

CHANCELLOR,

Peter Cosgrove was born in Sydney in 1947. When he left Waverley Christian Brothers School he was influenced in his career choice by the example of several members of his family who had served with distinction in Australia's military forces. He chose to join the Australian Army, and was sworn in on Australia Day, 1965.

Peter Cosgrove graduated from the Royal Military College, Duntroon, in 1968. In the following year, when he was just 22 years old and serving in Vietnam, Lieutenant Cosgrove, as he then was, won the Military Cross for his valour while commanding an infantry platoon during a sustained assault on strongly held enemy positions in deep bunkers.

He returned to Australia in 1970, and during the next eight years he served in a number of instruction and operational command positions, as well as acting as aide de camp to the Governor General in 1972.

In 1978 he was sent to the United States Marine Corps Command and Staff College, and then from 1979 held a number of staff appointments in Australia before he took command of the First Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, in 1983.

He was then appointed Exchange Instructor at the British Army Staff College. From 1987 he held a number of senior staff appointments as well as field command postings. In 1997 he was appointed Commandant of the Royal Military College of Australia.

On 7 March 1998 he was appointed to command the Australian Army's First Division. Then, on 19 September 1999, General Cosgrove took command of the International Force East Timor – INTERFET. This task presented challenges of a kind, magnitude, and complexity, which have seldom confronted an Australian military leader. Command of INTERFET required skill, judgement and sensitivity of the highest order, and had to be exercised in the glare of international publicity and scrutiny.

From our close vantage point, we Northern Territorians watched, as the forces led by General Cosgrove stabilised the situation in East Timor, and then lent a very effective helping hand in laying the foundations for a new nation.

For this and his other contributions General Cosgrove has received some of the highest honours his country can bestow. In keeping with his recognised leadership qualities, General Cosgrove has been quick to acknowledge that the honours for his role in East Timor would not have come to him, but for the magnificent service of the young men and women he led.

However there is a dimension to General Cosgrove's achievement which is his alone and it was conspicuously right that General Cosgrove was named Australian of the Year for 2001. It is also right that we in the Northern Territory should extend our recognition to this distinguished Australian.

CHANCELLOR

*In recognition of his outstanding service to Australia, in gratitude for his contribution to peace, stability and justice in our region, and in acknowledgment of his outstanding leadership, I present to you for admission to the Degree of Doctor of the University, Honoris Causa - Peter John Cosgrove*