

The Deployment Candle

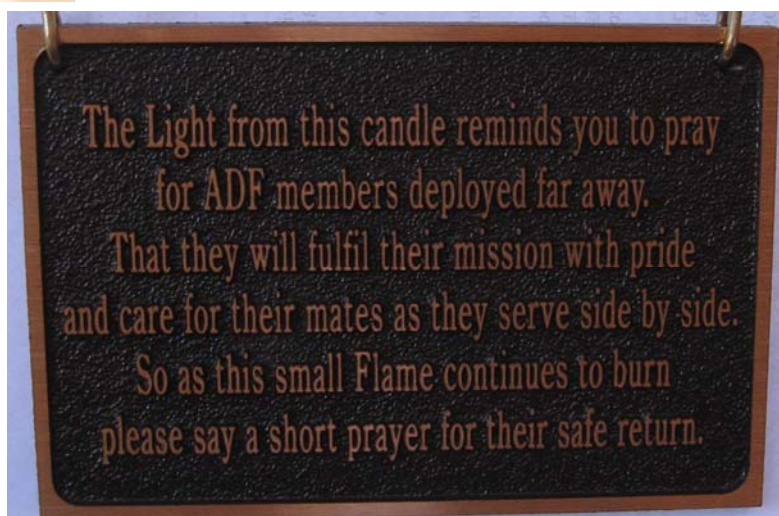
By Jim Cosgrove

For many years the Anglican Congregation at the Anzac Memorial Chapel of St Paul, the Royal Military College, Duntroon have been lighting a candle for Deployed ADF Personnel.

At the start of their Sunday church services they would light the candle which stood in the Narthex or foyer of the chapel, and prayers would be offered during the service for the safety of all deployed ADF members. This practice has continued from the time Australian Servicemen and women deployed to East Timor right up to the present.

At the end of last year a new candle was hung permanently in the Narthex and this candle now burns continually, reminding all people who see it of our ADF Family members who are currently deployed.

As you can see a bronze plaque hanging from the candle carries a special message.



The plaque that accompanies the candle

The new Deployment Candle was blessed by Bishop Max Davis, the Roman Catholic Bishop to the ADF, and Chaplain Bob McKennay, the Anglican Chaplain at the Royal Military College. In a short ceremony after the Sunday services the Catholic and

Anglican congregations joined together in the Chapel Narthex for the Blessing of the Deployment Candle and to join together in a prayer for safety for all our deployed personnel. The candle will continue to burn as long as any Australian Serviceman or woman is deployed overseas.



The blessing ceremony

Editor's Note: This article was intended for the Summer 2007-2008 edition.