

John Watts Full Bio



John Watts is a Nonresident Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council's Brent Scowcroft Center on International Security and a Senior Consultant at the Noetic Corporation.

Watts has spent more than a dozen years working across military, government, and industry, focused predominantly on the nature of future warfare and implications of complex emerging security risks. As part of the Brent Scowcroft Center on International security he is focused on Middle East and Indo-Pacific security issues. He has co-led wargames on Islamic State and researched the role Australia can play in Gulf security.

As a consultant he has advised international, military, federal, and local government agencies. Considered by his clients as a trusted adviser and honest broker, he has improved strategic planning and technology evaluation approaches, exercised emergency management teams, facilitated non-traditional interagency initiatives, developed new operating concepts, and analyzed the impact and opportunities of emerging, disruptive technologies and threats.

Previously, as a Staff Officer at the Australian Department of Defence, Watts worked in a variety of strategic planning, implementation, evaluation, and management roles. His primary focus was organizational capacity building as well as the development and implementation of strategic guidance and military preparedness. During his time in the Australian Army Reserves, Watts held command, training, officer development, and emergency management positions. His most recent position was a Liaison Officer with the Virginia National Guard.

Watts was a founding member and inaugural Chair of the Institute for Regional Security's (formerly the Kokoda Foundation) Young Strategic Leaders Forum, for which he received the 2010 Rob Chaloner Memorial Prize for Outstanding Young Strategic Leadership.

Watts holds an Honours of Arts (International Studies) from the University of Adelaide, Australia, and a Masters of International Law from the Australian National University.

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