

General Michael Crane DSC and Bar, AM (Retd)



Michael Crane was born in Hobart and educated at St Virgil's College and the Royal Military College, Duntroon. He was commissioned into the Royal Australian Artillery in 1980.

Michael's early regimental appointments were in 4th Field Regiment and 8/12th Medium Regiment. He served as an instructor at Duntroon and, following advanced training in Canada, at the School of Artillery. He held staff appointments in the Army's Personnel Division and Australian Defence Force Headquarters, before returning to 4th Field Regiment as Commanding Officer. In the latter appointment he saw operational service in East Timor. He then commanded the Army Recruit Training Centre.

As a brigadier, Michael held staff appointments in the Department of Defence's International Policy Division and Policy Development Division. He also served as Chief of Staff in Headquarters Joint Operations Command, before commanding Joint Task Force 633 in the Middle East Area of Operations.

On promotion to major general, Michael was appointed Head Military Strategic Commitments. He next served as Deputy Director of Operations at United States Central Command. Following a period spent undertaking special projects for the Chief of Defence Force, he returned to Joint Task Force 633 for a second tour as Commander. He retired from full time service in May 2014.

Michael is a graduate of the Army Command and Staff College, the Joint Services Staff College, the Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies and the United Kingdom Higher Command and Staff Course. He holds degrees in science, defence and strategic studies. He was appointed a Member in the Order of Australia for his service as Commanding Officer 4th Field Regiment and Commandant Army Recruit Training Centre. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and Bar for service in the Middle East. He was awarded the United States Legion of Merit (Degree of Officer) for his service at Central Command.