

## Biography: John Charles Blaxland



**John Blaxland** is Professor of International Security and Intelligence Studies, Director of the ANU Southeast Asia Institute and, since March 2017, Head (acting) of the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre at ANU, overseeing its three degree programs. He is also a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy and Fellow of the Royal Society of New South Wales. In addition, he is an active member of the ANU Academic Board as well as the *Australian Army Journal* editorial board and an occasional commentator in the print, television and radio media. He is a US Department of Defense Minerva Research Initiative grant recipient, and speaks English, Thai and Spanish.

John holds a PhD in War Studies from the Royal Military College of Canada, an MA in History from ANU and a BA (Hons 1) from UNSW. He is a graduate of the Royal Thai Army Command & Staff College (dux, foreign students) and the Royal Military College, Duntroon (Blamey Scholar). He has extensive experience in the intelligence community including as the principal intelligence staff officer for the Australian brigade in East Timor in September 1999, as an intelligence exchange officer in Washington DC, as Director Joint Intelligence Operations (J2), at Headquarters Joint Operations Command (2006/7) and as a lead author of the three-volume history of ASIO. In addition he was Australia's Defence Attaché to Thailand and Myanmar. He teaches "Honey pots and Overcoats: Australian Intelligence in the World" and supervises a number of students undertaking higher degrees by research.

His publications and research interests concern intelligence and the security arms of government, Australian military history and strategy, defence studies, military operations (including East Timor, Korea, Iraq and Afghanistan); international relations, notably on South-east Asia (Thailand, Myanmar, Timor Leste, Indonesia, South China Sea, ASEAN), and North America, (Canada/United States).

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### PUBLICATIONS

#### Monographs

- Blaxland, J, & Crawley, R, 2016, *The Secret Cold War: The Official History of ASIO Volume III, 1975-1989* (Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 2016) at <https://www.allenandunwin.com/browse/books/general-books/history/The-Secret-Cold-War-John-Blaxland-and-Rhys-Crawley-9781760297428>
- Blaxland, J, 2015, *The Protest Years: The Official History of ASIO Volume II, 1963-1975* (Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 2015) at <https://www.allenandunwin.com/browse/books/general-books/history/The-Protest-Years-John-Blaxland-9781925266931>
- Blaxland, J, (ed.) 2015, *East Timor Intervention: A Retrospective on INTERFET* (MUP, South Carlton) at <https://www.mup.com.au/items/160926>
- Blaxland, J, 2014, *The Australian Army from Whitlam to Howard* (Cambridge University Press) at <http://www.cambridge.org/au/academic/subjects/history/australian-history/australian-army-whitlam-howard>
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- Blaxland, J, 2002, *Information Era Manoeuvre: The Australian Led Mission to East Timor* (Land Warfare Studies Centre WP No. 118, Duntroon) at [https://www.army.gov.au/sites/g/files/net1846/f/wp118-information-era\\_manoeuvre\\_john\\_blaxland.pdf](https://www.army.gov.au/sites/g/files/net1846/f/wp118-information-era_manoeuvre_john_blaxland.pdf)
- Blaxland, J, 1999, *Signals, Swift and Sure: A History of the Royal Australian Corps of Signals 1947 to 1972* (Southwood Press for Royal Australian Corps of Signals Association, Melbourne) at <http://regimental-books.com.au/signals-swift-and-sure-a-history-of-the-royal-australian-army-corps-of-signals-1947-1972-p-487.html>
- Blaxland, J, 1989, *Organising an Army: The Australian Experience 1957-1965* (Strategic and Defence Studies Centre, Australian National University, Canberra) at <http://bellschool.anu.edu.au/experts-publications/publications/3201/organising-army-australian-experience-1957-1965>

#### Peer-reviewed Journals & Journal Articles

- Blaxland, J, & Pangenstu, M, (eds), 2018, 'Why ASEAN Matters', *East Asia Forum Quarterly*, Vol. 10, No. 1, March (ANU Press) at <http://www.eastasiaforum.org/quarterly/>

