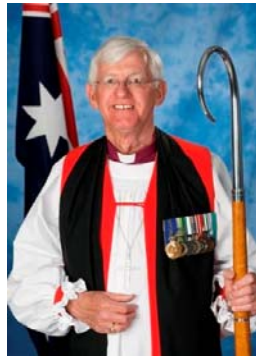




## **The Right Reverend Leonard Sidney (Len) EACOTT, AM**



Consecrated as a Bishop in the Church of God and Installed as the Anglican Bishop to the Australian Defence Force on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2007, Bishop Len Eacott has extensive experience in the management and leadership of military chaplaincy at the strategic and operational levels which he combines with a deep commitment to the care and nurture of individuals and communities. He has an established record of compassionate leadership with a focus on discerning and fulfilling personal goals and corporate objectives. As a person who encourages initiative in others, he strives to create the conditions in which creativity is promoted and innovation is esteemed.

Len's vision of the Anglican expression of the Christian faith is broad and expansive. Acknowledging the 1888 Lambeth Quadrilateral to be an implicit statement of Anglican self-understanding, Len affirms that the Anglican Church is indeed "one, holy, catholic and apostolic". Informed by both the Reformed and Catholic elements of classical Anglican doctrine and polity, he believes that the traditions which comprise the contemporary Anglican Church can be synthesised and helped to contribute positively to its mission and ministry. Building on his experiences of ecumenical and inter-faith dialogue, Len actively promotes possibilities for cooperation and collaboration without forsaking or dismissing core beliefs and defining values.

Born in 1947 in Toowoomba, Queensland, Bishop Len Eacott enlisted in the Army Reserve (then Citizens Military Forces) in November 1966 as a soldier, Royal Australian Infantry Corps. He fulfilled a National Service commitment from 1968 to 1972 and was commissioned as a General Service Officer (Royal Australian Infantry) in February 1972. He served in 25<sup>th</sup> Battalion, the Royal Queensland Regiment, in a variety of regimental appointments, 1<sup>st</sup> Training Group as an instructor, and the Queensland University Regiment as Mortar Platoon Commander, Officer Commanding Support Company and as the Regimental Second-in-Command. He qualified for the skill-at-arms (marksman) badge in the years 1974 to '76.

Prior to commencing Anglican theological studies in Brisbane in 1980 he was employed by the Queensland Department of Primary Industries as a Soil Conservation field officer. Graduating from St Francis' Theological College, Brisbane and the University of Queensland, he was made a deacon in the Anglican Church of Australia on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February and ordained priest on the 30<sup>th</sup> November 1983.

He holds a Certificate in Rural Technology (Soil Conservation) from the Queensland Agricultural College, a Bachelor of Arts in Studies in Religion and Sociology from the University of Queensland, a Graduate Diploma in Education (Religious Education) from the University of South Australia and a Graduate Certificate in Chaplaincy.

He has served as an Anglican priest in the parishes of St Andrew's Indooroopilly, St Luke's Toowoomba, and St Augustine's Oakey in the Diocese of Brisbane from 1983 to 1989.

Following his ordination, he transferred to Royal Australian Army Chaplains' Department. As an Army Chaplain he has served in the Army Reserve with the 7<sup>th</sup> Brigade, the 7<sup>th</sup> Signals Regiment (EW) and the 1<sup>st</sup> Aviation Regiment. In the Regular Army (ARA) he served with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade in Townsville (1990-92), the United Nations in Cambodia (UNTAC) from March to October 1993, and the Land Warfare Centre, Canungra from 1993 to 1995 as the Coordinating Chaplain. From 1996 to 2000 he served as the Senior Chaplain 1<sup>st</sup> Division at the Deployable Joint Force Headquarters, Enoggera, and as General Peter Cosgrove's Senior Chaplain to the International Force in East Timor (INTERFET) (September 1999 to February 2000). In 2001 and 2002 he served as the Senior Chaplain to the Logistic Support Force (17<sup>th</sup> CSS Bde) and as Command Chaplain to the Army's Land Headquarters in Sydney.

On 1<sup>st</sup> March 2002 he was collated Archdeacon to the Australian Army and assumed the appointment of Principal Chaplain - Army on 18 November 2002 at Army Headquarters, Canberra until he retired from this position on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2007.

He was admitted as a Member of the Military Division of the Order of Australia on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2007.

He is blissfully married to Sandy and together they have a married daughter and two grand-children living at Mount Tamborine, Queensland. Their younger son works in the IT industry in Canberra. Their elder son died of cancer in 1995. Bishop Eacott's interests include bushwalking, off-road cycling, genealogical research, and reading (adventure novels in preference to theology).

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