

Nicole Malachowski

First Woman Thunderbird Pilot, Combat Veteran, Fighter Squadron Commander, 21-year U.S. Air Force career, White House Fellow, Former White House 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

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Fireside Chat & Moderated Q&A Lively. Entertaining. Unfiltered. Insightful. Not every audience needs a keynote. Sometimes, what they need most is a real conversation. In this moderated format (fireside chat, leadership Q&A, or audience-driven discussion), Nicole brings the full depth of her experiences into the room in a way that feels immediate, dynamic, and highly relevant. No two conversations are ever the same. This format allows you to go deeper – to explore the moments behind the headlines: the decisions, the failures, the reinvention, and the human dynamics that drive elite performance. It creates space for authenticity, candor, and connection in a way a traditional speech often can't. Whether alongside a senior leader or engaging directly with your audience, Nicole adapts in real time, meeting the moment, addressing what matters most, and delivering insights that are both meaningful and actionable.