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- Blaxland, J, 2017, 'Strategic Balancing Act', *Security Challenges*, vol. 13, no. 1, pp. 19-39 at <https://www.regionalsecurity.org.au/resources/Documents/SC%2013-1%20Blaxland.pdf>
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## Chapters

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### Published papers and other articles

- Blaxland, J, & Raymond, G, 2017, *Tipping the Balance in Southeast Asia?: Thailand, the United States and China*, Centre of Gravity Series Paper #37 (SDSC, ANU, November) at [https://csis-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/publication/171102\\_Blaxland\\_TippingBalanceSoutheastAsia\\_Web.pdf?.IITpZJo0BPEYvMo7SWKIdQSBYVu.lyp](https://csis-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/publication/171102_Blaxland_TippingBalanceSoutheastAsia_Web.pdf?.IITpZJo0BPEYvMo7SWKIdQSBYVu.lyp),

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- Blaxland, J, 2013, 'Closer Australia-Canada Defence Co-operation?' Australia-Canada Security Co-operation in the Asia-Pacific, CIGI-ASPI Paper, No. 3, September, at [http://www.cigionline.org/sites/default/files/no.3\\_2.pdf](http://www.cigionline.org/sites/default/files/no.3_2.pdf) .
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- Blaxland, J, 2003, 'Strategic Cousins? Australian and Canadian Military Outlooks Compared' (AAJ, December) <http://www.army.gov.au/Our-future/LWSC/Our-publications/Australian-Army-Journal/Past-issues/~media/Files/Our%20future/LWSC%20Publications/AAJ/2003Summer/16-StrategicCousinsAustral.pdf> .
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- Blaxland, J, 2000, 'On Operations in East Timor' (*Australian Army Journal*, Canberra).
- Blaxland, J, 1990, 'The Regiment at Home' in D.M. Horner's, *History of the Royal Australian Regiment* (Allen & Unwin, Sydney).

### Podcasts

- Blaxland, J & Grattan, M, 2018, 'Politics podcast: John Blaxland on Australia's expulsion of Russian spies', 28 March at <https://www.podbean.com/site/EpisodeDownload/PB8E253FJAYTF>
- Blaxland, J & Rothwell, D, 2016, 'Judgement day in the South China Sea' Policy Forum Podcast, Asia & the Pacific Policy Society, July; <https://soundcloud.com/policyforumpod/pfp-extra-scs>
- Blaxland, J, 2017, 'Thailand's triple threat - culture, politics and security', The Lowy Institute, 4 July; [https://w.soundcloud.com/player/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fapi.soundcloud.com%2Ftracks%2F330655898&visual=true&color=ff5500&auto\\_play=false&hide\\_related=false&show\\_comments=true&show\\_user=true&show\\_reposts=false#](https://w.soundcloud.com/player/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fapi.soundcloud.com%2Ftracks%2F330655898&visual=true&color=ff5500&auto_play=false&hide_related=false&show_comments=true&show_user=true&show_reposts=false#)
- Blaxland, J & Grattan, M, 2017, 'Politics podcast: John Blaxland on handling Islamist terrorism', The Conversation, 6 June; [https://theconversation.com/politics-podcast-john-blaxland-on-handling-islamist-terrorism-78929?utm\\_source=linkedin&utm\\_medium=linkedinbutton](https://theconversation.com/politics-podcast-john-blaxland-on-handling-islamist-terrorism-78929?utm_source=linkedin&utm_medium=linkedinbutton)
- Blaxland, J & Rothwell, D, 2016, 'Judgement day in the South China Sea' Policy Forum Podcast, Asia & the Pacific Policy Society, July; <https://soundcloud.com/policyforumpod/pfp-extra-scs>

### Book Reviews

- Stevens, J, 2017, 'Reading Room: East Timor Intervention', Australian Institute of International Affairs, 21 May; <http://www.internationalaffairs.org.au/australianoutlook/east-timor-intervention/>

