

## Commanding Officer 16<sup>th</sup> Air Land Regiment

### Lieutenant Colonel Bernie White



LTCOL Berni White was born in Pasay City (Manila), Philippines in 1974. After migrating to Australia in the late 1970's, he was raised in Victoria and was educated at St Josephs (Christian Brothers) College Newtown in Geelong.

He joined the Army in 1991 and was initially a Gun Number on an M198 Howitzer in 38 Medium Battery, 2/10th Medium Regiment. He then attended the Royal Military College Duntroon in 1993 and graduated to the Royal Australian Artillery.

LTCOL White has served in every regular Artillery Regiment in the Australian Army, and the School of Artillery, during his career. His postings have included Gun Position Officer of 101 Field Battery - 1st Field Regiment, a Forward Observer in 'A' Field Battery, Adjutant of 16th Air Defence Regiment and Battery Command of 131 Surveillance & Target Acquisition Battery.

LTCOL White has also served as a Troop Commander in the 6th Battalion – Royal Australian Regiment, as a Recruit Instructor at 1st Recruit Training Battalion, Kapooka, and as Tactics & Leadership Master at the Royal Military College Duntroon.

Since graduating from Australian Command and Staff College in 2008, LTCOL White has held a variety of Staff positions, including Staff Officer Fire Support, responsible for Land 17 (M777A2 Light Weight Howitzer, Artillery Field Artillery Tactical Data System and Digital Terminal Control System) at Capability Development Group. During 2011 he was the Military Assistant to two Forces Commanders, and most recently he has led the planning at Headquarters Forces Command for the design of, and transition to, the Multi-role Combat Brigades under PLAN BEERSHEBA.

LTCOL White's operational experience includes OP WARDEN (INTERFET) in East Timor in 1999 as an 'A' Field Battery Forward Observer and later Platoon Commander with the 3rd Battalion – Royal Australian Regiment (Parachute Battalion Group).

LTCOL White qualified as an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Operator and Mission Commander at Boeings Training Facility in New Mexico, USA. He then deployed on OP CATALYST in Iraq in 2006 as the Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance Battery Commander of Overwatch Battle Group-2. His sub-unit was equipped with AN/TPQ-36 Weapon Locating Radars, ScanEagle and Skylark Unmanned Aerial Vehicles. The Unmanned Aerial Vehicles flew over 2000 combat hours in support of coalition operations around Talil and over Basra.

In 2007 LTCOL White led the planning and technical reconnaissance into Afghanistan to establish Unmanned Aerial Vehicle operations based at Tarin Kwot, as part of OP SLIPPER.

LTCOL White is married to Liz and they have three young children. They enjoy spending time at the beach as a family; especially any opportunity to go Stand Up Paddle boarding.

LTCOL White assumed command of the 16th Air Land Regiment on 14 December 2013.