

DEFENCE FORCE BOARD

Responsibilities

The Defence Force Board (DFB) provides the interface between the Anglican Church of Australia (ACA) and the clergy of the ACA employed as chaplains to the Australian Defence Force (ADF). It is responsible to General Synod for sustainment and maintenance of the office of the Bishop to the Defence Force (BDF).

Membership

The DFB met formally three times a year 2011-2013. As well there were six teleconference meetings in 2012 and three in 2013. Membership of the Board is:

The Right Rev'd Ian Lambert (Chair)
Principal Chaplain the Ven. Eric Burton, CSC (Navy)
Principal Chaplain the Ven. Geoff Webb (Army)
Director General Chaplaincy – Air Force & Principal Air Chaplain the Ven. Kevin Russell
Chaplain Tim Booker (Army Reserve)
Chaplain Andrew Nixon (Navy Reserve)
Chaplain Michael O'Brien (Army)
Colonel Mark Francis (Army Reserve) – Defence Force Anglican Chaplains Incorporated (DFACI) Registrar
Mr Allan Sauer (Brisbane) Honorary Treasurer
Mr Alan Gallimore (Brisbane)

Since 2010 General Synod, the following Board Members have stood down:

The Right Rev'd Len Eacott (retired December 2012)
The Very Rev'd Andrew Sempell (Bathurst)
The Right Rev'd Mark Burton (Dean of Melbourne)
Chaplain the Rev'd Russell Joyce RANR (Melbourne)
Colonel Jim Dittmar CSC (Canberra and Goulburn)

The Right Rev'd Ian Lambert was appointed by the Primate as the new Bishop to the Defence Force on 1 July 2013. Bishop Ian assumes the ministry with twenty years experience as an Army Officer, before serving a similar length of time in the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn in Parish ministry and more recently as Assistant Bishop.

Mission and Vision

The Anglican Defence Chaplains determined the following:

Mission

"To minister, proclaim and witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ within the ADF community"

Vision

That all may know the reign of God (Mt 28: 19, Col 1: 28).

Under God we seek to serve the ADF community by:

Restoring the broken (Luke 4: 18)
Awakening people to God
Inviting the community into relationship with Jesus
Sustaining and nurturing them on their faith journey
Praying for the community
In all this we demonstrate the love of God.

Over the next three years the Defence Force Board in support of Anglican Chaplaincy, will seek to:

- promote and support the implementation of the Mission and Vision of the Chaplains;
- enhance the care and well-being of Chaplains and their families;
- identify means and opportunity for professional development of Chaplains in Defence;
- identify and recruit suitable clergy for full-time and part-time service;
- secure adequate long-term funding for the ministry and mission of the Office of the BDF.

Governance and Reform

As a result of General Synod's resolution 38/2007 - Defence Force Organisational Structure, on 25 October 2007, the Defence Force Board (DFB) undertook a detailed review and examination of the organisational and governance structure of Anglican ministry to the Australian Defence Force (ADF), and in consultation with the Primate, Defence Legal, Justice Refshauge and Justice Young, developed an appropriate model of governance which would be both compliant with the Constitution Canons of the Anglican Church of Australia and acceptable to the ADF. Subsequently, in September 2009, the General Synod Standing Committee (GSSC) was presented a proposal for a governance structure by the Bishop for the Defence Force (BDF) and it recommended that further development ought to be undertaken on the model proposed.

The 2010 General Synod received the DFB report that after further consultation the identified requirements would be achieved by a revised Defence Force Anglican Chaplains Incorporated (DFACI) constitution and regulations without the need for canonical or legislative action, and the DFACI members were to be asked to consider this at the DFACI AGM in October 2010.

At the DFACI AGM 2010 the members agreed that DFACI Inc. (NSW) was inadequate to meet the identified requirements, and agreed to establish DFACI Inc. incorporated in the ACT with a revised constitution and revised regulations to implement *Faithfulness in Service* and the procedures required for the exercise of Anglican ministry in the ADF. In early 2011 DFACI Inc. (ACT) was established and all assets and necessary arrangements of DFACI Inc. (NSW) were transferred to it. The DFACI AGM 2011 received a governance review which explained how "Defence Anglicans" operated across all Anglican Defence Force ministries, confirmed under the existing structure which entity within "Defence Anglicans" was responsible for what areas, and agreed a proposal to better integrate the current structure under a common strategic plan. Importantly, in 2012 the GSSC approved "Defence Anglicans" as an approved Anglican Network pursuant to the Canon. The DFACI AGM 2013 received an update on the governance review which confirmed the

implementation of “Defence Anglicans”, and the proposal to improve communication between entities and advice to the BDF through a “Joint Executive Defence Anglicans” was approved.

