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Patrick Houlahan: Top Leadership and Motivational Speaker, Former United States Marine Corps “Top Gun” Fighter Pilot, Management Executive Consultant, Organizational Development Executive, and Entrepreneur

In Brief:

Patrick Houlahan is a top motivational speaker and is the Founder and CEO of Strategic Leadership Consulting, LLC. He rose to the rank of Colonel in the United States Marine Corps Reserve as an award-winning F/A-18 Hornet Instructor Pilot and graduated from the world-famous United States Navy “TopGun” school. Patrick’s entertaining and thought-provoking keynotes teach audiences how to Build Inspired, Compassionate, Mission-Driven Leaders.

Speaker Bio:

Patrick had a distinguished 27-year career in the United States Marine Corps as an Active Duty and Reserve fighter pilot. He was stationed in San Diego, CA. and participated in four six-month deployments: three to the Western Pacific and one to Al Assad, Iraq. Patrick was recognized as the Instructor Pilot of the Year and graduated from the United States Navy Post Graduate Fighter Weapons School, “Top Gun.” During his military career, he trained over 500 replacement aircrew, graduated from the United States Marine Corps Command and Staff College, earned his Master of Strategic Studies as a Distinguished Graduate of the United States Army War College, and served in a variety of leadership roles.

After leaving active duty in 2004, Patrick joined a management consulting company and quickly rose to become one of their top speakers. Over 13 years, Patrick delivered and conducted over 450 keynote presentations, training workshops, and consulting engagements with today's leading corporations such as Verizon, ExxonMobil, Medtronic, DOW, VMware and H&R Block to name a few. He became an Executive Consultant/Director of Seminars and in 2006 was selected as the San Diego’s MPI (Meeting Professionals International) Speaker of the Year.

More about Patrick Houlahan:

Patrick has also worked as the account manager for Southern California for Kratos Public Safety and Security, as the Director of Business Development for Citadel Defense Company, and as the Organizational Development Executive (ODE) for Brooks International. As an ODE, Patrick worked with numerous executive leadership teams and was responsible for gaining consensus and alignment in support of the CEO’s imperative.

Throughout his military and business career, Patrick recognized that the organizations that succeeded in any endeavor possessed great leaders. Those that did not, failed. Recognizing the need for leadership training, Patrick founded Strategic Leadership Consultants in 2019 to help organization’s Build Inspired, Compassionate, Mission-Driven Leaders.

In addition to owning Strategic Leadership Consultants, Patrick also serves as the VP of Operations and Co-Founder for a startup company: Neck X LLC (www.neckxsystems.com.)

Neck X LLC has developed and patented a scientifically proven neck exercise and strengthening device. The NECK X® is in use by universities, chiropractic and physical therapist offices, U.S. Olympic Training Centers, and U.S. and NATO militaries. Patrick is on the forefront of supporting academic and military studies (USAF, Australia, Italy, Sweden, Canada,) website development and SEO optimization, marketing, and has been responsible for 85% of Neck X LLC's direct sales. Patrick's in the trenches work with Neck X LLC gives him a unique perspective on what it means "getting a company off the ground" and generating success in any environment.

Why Patrick Houlahan?

Patrick is first and foremost a teacher. After spending a combined 13 years as an F/A-18 Hornet Instructor Pilot and 17 years as motivational speaker and executive consultant, Patrick has an amazing ability to connect with his audiences. He does an excellent job of tailoring his content to the audience and delivers an energetic and thought-provoking presentation. Instilling the key Leadership Principles necessary to succeed are the foundation of his presentations. His content and stories are inspiring and easily transferrable to the workplace and everyday life. Patrick is an expert at teaching Leadership Principles, the Art of Debriefing, and Strategic to Tactical Planning.

Suggested Keynotes:

TOPGUN Lessons Learned

I remember seeing the original TOPGUN movie as a kid and thinking, "that's awesome and really cool." However, it wasn't until I had earned my very own Naval Aviator Wings that I began to understand what it really meant to be a "TOPGUN" graduate.

Graduating from TOPGUN wasn't just a rite of passage and it wasn't just a check mark along a career path. It was a validation of hours upon countless hours of hard work, introspective reflection, and attention to detail that is beyond reproach. It also came with an almost mythical charge to hold yourself and all those around you to the highest of standards.

In addition to the tactical instruction, I also learned what it meant to wear the TOPGUN patch and to be a TOPGUN grad. The lessons I learned at TOPGUN and the ways of conducting oneself as a TOPGUN grad hold true in Naval Aviation as well as in the business world. They are effective and timeless.

In my presentation "TOPGUN Lessons Learned," I discuss the top five lessons (Purpose, Dedication, Humility and Honesty, Tough Love, Debrief) I learned from TOPGUN and how they can be used in business to develop and lead high performing teams. They are not hard to understand. However, they do take dedication. Let me share these lessons with your clients and their teams and show them how to become the TOP 1% in their marketplace.

Patrick's interactive presentation will help your team members:

- Understand five key lessons taken directly from the United States Navy Fighter Weapons School, "TOPGUN."
- Understand how these principles apply to the teams they lead and are a part of.
- Understand how these lessons are a game changer in any organization and are key to building and having a high performing team.

Simplifying Leadership: Keys to Leading a Successful Team (especially in a crisis:)

Leadership happens at all levels or at least we expect that it should. But where do our rising leaders learn to be Inspired, Compassionate, Mission-Driven Leaders? What are the key principles they should follow?

In "Simplifying Leadership: Keys to Leading a Successful Team," Patrick delivers the key leadership principles necessary to take your leadership and your team's performance to the next level. The keys to leading successful teams are not hard to understand, but they do take commitment. Patrick shares what he has learned and experienced over the past 30 years, leading top executives and millennials alike.

