



My name is Darren Thomas, and I was born in Mt Gambier, South Australia, 03 January 1971, after 16 years' as a fitter and turner in the metal industry I joined the Australian Army as a fitter armourer in 2000. I am married to Tracey for the past 25 years, and we have two sons, (Riley and Fraser).

I have deployed on five operations, two were at home (Cyclone Larry and Yasi assist), Timor Leste on Op ASTUTE (2006), Afghanistan on Op SLIPPER (2007-08) with the Third Reconstruction Task Force (RTF3) and again (2011-12) with the Artillery Training Team- Kabul third rotation (ATT-K3). As a result of some personal post-deployment reflection and family decisions I have applied to the Royal Military College – Duntroon to transfer to the Corp of Chaplaincy. I continue to study my Bachelor of Ministry with a goal to become a Padre the Australian Army. Consequently, I have now been accepted as an ordination candidate with the Melbourne Diocese; therefore, the planning is underway for what the future holds.

I have enjoyed the challenges of leadership, in both barracks and deployed environments, but the calling by the Holy Spirit to Defence Ministry remains very strong. This is highlighted with the recent opportunity presenting itself to become an Army Cadet Chaplain. As a 'Blue Patch' Chaplain I am excited about providing youth ministry in this way, and learning the finer points of Defence Chaplaincy in this lay role.

I remain a fulltime ADF member, currently posted to Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group (CASG), Victoria Barracks Melbourne, and I am very excited to where Christ is leading me and our family. This includes an active role in MCF, as a current Members Rep on the committee, so that we can bring the 'Good News' of Christ to those who have had their ears and hearts open by the Holy Spirit.

Cheers and God Bless
Thommo