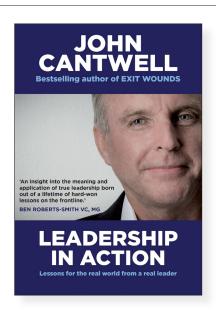
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John Cantwell will be available for interview during August.

For more information please contact:

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## LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

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**John Cantwell** is the bestselling author of *Exit Wounds*. Cantwell served in three distinct wars: combat duty in Operation Desert Storm in 1991; as the Director of Strategic Operations of the Multi National Forces in Iraq in 2006; and as the Commander of Australian Forces in the Middle East in 2010. For his service in the Middle East he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his 'inspired leadership, deep commitment to his people and superior performance on operations'.

In 2009 Cantwell was appointed chief of operations of the Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority, a role in which he coordinated all efforts to recover from the deadly Black Saturday fires. Afterwards, the Premier of Victoria characterised Cantwell as 'a hands-on tireless leader and organiser with a remarkable ability to gain the respect and cooperation of disparate groups'. The Prime Minister described him as 'a leader possessing exceptional skills in coordination, guidance and organisation'. Since his retirement Cantwell has lectured on leadership and military affairs to a variety of defence, business and academic audiences.

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