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- Thompson, S, 2016, 'The Australian Army from Whitlam to Howard', *Australian Institute of International Affairs*, 1 May, at [http://www.internationalaffairs.org.au/australian\\_outlook/the-australian-army-from-whitlam-to-howard-2/](http://www.internationalaffairs.org.au/australian_outlook/the-australian-army-from-whitlam-to-howard-2/)
- Edwards, P, 2016, 'Leaning right and seeing red', *The Weekend Australian, Review*, 9-10 January at <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/arts/review/the-protest-years-history-shows-asio-at-its-lowest-ebb/news-story/7f5340f42dda58dcf6d7f6642cda7be2>
- Daley, P, 2015, 'Asio chief defied Gough Whitlam's order to cut ties with the CIA in 1974', *The Guardian*, 16 October, <http://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2015/oct/16/asio-chief-defied-gough-whitlams-order-cut-ties-cia-1974>
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- Barker, G, 2015, 'The Protest Years: a review of ASIO's official history vol. 2' ASPI, *The Strategist*, 26 October at <http://www.aspistrategist.org.au/the-protest-years-a-review-of-asios-official-history-vol-2/>
- Peake, R, 2015, 'Author dismisses CIA involvement', *the Canberra Times*, 17 October
- Fielding, M, 2015, 'East Timor Intervention: a retrospective on INTERFET: Book Review', *Military History and Heritage Victoria*, at <http://www.mhhv.org.au/?p=4888>
- Jennings, P. 2015, 'Army: hone on the range?' in *The Strategist*, 9 January 2015 at <http://www.aspistrategist.org.au/army-hone-on-the-range/>
- Layton, P, 'The Australian Army from Whitlam to Howard', *The RUSI Journal*, Vol. 159, Issue No. 2, 2014 at <http://www.tandfonline.com/eprint/c9jAjZMzsgQet7JgN97n/full>
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- Donovan, John. 2014, 'The Australian Army from Whitlam to Howard', *Australian Defence Force Journal*, No. 194, 2014: 95-96 at [http://www.adfjournal.adc.edu.au/UserFiles/issues/194%202014%20Jul\\_Aug.pdf](http://www.adfjournal.adc.edu.au/UserFiles/issues/194%202014%20Jul_Aug.pdf)
- Bullard, Steve, 2014, 'The Australian Army from Whitlam to Howard', *Wartime*, Issue 67, pp. 66-67 at <https://www.awm.gov.au/wartime-magazine-issue-67-july-2014/>
- Fielding, Marcus, 2013, 'The Australian Army from Whitlam to Howard', *RUSI VIC Newsletter*, Vol 12, Issue 4, December, p. 11.
- Bertosa, Brian, 2009, 'Strategic Cousins: Australian and Canadian Expeditionary Forces and the British and American Empires', *Canadian Military Journal*, Vol. 9, No. 4, 2009, pp. 120-121 at <http://www.journal.forces.gc.ca/vo9/no4/22-book4-livre4-eng.asp> and *Australian Defence Force Journal*, issue 177, 2008, pp. 124-127 at [http://www.adfjournal.adc.edu.au/UserFiles/issues/177%202008%20Nov\\_Dec.pdf](http://www.adfjournal.adc.edu.au/UserFiles/issues/177%202008%20Nov_Dec.pdf)

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### **Awards & Appointments**

- 2018 Department of Defence conference grant of \$75,000.
- 2018 Appointed a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (SFHEA).
- 2017 Appointed Acting Head of the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre.
- 2017 Appointed Director ANU Southeast Asia Institute.
- 2017 Appointed a Fellow of the Royal Society of New South Wales (FRSN).
- 2017 Strategic Communications and Public Affairs Awards 24/7 Award for Impressive Media Performance Highly Commended.
- 2016 Strategic Communications and Public Affairs Awards 24/7 Award for Impressive Media Performance Highly Commended.
- 2016 Appointed a member of the ANU Academic Board
- 2015 Strategic Communications and Public Affairs Awards 24/7 Award for Impressive Media Performance Highly Commended.
- 2014 US Department of Defense Minerva Research Initiative grant of \$750,000.
- 2014 Strategic Communications and Public Affairs Awards 24/7 Award for Impressive Media Performance.
- 2012 Vice Chancellors Encouragement Award, Australian National University.
- 2010 Chief of Defence Force Commendation for Outstanding Service as Defence Attaché.
- 2008 Royal Thai Navy Award for service.
- 2006 Australian Defence Medal.
- 2006 Defence Signals Directorate Outstanding Service Medallion.
- 2001 US Meritorious Service Medal.
- 2000 Australian Active Service Medal.
- 2000 INTERFET Medal.
- 1999 Defence Force Service Medal.
- 1986 Blamey Scholar Award: Royal Military College Duntroon Top Arts Graduate.
- 1982 Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award.

