

Lieutenant Michael Kenneth Housdan Fussell



Lieutenant Fussell was born on 17th November 1983 at Coffs Harbour, New South Wales. He enlisted in the Australian Army January 2002 and was appointed as an officer cadet at the Australian Defence Force Academy. He completed a Bachelor of Arts and was a keen sportsman, with a strong interest in rugby.

He attended Royal Military College, Duntroon in 2005, commissioning in December 2005 into the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery. On graduation he was posted to 'A' Field Battery, 4th Field Regiment, where he fulfilled a number of junior officer roles.

During his time at 'A' Field Battery he qualified as a para-trooper. He also deployed to East Timor on Operation Astute in 2006 and 2007.

Lieutenant Fussell was posted to 4th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment (Commando) in January 2008 as a joint offensive support team commander. He was a platoon commander for the Advance Infantry Course at Singleton and completed the joint terminal attack controllers (JTAC) course.

Lieutenant Fussell's military decorations include the Australian Active Service Medal with clasp International Campaign Against Terrorism (ICAT), the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Australian Service Medal clasp, Timor-Leste and the Australian Defence Medal.

Lieutenant Michael Fussell was killed by an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) detonation on 27th November 2008 in Afghanistan. He leaves behind two loving parents, his younger brother Daniel and two younger foster sisters Nikki and Nyah. His brother Daniel is a Lieutenant with 1st Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery (RAA) in Brisbane.

The extract below is from a statement promulgated by the Head of Regiment Brigadier Phil Winter on the 1st December 2008 throughout the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery.

Death of Lieutenant M.K. Fussell

I am saddened to inform the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery and the wider Royal Australian Artillery community that Lieutenant Michael Kenneth Fussell has died whilst serving Australia with the Joint Offensive Support Team, 4th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (Commando) in Afghanistan.

The Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery mourns the loss of Michael and sends our sincere thoughts and deepest sympathy to his parents, family and friends. Our special

thoughts also go to his brother Lieutenant Daniel Fussell who is currently serving with 1st Field Regiment.

Michael commenced his service with A Field Battery, 4th Field Regiment prior to his posting to the Joint Offensive Support Team, 4th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (Commando). He was looking forward to re-uniting with his brother Daniel on his reposting to 1st Field Regiment on the completion of his tour.

Michael has made the supreme sacrifice to Australia, take time to pause and reflect on his death, support his family in their grief, remember his service to Australia and his contribution to the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery.

Remember too, that the demands of current operations continue and we also need to look forward, to continue to undertake our training, to prepare ourselves for operational deployment, and to fully support those gunners currently serving and preparing for overseas deployments and their families.

Lest we forget.

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Brigadier P.D. Winter, CSC
Head of Regiment

RAAHC