As a result, the DFB considers that the governance matters raised in 2007 have been completed.

Faithfulness in Service and Professional Standards

All Anglican Defence Force Chaplains and Lay Ministers are signatories to Anglican Defence Chaplaincy Faithfulness in Service Protocols, and are subject to the Code of Conduct of the Diocese in which they are posted. DFACI has negotiated with Safe Ministry Resources Pty Ltd to provide advice and objective assessment of Safe Ministry Checks.

Staffing and Ministry

There are 90 clergy serving as military chaplains (42 full time, 42 part time, 6 trainees). Recruiting of Anglican Chaplains, specifically younger clergy, continues as a priority for the Office of the BDF, with more creative ministry models being explored.

Chaplains continue to deploy with military personnel in several locations in the Middle East, Pacific, South East Asia, and at sea. At any one time during the reporting period a minimum of three Anglican clergy have been deployed on operations for periods up to eight months. This comes at great cost personally, spiritually and psychologically. Post Traumatic Stress (PTS) along with related matters of moral and spiritual injury are current issues of discussion in the ADF. Chaplains have been asked to contribute to the discussions and preparation of policy around Mental and Spiritual Health. Anglican Chaplains have had opportunity for research and study overseas and are well placed for significant contributions.

The Bishop undertakes a regular schedule of visits to chaplains and families throughout Australia.

The bishop’s new part-time staff officer/executive assistant Lieutenant Colonel Dale Cooper, has succeeded Army Major Catherine Crane who resigned in December 2013.

Insurance

DFACI has negotiated additional insurance cover under the Anglican National Insurance Policy. This was necessitated by the fact that Chaplains and Lay Ministers were not covered for various types of insurance cover while undertaking non defence Anglican duties.

Defence Anglicans website

With the support of the DFB, the chaplains have established a web site and a Defence Anglicans Facebook page with the dual intention of information and ministry outreach to Defence personnel as well as a resource for chaplaincy and recruiting. The web site titled “Defence Anglicans” can be accessed using the follow URL: www.defenceanglicans.org.au.

Finance

The DFB receives an annual grant from the General Synod General Fund to fund its operations. The Board was grateful for the extra funding for one year granted at the last Session of the General Synod, but since the end of that first year has been limited to the usual Grant, the amount of which has not increased for some considerable time. There is limited supplementary income available to the Board for its work.

The Board has always believed funding needs to be increased. Any further diminution of the funding will seriously impede its activities and preclude it from fulfilling its obligations which will significantly impact upon the ministry and mission of the church to the Defence Force.

The funding by the Commonwealth for the In Service Training Scheme, to Australian Theological colleges and parishes, together with the value of the ministry exercised by ADF ordinands and curates in the Australian church surpasses the financial assistance it receives from the General Synod and individual dioceses.

Anglican Military – Outreach and Service (AMOS) Foundation

The Board continues to be active in promoting the AMOS Foundation as part of the resourcing for the ministry within the ADF. The Patron of The AMOS Foundation is the Governor General of Australia. The growth of the capital of the fund increases slowly. There is a continued campaign centred on the celebration of Defence Sunday together with the Prayer Diary, to increase the capital. This would improve the capacity of the Foundation to support the ministry of the bishop and the chaplains as planned.

Closing Remarks

The Chaplains are charged with taking the Gospel to the Defence community, and along with fellow Christians, carrying the presence of God, often into some very dark places. It is not without cost to their families and to their own physical, emotional and spiritual well-being. The Defence Force Board commends the Chaplains and the Office of the BDF, to your prayers, and encourages the continued support of the National Church for this expanding mission field. We also seek your prayerful support that the Lord would continue to raise up young clergy for this mission role.