

BIOGRAPHY – COLONEL MICHAEL JOHN BRENNAN

Colonel Mike Brennan was born in Three Springs, Western Australia in 1956. He enlisted as an Army Apprentice, at the age of 15, in 1972. After completing a four year apprenticeship as an electronics technician he was posted to 126 Signal Squadron (Special Forces). He was selected for officer training in 1978 and graduated from the Officer Cadet School, Portsea in June 1979 as a second lieutenant.

Colonel Brennan's regimental appointments include troop commander, 1 Signal Regiment (1979-80); troop commander, 152 Signal Squadron, the Special Air Service Regiment (1982-84); operations officer and later a squadron commander, 1 Signal Regiment (1988-89) and the Commanding Officer 8 Signal Regiment (1997-98).

In 1990 he was selected to attend the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham, UK where he trained as a technical staff officer. During this posting he was awarded membership of the City and Guilds of London Institute (MCGI) for a project on the Military Application of Airships. Colonel Brennan's technical staff appointments include Materiel Division - Army (1991-92); Logistic Command – Army (1994-95) and the SO1 Command, Control, Communications and Information Systems, Force Development (Land), Australian Defence Headquarters (1996).

In 1999, following his appointment as the Commanding Officer, 8 Signal Regiment he was posted as the SO1 Communications and Information Systems Development (J68), Headquarters Australian Theatre. During late 1999 he deployed to US Pacific Command, Hawaii as a liaison officer to assist with the planning for Operation Stabilise, East Timor. He was also involved in a number of planning activities in East Timor including the establishment of commercial communications for INTERFET and the development of the communications capability of the newly established East Timor Defence Force, under the Defence Cooperation Program. During July to December 2000 he was deployed to Bougainville on Operation Bel Isi II as the Commanding Officer, Monitoring Team – Wakunai, in the Peace Monitoring Group.

Colonel Brennan completed a Grad Dip Eng (Telecommunications Systems Management) at the Swinburne Institute of Technology. He is a graduate of the UK Command and Staff Course, Division II, Shrivenham and a graduate of the Australian Army Command and Staff College, Queenscliff.

He was posted as the Australian Army Liaison Officer to US Army Communications Electronics Command, Fort Monmouth, New Jersey over 2002-2003. He was promoted to Colonel in January 2004 and his final appointment in the Australian Regular Army was as the Director Combat and Operational Support Systems, Defence Materiel Organisation (2004-2005). He retired in January 2006 and he has continued to work on a range of Defence projects as an Army Reserve officer.

Colonel Brennan is married to Irene and they have three adult children. He enjoys travel, military history, reading and working as a volunteer at the Army Museum of Western Australia. He is currently writing a history of the *Royal Australian Corps of Signals in East Timor 1999-2012*. He is the current President of the Royal United Services Institute of Western Australia.