

**MAJOR GENERAL (Retd)**  
**ANDREW JAMES (Jim) MOLAN, AO DSC**

Retiring from the Australian Army in July 2008 after 40 years, Jim Molan served across a broad range of command and staff appointments in operations, training, staff and military diplomacy.

Jim has been an infantryman, an Indonesian speaker, a helicopter pilot, commander of army units from a thirty man platoon to a division of 15,000 soldiers, commander of the Australian Defence Colleges and commander of the evacuation force from the Solomon Islands in 2000. He has served in Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, East Timor, Malaysia, Germany, the US and Iraq.

In April 2004, Major General Molan deployed for a year to Iraq as the Coalition's chief of operations, during a period of continuous and intense combat. On behalf of the commanding general, he controlled the manoeuvre operations of all forces across all of Iraq, including the security of Iraq's oil, electricity and rail infrastructure. This period covered the Iraqi elections in January 2005, and the pre-election shaping battles of Najaf, TalAfar, Samarra, Fallujah, Ramadan 04 and Mosul. For "distinguished command and leadership in action in Iraq", Major General Molan was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross by the Australian Government and the Legion of Merit by the United States Government.

Before retiring he was the Adviser to the Vice Chief of the Defence Force on Joint Warfighting and the first Defence Materiel Advocate, promoting Australian defence industry overseas.

Major General Molan has a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of New South Wales and a Bachelor of Economics degree from the University of Queensland. He has held civil commercial licences and ratings for fixed and rotary wing aircraft and owns an aircraft. He is also a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (FAICD), is a Member Australian Institute of Project Managers (AIPM) and was an accredited Master Project Director (MPD).

In August 2008, General Molan published his book 'Running the War in Iraq', which is a best seller and an E-book on Amazon. He has since collaborated on a book for the Australian Defence College on the British Army in southern Iraq. Jim was also recognized as the "2009 Australian Thinker of the Year".

Since leaving the military, General Molan has been a commentator on defence and security issues in the Australian and international print and electronic media and has written regularly for a number of journals and blogs. Until September 2014, he was a principal of aadiDefence Pty Ltd, facilitating access for Australian industry to defence technology grants and working with other high technology industries, and was nominated as chairman of two company attempting to commence trading in Australia.

His pro-bono work includes director of the St James Ethics Centre and an airpower think tank, the Sir Richard Williams Foundation Inc. He is co-Patron of a foundation commemorating the life of a member of his bodyguard, Sgt Matthew Locke MG, an SAS soldier killed in Afghanistan, and also co-Patron of Friends of Gallipoli Incorporated, a body aiming to increase the knowledge of school children of both sides of the Gallipoli Campaign.



Jim only recently resigned after three years as a director of the National Aerial Firefighting Centre, an interest in aerial firefighting he has held for many years flying as a civilian fire and rescue helicopter pilot. He has been very active as a corporate speaker on “Leadership in Challenging Times” managed through ICMI, Australia's premier Speakers bureau. Until December 2014 he was the Honorary Colonel of the Australian Army Aviation Corps. In 2010 he was called as an expert witness on the subject of crisis management to the 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission, and is a volunteer firefighter with the ACT Rural Fire Service at Guises Creek, ACT. He is also a member of a Defence second track diplomacy body between Australia and Indonesia known as the Ikaan Senior Advisory Group.

Jim has been active with the conservative think tank the Menzies Research Centre, contributing a chapter to the 2009 book “Don’t Leave Us with the Bill – The Case Against an Australian Bill of Rights” entitled “Trust Me – It Will Not Be As Bad As You Think”, and a chapter in the 2013 book “State of the Nation: Aspects of Australian Public Policy” (initially published in Quadrant Magazine March 2013) entitled “The Terminal Decline of Australia’s Defence”. He is currently contributing chapter on Defence to another conservative book on Government policy.

As well as being involved in formulating the Coalition’s defence policy while in opposition, Jim was a co-author of the Coalition policy on Border Control and launched the policy publicly with Prime Minister Tony Abbott and Minister Scott Morrison. Following the 2013 federal election, Jim was appointed to the full time position of Prime Minister’s Special Envoy for Operation Sovereign Borders (the border control operation), leaving that position in July 2014 to work for a short time as a Special Adviser to the Defence Minister on the Defence White Paper.

Most recently, Jim was invited to be part of an international High Level Military Group that conducted and recently launched an ethical assessment of Israeli military operation against Hamas in Gaza in mid-2014 as an attempt to address the issue of ‘Lawfare’, and became actively involved in the controversy surrounding uncontrolled migration into Europe.

Jim is a member of the Liberal Party in NSW and was a candidate for the Australian Senate in 2016.

General Molan was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for his part in disaster relief operations in 1991, and made an Officer in the Order of Australia for his role in Indonesia and East Timor in 1999.

Jim is married to Anne and they live just outside of Queanbeyan NSW. They have three adult daughters and a son.

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A. J. (Jim) Molan AO DSC  
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