

# McChrystal Group

## STAN McCHRYSTAL BIOGRAPHY

*Former Commander of U.S. and International Forces in Afghanistan, Author of Bestsellers *Team of Teams* and *My Share of the Task*, and Founder of the McChrystal Group*

*"To hear McChrystal, 60, talk about leadership is like hearing Steve Jobs talk about innovation or Henry Ford talk about productivity. The former general is a warrior and visionary who turned a bulky bureaucracy into a fast-moving force that helped wipe out Al-Qaeda in Iraq and is credited with turning the tide of that war as well as the one in Afghanistan."*

- Wired Magazine

*"When a battle-worn general suggests that 'nurturing an organization' is more effective than trying to oversee its every move and insists that his own leadership is more akin to gardening than chess, it's worth paying attention."*

- Howard Schultz, CEO of Starbucks

A one-of-a-kind commander with a remarkable record of achievement, General Stan McChrystal is widely praised for creating a revolution in warfare that fused intelligence and operations. He is also known for developing and implementing the counter-insurgency strategy in Afghanistan and for creating a comprehensive counter-terrorism organization that revolutionized the way military agencies interact and operate.

A four-star general, he is the former commander of U.S. and international forces in Afghanistan and the former leader of Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC), which oversees the military's most sensitive forces. 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.

He is also the author of the bestselling leadership books, *My Share of the Task: A Memoir* and *Team of Teams: New Rules of Engagement for a Complex World*. Exclusively represented by Leading Authorities speakers bureau, McChrystal, a former Green Beret, is known for his candor, innovative leadership, and going the distance. Called "one of America's greatest warriors" by Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, few can speak about leadership, teamwork, and international affairs with as much insight.

**Thirty-four years of service.** The son and grandson of Army officers, McChrystal graduated from West Point in 1976 and trained at the Special Forces School in Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He was later commissioned as an infantry officer and spent much of his career commanding special operations and

airborne infantry units. During the Persian Gulf War, McChrystal served in a Joint Special Operations Task Force and commanded the 75th Ranger Regiment.

He also completed year-long fellowships at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government in 1997 and at the Council on Foreign Relations in 2000. He was promoted to brigadier general in 2001. In 2002, he was appointed chief of staff of military operations in Afghanistan. Two years later, McChrystal was selected to deliver the nationally televised Pentagon briefings about military operations in Iraq. From 2003-2008, he commanded JSOC and was responsible for leading the nation's deployed military counterterrorism efforts around the globe, assuming command of all international forces in Afghanistan in June 2009. President Obama's order for an additional 30,000 troops to Afghanistan was based on McChrystal's assessment of the war.

**Supporting military families and national service.** McChrystal retired from the military in 2010. He now serves on the board of directors for JetBlue Airways, Navistar, and the Yellow Ribbon Fund. He is also the chairman of the board for Siemens Government. A passionate advocate for national service and veterans' issues, Stan is the Chair of the Board of Service Year Alliance. In this capacity, he advocates for a future in which a year of full-time service—a service year—is a common expectation and opportunity for all young Americans. He is also a senior fellow at Yale University's Jackson Institute for Global Affairs, where he teaches a popular course on leadership.

**From the battlefield to the boardroom.** General McChrystal founded the McChrystal Group in January 2011 in order to capture the lessons he and his colleagues learned and translate them to business. Recognizing that companies today are experiencing parallels to what he and his colleagues faced in the war theater, General McChrystal established this advisory services firm to help businesses challenge the hierarchical, command and control approach to organizational management. McChrystal Group's mission is to help organizations build adaptable teams that are capable of solving the world's most complex leadership challenges. The group helps shape organizational functionality and culture through a set of principles, proven process, and leadership behaviors, based on General McChrystal's experiences and the lessons captured in their book, *Team of Teams*. McChrystal Group has worked with global Fortune 1000 companies across sectors in order to transform their organizations and improve their performance.

**Four-star strategy lessons.** A dynamic, powerful speaker, McChrystal impresses audiences with field tested leadership lessons, stressing a uniquely inclusive model that focuses on building teams capable of relentlessly pursuing results. When old systems fall short, he believes true leaders must look for ways to innovate and change. Citing stories from his career, McChrystal reveals a four-star management strategy, concentrating on openness, teamwork, and forward-thinking.

**Speaker topics:**

- Building a team of teams
- Leading in the 21<sup>st</sup> century
- From the battlefield to the boardroom
- National service