



Brigadier Ascough was commissioned into the Australian Intelligence Corps following graduation from the Australian Defence Force Academy and the Royal Military College – Duntroon. His Army appointments have included service with the 1st Intelligence Battalion, 51st Battalion, Far North Queensland Regiment; and on the staff of the 1st Brigade, Army Headquarters and Forces Command. He has held command appointments at all ranks from Lieutenant, including unit command of RMC–Duntroon. In December 2019 he assumed command of the 6th Brigade.

Brigadier Ascough's operational service includes Border Protection; East Timor, including service in 2001 on the United Nations Peace Keeping Force Headquarters and in 2004 as commander of an intelligence operations element; and Afghanistan, in 2006 as the Australian Task Group's senior intelligence officer and more recently in 2017 as Commander Kabul Garrison Command Advisor Team. These appointments have provided the opportunity to regularly work in joint, inter-agency and multi-national environments. He received Force Commander Commendations for his efforts on his first tours to East Timor and Afghanistan. For his command of the Kabul Garrison Command Advisor Team, Brigadier Ascough was awarded a Distinguished Service Medal in the 2019 Queen's Birthday Honours list.

Prior to assuming brigade command, Brigadier Ascough was seconded to the Office of National Intelligence as a senior strategic analyst. In this role he provided the Prime Minister's Office and the National Security Committee of Cabinet assessments on national strategic military and political issues. He has also worked on strategic policy while on Army Headquarters staff as the Staff Officer for Strategy in 2014, where he contributed to Army's submissions for the Defence Space Strategy, the Force Posture Initiative and Government White Papers. In addition, as a Lieutenant Colonel at Headquarters Joint Operations Command, he led a multi-agency team to plan and implement a strategic framework for global intelligence collection operations. For this work he was awarded a Conspicuous Service Cross in the 2012 Queen's Birthday Honours List.

Brigadier Ascough is a keen student of national security and history. He was selected for Higher Defence College and is a distinguished graduate of the United Kingdom's Joint Services Command and Staff College; where he was recognised as the Overall Best Student. Brigadier Ascough holds an Honours degree in History from University of New South Wales, a Masters of International Relations from Deakin University and a Masters of Defence Studies from Kings College, London. He is also a graduate of the United Kingdom Chartered Management Institute, the Australian Institute of Company Directors and the Australian Defence College's Apollo Course on Strategy and Future War Studies. Brigadier Ascough has previously written for the Australian Strategic Policy Institute and Army's Land Warfare Forum.