

DEFENCE FORCE MINISTRY CANON 1985

Canon 19, 1985 as amended by
Canon 6, 2001
Canon 4, 2022

A canon to provide for the office of bishop to defence force, for the licensing of chaplains serving in the defence force and for other purposes.

The General Synod prescribes as follows:

1. This canon may be cited as the "Defence Force Ministry Canon 1985".

2.¹ In this canon -

"Bishop to the Defence Force" means the bishop appointed and holding office from time to time under this canon;

"Defence Force Board" means the Defence Force Board constituted under the Defence Force Board Canon 1985.

2A. (1) The Primate may, with the approval of a majority of the Metropolitans and of the Defence Force Board, appoint a person in Holy Orders to the office of Bishop to the Defence Force.

(2) If the person so appointed is not already a bishop, the person shall not be consecrated as bishop unless the canonical fitness of the appointee shall have been certified in writing by the Primate and the Metropolitans.

(3) A person appointed to the office of Bishop to the Defence Force shall not enter upon the office unless consecrated as bishop.

2B. (1) Before making an appointment to the office of Bishop to the Defence Force, the Primate shall obtain from the Defence Force Board notification of the stipend and allowances to be paid or provided as the case may be to the Bishop to the Defence Force.

(2) No appointment as Bishop to the Defence Force shall be made by the Primate until a majority of the Metropolitans have informed him in writing that they are satisfied that sufficient stipend and allowances will be provided for the occupant of the office.

¹ Section 2 deleted and replaced by new Section 2 including Sections 2A and 2B by Canon 6, 2001.

3. The Bishop to the Defence Force shall be a bishop assistant to the Primate and shall be responsible to the Primate for episcopal oversight of the chaplains serving in the Defence Force and of the ministrations of the church among men and women of the Defence Force and their families.
- 4.²
 - (1) The Bishop to the Defence Force shall continue in office notwithstanding any vacancy in the office of Primate.
 - (2) The term of office of a Bishop to the Defence Force shall expire:
 - (a) after five years, or at the expiration of any subsequent fixed term;
 - (b) upon resignation from office; or
 - (c) upon removal from episcopal office;

whichever first occurs.

 - (3) The appointment of the Bishop to the Defence Force may be extended by the Primate for a further term of up to five years provided that:
 - (a) the Primate and the Defence Force Board have together reviewed the position of the Bishop to the Defence Force no earlier than 12 months, and no later than 8 months, preceding the end of the term; and
 - (b) the extension of the Bishop to the Defence Force's appointment for a further term has been approved by a majority of the Metropolitans and of the Defence Force Board.
 - (4) The appointment of the Bishop to the Defence Force may be extended for further terms each of up to five years provided that the procedure described in section 4(3) is adopted.
5.
 - (1)
 - (a) The Bishop to the Defence Force shall advise the Primate as to persons who are under consideration for appointment as chaplains in the Defence Force;
 - (b) upon a chaplain's appointment by the secular authorities, the Primate may in his discretion, either personally or by the Bishop to the Defence Force, grant to the chaplain a licence in or to the effect of the prescribed form authorising the chaplain to minister in Defence Force ships, establishments and areas of operations to members of the Defence Force and their families wherever they reside;
 - (c) prior to posting to any Defence Force ship, establishment or area of operation, the bishop of the diocese in which the Defence Force ship, establishment or area of operation is located shall where practicable be advised by the Bishop to the Defence Force or the Principal Chaplain of the intention to post the chaplain;

- (d) upon a chaplain commencing his work in a new posting, provided it is in a different diocese to his previous posting, he shall present himself to the bishop of the diocese in which he is based, in order that the bishop may endorse that licence and may grant to the chaplain such further or other licences as he sees fit.
 - (2) For the purposes of this section "**a licence in the prescribed form**" means a licence in a form prescribed from time to time by the Standing Committee of General Synod provided that until Standing Committee otherwise determines the form set out in the Schedule shall be deemed to have been prescribed by the Standing Committee.
- 6. The Bishop holding office as the Bishop to the Forces at the time this canon comes into operation shall be the first Bishop to the Defence Force and shall be deemed to have been appointed pursuant to section 2 of this canon.

SCHEDULE

**LICENCE TO THE OFFICE OF CHAPLAIN IN
THE DEFENCE FORCE**

by Divine permission Primate of Australia to our well beloved in Christ

GREETING

WHEREAS you have first made and subscribed all such Declarations and Oaths as by the Constitution and Canons of the Anglican Church of Australia in such case are required, we do give and grant you, in whose fidelity, manner of life, learning and sound doctrine we fully confide, our licence and authority to perform the office of Chaplain in the Defence Force in, to administer the sacraments, to read the common prayers and to perform other ecclesiastical duties according to the forms prescribed in the Book of Common Prayer, An Australian Prayer Book, and otherwise by lawful authority and the canons, constitutions and ordinances in that behalf lawfully established and promulgated and not otherwise nor in any other manner.

PROVIDED THAT in your office as chaplain in the Defence Force you shall be under the jurisdiction of the Primate and the Bishop to the Defence Force acting on his behalf and with his authority.

PROVIDED THAT in your office as chaplain in the Defence Force your ministrations shall be limited under this licence and authority to Defence Force ships, establishments and areas of operation and to members of the Defence Force and their families wherever they reside.

PROVIDED THAT you shall not perform any ministry other than to members of the Defence Force and their families without the authority duly given of the bishop of the diocese within which you are from time to time performing duties as chaplain in the Defence Force.

PROVIDED THAT this Licence shall subsist so long as you remain in active service with the Australian Defence Force and a member of Defence Force Anglican Chaplaincy Incorporated or until this Licence is earlier revoked.³

AND we do hereby reserve to ourselves, and to our successors, full power and authority to revoke these presents and all things herein contained, whensoever we shall see just cause so to do.

In witness whereof

³ The fourth proviso was deleted and replaced by new fourth proviso by General Synod Standing Committee Resolution SC2011/2/39.