### **Policy engagement opportunities**

- 2018 Multiple briefings to DFAT officials on Southeast Asian affairs.
- 2017 Multiple briefing to DFAT Southeast Asia teams.
- Submission to 2017 Foreign Policy White Paper.
- Submission to 2016 Defence White Paper.
- Private discussion with CDF on international policy engagement priorities October 2016.
- Private discussion with CDF on strategic priorities and operational commitments in September 2014.
- Private discussions with Chief of Army on the implications of Australia's military deployment priorities August 2013 and September 2014.
- Discussions with Defence Intelligence Organisation staff on Thailand's crisis May 2014.
- Briefing to staff and students at Defence International Training Centre, Laverton, November 2012 & November 2014.



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- Presentation on Australia's engagement with ASEAN in Thailand (Chulalongkorn University Institute for Security and International Studies), July 2014.
- Principal author for ASPI-CIGI paper 'Facing West, Facing North'.
- consultant for the new *Army Fundamentals of Land Power* publication (<http://www.army.gov.au/Our-future/Publications/Key-Publications/Land-Warfare-Doctrine-1>).
- Briefing to Navy staff on amphibious capabilities in 2013.
- Submission to the 2013 Defence White Paper.
- Presentation on Australia in Asia to Australia-Spain Institute in Madrid, November 2013.
- Discussions with ONA staff on the military and political challenges in Myanmar in May 2012.
- Discussions with ONA staff on the military and political situation in Thailand in February 2012.

### Conferences organised

- May 2018 (forthcoming), Canberra: 'Regional CT Collaboration' (co-convened with Defence Science and Technology Group and Defence International Policy Division).
- March 2018, Chair of the ASEAN-Australia Dialogue, a consortium of Australian universities, businesses and the Federal Government, coinciding with the ASEAN Australia Special Summit in Sydney, at <https://aseanausdialogue.com/>
- May 2017, Brisbane: 'War in the Sandpit: reflections on Australia's War in Iraq and Afghanistan' (co-convened with Military History & Heritage Victoria) at <http://www.mhhv.org.au/wp-content/uploads/War-in-the-Sand-Pit-Conference-Program.pdf>
- September 2014, Melbourne: 'East Timor Intervention: reflections on the Australian led Mission to East Timor' (co-convened with Military History & Heritage Victoria) at <http://www.mhhv.org.au/?p=4888>

### Public Lectures

- Blaxland, J, 2018, 'Hypothetical Regional Crisis Scenario Activity', AIIA-Coral Bell School, 20 March, at <https://twitter.com/ANUBellSchool/status/976002085626900480>
- Blaxland, J, 2018, 'Home Sweet Home? A Critical Historical and Contemporary Perspective on the Emergence of the Department of Home Affairs' United Service Institute of the ACT, 8 February, at <https://www.rusi.org.au/2018> , <https://www.rusi.org.au/resources/Documents/ACT/Audio/USI%20Home%20Sweet%20Home.mp3> and <https://www.rusi.org.au/resources/Documents/ACT/2017%20AGM/18.02.08%20Blaxland%20slides.pdf>
- Blaxland, J, Thu, H & White, H, 2017, 'Australia's changing place in a changing world'. ANU TV, Australia 360, 8 August; [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sLL\\_ZAXGico&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sLL_ZAXGico&feature=youtu.be)

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### Media engagement

#### Media appearances on TV:

International: Xinhua News, Phoenix TV News (PRC); CNN Breakfast News, Bloomberg TV News (USA); BBC World TV News (UK); CBC News (Canada); Al Jazeera TV News (English); Channel News Asia TV (Singapore);

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Domestic: Sky News Agenda, Sky News with Stan Grant, ABC News 24, ABC News Breakfast, SBS TV News, Channel Nine News, Channel Nine Today Weekend Breakfast, Channel Seven News, Channel Ten 'The Project'.

