Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company Photograph

Timothy John (Tim) McKenna was born in Melbourne in 1954 and educated at Aquinas College, Ringwood. In 1971 he entered the Royal Military College, Duntroon and graduated in 1974.

Tim's first regimental posting was to 8th/12th Medium Regiment, subsequently serving at the School of Artillery and as BC HQ Battery in 1st Field Regiment in 1985-86. He was the Brigade Major of 1st Brigade in 1988-89 and Commanding Officer/Chief Instructor of the School in 1993-1994.

In his latter years in the Army he served in Canberra staff appointments, being promoted to Brigadier in 1998. In the next four years he served in a number of appointments supervising the development of Defence's information and communications systems. A highlight in this period was coordinating the rapid acquisition of communications and computing equipment for Australia's deployment to East Timor in 1999.

He retired from the Regular Army in February 2002.

In 2002 Tim joined the Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO) as First Assistant Secretary Science Policy before becoming the Chief of the Defence Systems Analysis Division. In 2007 Tim resigned from the Public Service to become a management consultant. In 2008 he also commenced work in the Army Reserve. In 2015 he retired from the Army Reserve but continues his management consulting activities, although increasingly on a part-time basis.

Tim is married to Margot, who is an English teacher and musician. They have four wonderful children and five cute grandchildren. Other than his family, Tim's outside interests include playing very bad golf and working with refugees and asylum seekers.

Tim is a graduate of the Army Command and Staff College (1987), the Joint Services Staff College (1992) and the Australian College of Defence and Strategic Studies (1997). He has an Honours Degree in Science and a PhD in Physics