

## General (RET.) Stanley A. McChrystal

### Speaker Bio:

A transformational leader with a remarkable record of achievement, General Stanley A. McChrystal was called “one of America’s greatest warriors” by Secretary of Defense Robert Gates. He is widely praised for launching a revolution in warfare by leading a comprehensive counterterrorism organization that fused intelligence and operations, redefining the way military and government agencies interact.

The son and grandson of Army officers, McChrystal graduated from West Point in 1976 as an infantry officer, completed Ranger Training and later, Special Forces Training. Over the course of his career, he held leadership and staff positions in the Army Special Forces, Army Rangers, 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division, the XVIII Army Airborne Corp, and the Joint Staff. He is a graduate of the US Naval War College, and he completed fellowships at Harvard’s John F. Kennedy School of Government in 1997 and at the Council on Foreign Relations in 2000.

From 2003 to 2008, McChrystal commanded JSOC - responsible for leading the nation's deployed military counterterrorism efforts around the globe. His leadership of JSOC is credited with the 2003 capture of Saddam Hussein and the 2006 location and killing of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the leader of al-Qaeda in Iraq. In June 2009, McChrystal received his fourth star and assumed command of all international forces in Afghanistan.

Since retiring from the military, McChrystal has served on several corporate boards of directors, that include Deutsche Bank America, JetBlue Airways, Navistar, Siemens Government Technologies, Fiscal Note, and Accent Technologies. A passionate advocate for national service, McChrystal is the Chair of the Board of Service Year Alliance, which envisions a future in which a service year is a cultural expectation and common opportunity for every young American. He is a senior fellow at Yale University's Jackson Institute for Global Affairs, where he teaches a course on leadership. Additionally, he is the author of the bestselling leadership books, *My Share of the Task: A Memoir*, *Team of Teams: New Rules of Engagement for a Complex World*, *Leaders: Myth and Reality*, and *Risk: A User’s Guide*.

General McChrystal founded the McChrystal Group in January 2011. Recognizing that companies today are experiencing parallels to what he faced in the war

theater, McChrystal established this advisory services firm to help businesses challenge the hierarchical, “command and control” approach to organizational management.

## **Presentation:**

### **Leading in Harm’s Way**

Leadership is not easy work, especially in today’s ever-changing and fast-paced world. The best leaders are not those who avoid risk and pressure-- and more importantly, they are not keen to remain on the sidelines. Today, leadership requires more investment. General McChrystal will discuss the practice of "leading in harm’s way," which in turn will help managers to build effective and resilient teams. Highlighting the importance of communication, shared consciousness, and adaptability, General McChrystal recounts how his own military experience informs his time advising Fortune 100 companies. By facilitating a conversation around the challenges that we all face across time, space, and sector, this speech will redefine the fundamentals of leadership and provide actionable steps for building a strong organization.