

James Winnefeld

Former Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Four-Star United States Navy Admiral (ret)

Leadership in the 21st Century. Admiral James Winnefeld shares with audiences the useful leadership lessons he learned as the No. 2 man in the entire U.S. military. Through 10 fascinating and thought-provoking stories from his legendary career, he highlights how leaders think, operate, and innovate while offering practical tips. He encourages executives to challenge assumptions, be creative, and commit to lifelong learning. From how to combat the fact that incredibly bright adults will work very hard to perfect fundamentally flawed concepts to how the essence of leading people is to hold them to the highest possible standards while taking the best possible care of them, Winnefeld shares insights on leadership, teamwork, culture, risk, trust, opportunity, transparency, and approach that apply to all levels of an organization.

Making Sense of the Global Landscape. Admiral James Winnefeld believes that while the U.S. has been at greater risk before (Civil War, WWII, Cold War), we have never seen a more complex and dynamic security environment. He helps audiences make sense of what's happening today and shares an eye-opening look at the world's hot spots. He ties these issues to America's business interests and offers audiences the framework he used to analyze current geopolitics – the same one he relied on in the White House Situation Room to make recommendations to the president. From the big authoritarian regimes to the violent extremist organizations, Winnefeld outlines the fault lines of conflict (ie modernity versus tradition and religious sects) and the trends that are influencing how we can approach these challenges – including the diffusion of power, declining energy prices, increased dependence on cyber, and fading national borders. He explores how the military is adapting and shares with audiences the five things that keep him up at night—balanced by the two very important things that let him sleep. Audiences walk away with useful insights and the tools they need to make knowledgeable strategic decisions of their own.

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