

Chaplain Gary Stone



Gary was born and educated in Brisbane, prior to entering the Royal Military College Duntroon on 1970.

Upon graduating from Duntroon in 1973, Gary commenced a career as an Infantry Officer, serving in the First, Sixth and Eighth/Ninth Battalions of the Royal Australian Regiment over a period of 22 years. Additionally he served as an Instructor at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, and as Senior Instructor at the Officer Cadet School Portsea. Gary commanded the First Battalion contingent deployed in response to the Fiji Coup in 1987, and also commanded the Australian contingent of Peacekeepers deployed to the Iran /Iraq war in 1989.

Gary graduated from the Australian Army Command and Staff College, Fort Queenscliffe in 1983, and graduated from the Joint Services Staff College, Canberra in 1990.

Whilst employed as the Land Operations Officer at the Headquarters Australian Defence Force Command Centre, Gary accepted a call to commence studies for ordination in the Catholic Church as a Deacon – one of only a few in Australia at the time. Following formation at Banyo seminary in Brisbane, completing a Bachelor of Theology, and Graduate Diploma in Ministry, Gary was ordained in December 1994.

Gary's career, as an ordained minister, commenced in placement at the Parish of The Gap in Brisbane whilst at the same time offering part-time chaplaincy service to the Second Combat Engineer Regiment. Gary resumed fulltime military service in 1998 with chaplaincy postings to the Royal Military College Duntroon, and 2nd/14th Light Horse Regiment. During this latter appointment Gary saw operational service in East Timor and Bougainville. Following appointment as Coord Chaplain, 7th Brigade in Brisbane in 2002, Gary transferred back to Reserve service as Chaplain to Regional Training Centre South Queensland, and subsequently to HQ 11th Brigade. In 2003 he won a Prince of Wales Award to visit and study ministry in the US military.

In 2005 he was asked to also take on Chaplaincy to the Australian Federal Police and has been deployed to the AFP missions in the Asian Tsunami, Timor (9 tours) and the Solomons (9 tours).

Gary has been married to Lynne for 37 years and they have four adult children - Catherine, Michael, Christy and Paul, and one granddaughter, Brianna. Gary's family were the subject of an ABC Australian Story episodes, The Peacemaker, on 9 Apr 07, and the Presidents Man 21 Sep 09. His son Michael is Security Advisor to President Jose Ramos Horta in Timor.

Gary enjoys tennis, walking, singing, woodworking and gardening. In April 2008 he successfully crossed the Kokoda track, with a group of his RMC classmates. In June 2010 he and Lynne trekked 350 km of the Camino pilgrimage through the hills of Spain to Santiago.

In 2001 Gary founded a non government organisation "Friends and Partners of East Timor" which has delivered over \$900,000 in aid, building schools, clinics, and facilitating community development. In 2005 the RSL awarded their National Peace Prize to FPET for making a significant contribution to world peace.

Gary and Lynne live in leafy western suburb of The Gap, in Brisbane. Gary currently serves as coordinating chaplain for the 11th Army Reserve Brigade and chaplain to the AFP International Deployment Group.