

## Padre's Report

1992 was the year of the Services Protected Evacuation. I spent many "enjoyable" hours sitting in the Evacuation Handling Centre listening to the make pretend stories that were meant to see how we reacted to the unexpected.

There were a number of challenges during the year testing our ability to perform under stressful or unfamiliar circumstances. Exercise Kangaroo 92, the Raven and Minimi conversion courses, and the Maxi Beagle exercises were some of the more notable. The combination of sound basic training, the ability to quickly assess and evaluate the situation and a strong sense of commitment to our mates enabled us to respond well in these circumstances.

I would like to stress to you all that the principles you apply professionally in your soldiering careers should also apply to your personal and family lives. The principles for success are much the same. We need to:

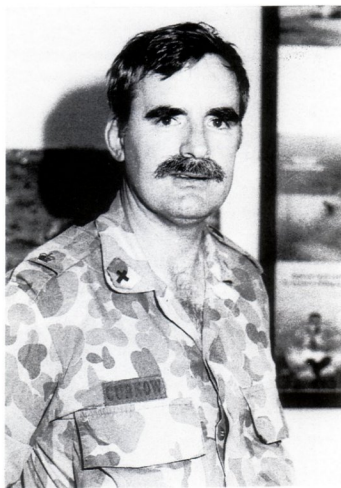
- reconnoitre and identify the standards and values by which we live;
- appreciate the impact our constantly changing lifestyle has on those close to us; and

- carefully plan and execute our leisure activities so that we develop healthy family relationships.

As I write this, many of the members of the Battalion are going off on the multitude of specialist and promotion courses designed to develop the skills needed to respond to future challenges and enhance the overall operational effectiveness of the Battalion. Aesop, who was well known for his fables, said "beware that you do not lose the substance by grasping at the shadow". It would be a great shame if we became so engrossed in defending the freedom and values of our country that we threw away those things most important to us.

This is my last year in the Battalion. It has been an exciting posting that has left me with many warm memories. I wish you all good soldiering in the years ahead and hope to catch up with many of you down the track.

I pray that the hope and joy of the Christmas message will remain with you to face the challenges of the coming year.



Chaplain Curnow