

LTC Michael (Mike) Venafro
Commander, 1-507th Parachute Infantry Regiment

LTC Michael Venafro is a native of Fall River, Massachusetts, with formative years spent in Rhode Island and Opelika, Alabama. He was commissioned as an Infantry Officer from the University of South Alabama, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Political Science.

LTC Venafro's early assignments included serving as a Platoon Leader in Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment in South Korea (2005-2006). He returned to Fort Benning, Georgia, where he commanded Alpha Company, 1-19 Infantry Regiment (2007-2008) before deploying as a Combat Advisor with an Embedded Transition Team to Zabul Province, Afghanistan (2008-2009).

Following the Maneuver Captains Career Course, LTC Venafro commanded Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment in Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, deploying to Kunar Province, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (2011-2012). He later served as an Observer Coach/Trainer at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin (2013-2015), and completed the Intermediate Level Education program at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, earning a Master's degree from Central Michigan University in 2016.

LTC Venafro deployed in support of Operation Inherent Resolve with 18th Airborne Corps in 2016. He subsequently served as the S3 and Executive Officer for 3-73 Cavalry, 1st Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division (2017-2019), and then led Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Security Force Assistance Brigade on its inaugural deployment to Ghazni, Afghanistan (March-December 2019). He continued to serve within 2nd SFAB as both the 2nd Battalion Executive Officer and the Brigade Executive Officer (January 2020-May 2022).

Returning to XVIII Airborne Corps, LTC Venafro served as Chief of Operations, G33, deploying to Europe in support of Operation Deter and Assure (May-November 2022). He assumed command of 4th Ranger Training Battalion (May 2023-May 2025). LTC Venafro then assumed command of 1-507th PIR in May 2025.

LTC Venafro is married to Tyler Jane Venafro, and they have 4 children: Isabella, Michael III, Mia and Axel.