

## **REGULATIONS FOR ANGLICAN BAPTISM IN THE AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE**

### **General Regulations**

1. Infant baptisms (except in cases of emergencies) to include thorough preparation of the parents and, if possible, the godparents.
2. There is to be no absolute refusal of baptism, but the preparation should make the meaning and obligations of baptism so clear that the parents will make the decision to proceed on a basis of knowledge of their commitment.
3. Baptism of people from areas other than a Chaplain's immediate responsibility is to proceed only after contact has been made with the Chaplain/Rector of the area in which they, the parents, live. Such baptisms should normally be in the context of congregational worship as required in A.A.P.B.
4. Where an infant is baptised, then pastoral follow up of such baptism should, where applicable, include notification of Rectors of parishes in which the family live, that the baptism has taken place.

### **Specific Regulations**

5. The attention of all chaplains is directed to the rubrics on page 500 of the A.A.P.B., noting especially:
  - a. Whenever possible to be administered at a public service on Sundays.
  - b. Parents and godparents are to be instructed either privately or openly as to their duties regarding the Christian upbringing of those baptised.
  - c. It is desirable that the child's parents associate themselves with the godparents and join in making the answers with them in the service.
  - d. A male child shall have two godfathers and one godmother, and a female child shall have two godmothers and one godfather.
6. According to Canon 6/77 of the General Synod, parents may be godparents for their own children.

### **Notes:**

1. Defence Force Baptism cards are available.
2. Duly completed Baptism return slips should be forwarded to the Registrar of the Bishop to the Defence Force.
3. Any 'Baptism' leaflets to be given to parents and godparents after instruction are not to take the place of instruction.

Tri-Service Conference Gilbulla  
Jointly approved by all Chaplains present. 10 August 1984