### Media appearances on radio:

International: BBC Radio, Monocle24 Radio News (UK); Voice of America News (USA),

Domestic: Radio Australia News, ABC Radio National, ABC News Radio, ABC Triple J *Hack*, ABC Local Radio Canberra, 2CC Radio Canberra, ABC Local Radio Brisbane, ABC Local Radio Adelaide, ABC Local Radio Perth, ABC Local Radio Darwin, 3AW Radio Breakfast Melbourne, 3AW Radio Drive Melbourne, Nova Entertainment Radio News, And MyMP Radio News Melbourne.

### Newspaper opinion editorials:

International: *The Jakarta Post*, *The Bangkok Post*, *Nghien Cuu Bien Dong*, (Vietnam)

Domestic: *The Australian*, *The Guardian*, *The Canberra Times*, *The Brisbane Courier Mail*, *The Age*, *The Sydney Morning Herald*.

### Blog pieces:

*ASPI Strategist*, *Asian Currents*, *East Asia Forum*, *New Mandala*, *The Conversation*, *The Establishment Post*

### Other media mentions:

*New York Times*, *Bloomberg News* (USA); *Xinhua News*, *People's Daily* and *Sina English News* (PRC); *The Saturday Paper*, *The Daily Telegraph* (Australia); *Cambodia Daily*; *Tuoi Tre News* (Vietnam), *The Globe and Mail* (Canada).

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### EXECUTIVE LEVEL CAREER HIGHLIGHTS (PRE 2011)

#### **2008 – 2010: Australian Defence Attaché to Thailand and Burma:**

- Managed the multi-million dollar Defence Cooperation Program;
- Coordinated military exercises;
- Provided extensive & frequent reports on regional military and security affairs; and
- Elected Dean of the Military Attaché Corps of Thailand (two years in a row).

#### **2006 - 2007: Director Intelligence Operations, HQ Joint Operations Command:**

- Managed the provision of intelligence support to Australian military operations globally, including several short-notice contingencies, with over 70 staff;
- Supervised transitional arrangements as the HQ was reorganized and re-established;
- Supervised the Australian hub of the wide area surveillance picture; and
- Undertook an operational review of the provision of intelligence support to Australian forces in Iraq and Afghanistan.

#### **2004 - 2005: Deputy Director, Military SIGINT Operations Centre (MSOC), Defence Signals Directorate (DSD):**

- Administrative commander for hundreds of uniformed personnel at DSD;
- Second in charge of signals intelligence operations in the MSOC;
- Co-authored successful organizational change proposals involving Army, Navy and Air Force SIGINT components for the ADF's Chiefs of Service Committee.

### EARLIER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2002 – 2003 – Visiting Defence Fellow, Queen's University & RMCC PhD student.
- 2000 – 2001 – Australian Army Exchange Officer, USA, DIA, Washington, DC, including secondment for a deployment with 11 Marine Expeditionary Unit and the USS Boxer Amphibious Ready Group.
- 1998- 1999 – Intelligence Staff Officer to Commander Australian 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade.
- 1996 – 1997 –Exchange Officer, Royal Thai Army Command & Staff College.
- Jan – Jul 96 – Staff Officer, Development Branch, Army Land Headquarters, Sydney.
- 1995 – Operations Officer, Land Headquarters, Sydney.
- 1993-1994 – Strategic Studies Instructor, Royal Military College, Duntroon.
- 1991-1992 -- Strategic Southeast Asia Analyst, Defence Intelligence Organisation.
- 1988 -1989 -- Troop Commander, Army Strategic Satellite Communications Unit.