significant experience which became a priority for the US Army. The Pilot Program informed the development of several Brigades of war-fighting capability and helped inform coalition strategy, philosophy and capability development. Michael's role with the MDTF and Multi-Domain Operations (MDO) philosophy saw him considerably engaged with coalition partners.

In August 2019, Michael and his family returned to Australia and he commenced work in the Australian Defence Force's Military Strategic Effects Branch. As Deputy Director Strategic Targeting, Michael was deeply involved in developing strategic targeting initiatives, competition concepts and refining Whole-of-Government coordination mechanisms. Michael was also the lead staff officer for Defence's Review of Operation BUSHFIRE ASSIST 2019-20; this work informed Defence's Lessons Learned process, informed numerous department-level changes, prepared Defence for the Royal Commission, and informed the review process for the COVID-19 Task Force. Michael was closely involved in the Defence Reform Strategy, developing a Defence Guide for strategic communications with government and key leaders.

On 11 December 2020, Michael commenced appointment as the Commanding Officer of 16 Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery, based at Woodside in South Australia. Mike is also appointed as the Senior Australian Defence Force Officer for Woodside Barracks.

Michael's wife, Lydia Teychenne, has significant experience in production across Australia's contemporary arts industry. Lydia is a Director for the Prince's Trust, with a particular focus on support to veterans, Defence families and transitioning members. Together, they have two boys: Eden (aged 7) and Willem (aged 2). They own a small wheat and sheep farm in Western Australia, enjoy travel and the arts, and aspire to build their own home one day. Michael enjoys cricket, Australian-rules football and hiking; however, most weekends are spent with family, working in the garden, or drawing.