

LTC MITCHELL A. PAYNE BIO
5TH SQUADRON, 15TH CAVALRY

LTC Mitchell A Payne was commissioned in 2004 from Wheaton College. After completing Armor Officer Basic Course, he was assigned to 3-71 Cavalry at Fort Drum NY as a Reconnaissance Platoon Leader and deployed to Afghanistan from 2006-2007 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) VI-VII. He also served as the Squadron S1 and S9, deploying again in 2009 in support of OEF IX.

After completing Captain's Career Course at Fort Knox, KY he was assigned to First Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, TX serving as a plans officer, where he deployed from 2011-2012 in support of OEF XII-XIII. While deployed, he assumed command of Operations Company, 1CD, where he commanded FOB Lightning and trained Afghan Security Forces throughout Gardez, Afghanistan. After command, he served as the Chief of Operations in 1/1 CD. After Command and General Staff College, LTC Payne was assigned to 1/25 SBCT at Fort Wainwright, AK where he served as the Brigade Plans Officer, the XO for 1-5 Infantry Battalion, and the XO for 5-1 Cavalry Squadron. Following his time in Alaska,

LTC Payne served as the XO for 1-306 Infantry Battalion, and later as the Brigade XO for 188th Infantry Brigade at Fort Stewart, GA. LTC Payne then served as the Battalion Commander for Task Force Viking, 1ABCT, 3ID, where he worked with leaders from across the storied 3rd Infantry Division to train and deploy Soldiers in support of combat operations. Most recently LTC Payne served as the senior Command and Control OC/T for Mission Command Training Program at Fort Leavenworth, KS, where he trained division leaders in large-scale combat operations.

LTC Payne is married to the former Meghan Timko, and they have two children, Abigail (9) and Elijah (5). LTC Payne's major awards and qualifications include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and the Combat Action Badge. He holds a master's degree in Military Art and Science from the Command and General Staff College and a Ph.D. in Organizational Leadership from Regent University.