

Nicole Malachowski

First Woman Thunderbird Pilot, Combat Veteran, Fighter Squadron Commander, White House Fellow & Adviser, and Indomitable Spirit

HARNESSING HEADWINDS – SUCCESSFULLY NAVIGATING CHANGE & ADVERSITY. Leaders across every industry and experience level share one thing in common: To be successful they need to effectively navigate failure, organizational change, and the unknown. Like headwinds to a pilot, these perceived barriers can force you to change direction, cost you momentum, and even take away options. These headwinds can feel confusing, disorienting, and downright uncomfortable. In this talk, Nicole Malachowski uses the aviation-based idea of headwinds as a metaphor to show how with the right mindset, individuals and teams can learn to harness the energy of these headwinds in their advantage. Nicole inspires individuals and organizations and bolsters their ability to:

- Overcome personal and professional failures
- Effectively navigate organizational and cultural change
- Endure the discomfort of the unknown
- Increase resilience, reinvention, regroup, and adaptability
- Have courage to rise above self-doubt and cultural paradigms
- Support and mentor others on the team

PUSHING THE ENVELOPE – BEING THE BEST WHEN IT COUNTS. To be successful, leaders from every industry and experience level need to effectively navigate moments of self-doubt, master the role of a trustworthy team player, and embrace moments of personal and professional vulnerability. Using the idea of an aircraft performance envelope as a metaphor, this elite fighter pilot and military leader will share inspiring personal stories and practical tools to ignite individuals and teams to reach beyond commonly-assumed limitations to achieve their maximum capabilities and impact. Nicole Malachowski's presentation will bolster the ability of individuals and teams to:

- Overcome self-doubt that often inhibits personal and professional growth
- Model the selfless trust needed to be an effective teammate
- Practice vulnerability and transparency to build trust and galvanize teamwork
- Build accountability, dependability and reliability that drive performance
- Break down silos to unleash creativity and adaptability

BREAKING BARRIERS – CONQUERING SELF-DOUBT AND CULTURAL PARADIGMS. Everyone faces barriers, both personal and professional, that may appear to place limits on what's possible. When people pursue only what is expected, accept cultural norms that hold them back, and view barriers that appear unsurmountable, their personal and professional lives become limited—scripted. A powerful trailblazer herself, Nicole Malachowski reminds audiences to not let others draw their boundaries, and to break tradition with grace and purpose. She inspires people to see obstacles and challenges as opportunities to grow—a chance to reach new levels of personal and professional excellence.

Nicole delivers actionable insights for pursuing dreams, making choices, and living an unscripted life.

- Define your own possibilities and overcome self-doubt
- Reevaluate traditions, paradigms, and overcome limitations
- Welcome challenges to the status quo
- Why having the courage to ask for help is key to, reaching your potential
- Acknowledge the work-life balance myth

CONQUERING FOG AND FRICTION – LEADING THROUGH TIMES OF CRISIS. “No war plan survives first contact with the enemy” is a truism. In the military, leaders must acknowledge and address the fog (things we can’t see, know, or predict) and friction (the forces which impede progress) of war. In such times, effective leadership is more crucial than ever. Using the challenges and uncertainties of combat as a metaphor for organizational challenges, Nicole Malachowski stresses perspective, priorities and positive leadership as she provides tools for leaders to use in times of crisis—or anytime—to keep their organizations successfully moving forward. Nicole offers leaders a framework to lead through fog and friction in times of crisis.

- How to proceed regardless of the unknowns your organization facing
- How to maneuver around or through impediments to your organization’s progress
- Understand the leadership challenges that are unique to times of crisis
- Keep focused on your purpose; perspective is critical to manage risk and adapt
- Positivity and calmness are essential. Instill confidence; don’t add to the chaos

THE MACH 2 MINDSET – DECISION-MAKING IN A HIGH-SPEED ENVIRONMENT. One popular pilot saying is “speed is life,” because without enough speed, an airplane is nothing more than an expensive rock. In the business world, especially when technology is involved, speed can be just as crucial. The organization that moves the fastest often realizes the most success. Having flown a high-tech fighter aircraft that can reach speeds of up to twice the speed of sound, Nicole Malachowski offers principles that keep any organization functioning smoothly, efficiently, and at high speed, even when chaos and the unexpected occur. Nicole’s insights help leaders create a culture where decisions get made quickly.

- Assess the dynamics that slow your organization down
- How turmoil in your operating environment slows you down
- How does a need for speed impact decision-making
- Trust, clear roles, and communication are vital to navigate the unknown at speed
- Practice, planning, and preparation underpin organizations that move quickly