***COMMANDING OFFICER 2RAR - BIO***

**Commanding Officer LTCOL Luke Holloway**

Lieutenant Colonel Luke Holloway is a graduate of the Australian Defence Force Academy and the Royal Military College – Duntroon, commissioning in 2007. His regimental service consists of service in the 1st and 8th/9th Battalions of the Royal Australian Regiment, culminating in his current appointment as the Commanding Officer of the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Australian Regiment.

Lieutenant Colonel Holloway has had the privilege of commanding and leading soldiers on various operations throughout his career. As a junior officer, he was fortunate gain specialist qualifications and experience in Reconnaissance and ISTAR roles. His formative experiences included service on Rifle Company Butterworth as well as Operations YASI ASSIST (North Queensland), SLIPPER (Afghanistan), and CATHEDRAL (Papua New Guinea). On Operation CATHEDRAL, Lieutenant Colonel Holloway was the Liaison Officer to the Papua New Guinea Defence Force Joint Task Force operating in the highlands, receiving an ADF Bronze Commendation for his performance in this role. Lieutenant Colonel Holloway has also led a combat team on a range of exercises, and within the Amphibious Ground Combat Element as part of the Ready Battle Group. In 2018, he commanded the Land Mobile Training Teams on Operation AUGURY – Philippines based in Mindanao. Lieutenant Colonel Holloway led the design and delivery of combined arms urban operations training for several formations of the Philippines Armed Forces. For his efforts he was awarded the Philippines Military Merit Medal on three occasions. In 2023, Lieutenant Colonel Holloway deployed on Operation OKRA as CJ35 Chief Plans for Operation INHERENT RESOLVE. For his leadership of the planning team conducting deliberate planning as well as crisis action planning he was awarded the United States Defence Meritorious Service Medal and an ADF Gold Commendation.

Lieutenant Colonel Holloway’s staff appointments include Adjutant 1st Recruit Training Battalion, desk officer in the G1 and G3 branches of Headquarters Forces Command, and Aide-de-Camp to Commander 2nd Division for which he awarded an Army Bronze Commendation. Post staff college, he served as Staff Officer Grade 2 Post 1 and Staff Officer Grade 2 PAC. On promotion to Lieutenant Colonel, he served as Staff Officer Grade 1 – Joint Collective Training within the G3 branch of Army Headquarters, followed by several months as Acting Director Preparedness – Army. In 2024, he served as Director Land Engagements and Communications – Land Capability Division. Lieutenant Colonel Holloway’s staff experience has afforded him considerable insight into the Army People, Capability and Preparedness Systems, Army’s future strategic direction, and Army’s contribution to the Integrated Force.

Lieutenant Colonel Holloway holds a Bachelor of Arts (History and Politics), a Master of Business (Human Resources), a Master of Military and Defence Studies (Art of War) and has completed the Cranlana leadership Colloquium. He is a Distinguished Graduate of the Australian Command and Staff Course, where he received the Charlie Green Leadership Award.

His partner – Major Gabrielle Taylor, is a military police officer who is currently serving in Headquarters 3rd Brigade. They enjoy travel, rugby union, and most importantly, parenting Rose (six years old). He actively contributes to national security and military history journals and recently authored a chapter on building partner capacity in the book An Army of Influence: Eighty Years of Regional Military Engagement.