Patrick's interactive presentation will help your team members:

- Understand and APPLY the key leadership principles required to inspire and build mission-driven teams.
- Understand how the key leadership principles are of paramount importance to employee morale and productivity.
- Understand how the key leadership principles foster a team-first mentality and aid in retaining their most valued employees.

Communications is Key: The Art of the Debrief and Building a Debriefing Culture:

The mission is complete, the sale is won or lost, and the quarter is over. What comes next? Is it time to go after the next client or time to get started on the next quarter? No, it is time to have a debrief. Take this time to review what your team did right, what they did wrong, what they can improve, and what they can learn. As a military and business professional, nothing is finished until the debrief is completed.

In "Communication is Key: The Art of the Debrief," your teams will learn the steps and the art form of leading and conducting an effective debrief. Many companies review their productivity without ever getting to the heart of the matter. Unfortunately, they only review the surface-level causes and do not get to the root of the issue. They miss the opportunity to build best practices that can have an exponential impact on their business going forward.

Patrick's interactive presentation will teach your team members:

- The steps and the art form of leading and conducting an effective debrief.
- How to create an open, honest, and inclusive environment where a culture of debriefing can flourish.
- How debriefing can drive agility and improved performance throughout their organization.

Fast and Effective Planning: Link Tactical Actions to Strategic Direction:

A senior executive once said, “We agree all the time at the executive level, but then things break down below us.” Has this happened in your organization? Believe me, this situation can happen anywhere. But why does it happen?

In “Fast and Effective Planning: Link Tactical Actions to Strategic Direction,” your teams will learn how to plan and ensure a line of sight from the frontline employees to the strategic direction of the organization. Unfortunately, many companies do not build effective actionable plans throughout their organization, which allows their strategic direction to become diluted. Planning takes effort, but as Yogi Berra reminds us, “If you don’t know where you are going, you’ll end up someplace else.”

Patrick’s interactive presentation will teach your team members:

- The importance of always understanding the “why” and reinforcing the strategic direction when building a plan.
- How to build consensus and alignment behind the President’s/CEO’s strategic direction and work effectively across boundaries.
- The critical steps to build effective actionable plans and how to link tactical actions to the strategic direction.
- How to plan and execute during a crisis.

Resiliency: How to Build and Lead a Resilient Team:

Life is hard. Pandemics, Politics, Business setbacks, and Personal setbacks can drag down even the most dedicated and successful person and team. Charles Swindoll is credited with saying, “...life is 10 percent what happens to us and 90 percent how we respond to it.” This is a perfect outlook for what we are dealing with today and what all of us have experienced at some point in our lifetime. How do we bounce back and lead our teams? How do we take a seemingly terrible experience and dig ourselves out? How do we ensure the “bads” do not define our lives and careers?

In “Resiliency: How to Build and Lead a Resilient Team,” Patrick shares professional and personal stories of resiliency that has led to his success. From the challenge that almost kept him from becoming a fighter pilot, the obstacle that nearly doomed his Top Gun dream, to being “let-go” in the business world, Patrick has always found a way to rise above the situation and persevere.

Patrick’s interactive presentation will teach your team members:

- How to lead during challenging times and build resilient teams.
- How to personally persevere and the one key step to keep moving forward and turn failures into successes.
- The processes and tools individuals and teams can use to ensure that the lows are never too low.

Suggested Keynote plus Workshop combination:

Fast Effective Planning Keynote followed by a Rapid Planning Workshop or an Extended Planning Workshop.

The Keynote is 45 mins with time for Q&A. The presentation would flow through the Planning steps, using stories and customized material to teach how these steps can be used in their business environment.

After the presentation, we will conduct a Rapid Planning Workshop for 1.0 - 1.5 hours, where individuals or small groups would plan out an initiative using the attached Planning Worksheet. This would be a group interactive session. IE- We would work on one section, share w/ the group, work on another section, share w/ the group, etc. until we had complete plans.

If the client desires more fully developed plans, an Extended Planning Workshop (4 - 6 hours) would be required. In this workshop, we would break into intact teams and work on specific goals and objectives. The end result would be teaching the planning process while developing plans that are anywhere from 80% - 90% complete. This activity would include a report out sent back to the teams and leadership with their plans transferred from whiteboards and scratch paper to a word document.

The Planning Keynote and either workshop are effective at teaching the planning steps to get from point A to Z in a planning session. Furthermore, they are great at getting a jump start on future goals and initiatives.

Debrief Keynote followed by Stop-Start-Continue Workshop.

The Debrief Keynote is 45 mins with time for Q&A. Similar to the Planning Keynote, the Debrief keynote flows through the Debrief steps using stories and customized materials. One of the

reasons teams don't Debrief is that they do not have a process nor do they feel safe. The Debrief steps that will be taught account for both of these challenges.

After the Debrief workshop, we will run a Stop, Start, Continue Workshop for 1.5- 2.0 hours. Individually and in small groups, participants would list out what they, their team, their department, or organization as a whole should **stop doing, start doing, or continue doing**. After working as individuals and as teams, the groups would categorize which activity is most important based on Impact and Effort. This activity would include a report out being sent back to the teams and leadership with their inputs transferred from individual pages into one combined document.

The Start, Stop, Continue process is a great way to introduce and get teams comfortable with a more formal debriefing process.

Resiliency Keynote followed by Stop-Start-Continue Workshop.

The Resiliency Keynote is 45 mins with time for Q&A. This Keynote leverages heavily on the lessons I learned while attending TOPGUN and how they build resilient organizations. Having a Purpose, Dedication, Humility & Honesty, Teamwork, Tough Love, and a Debrief culture all lead toward resiliency in an organization.

Because the Keynote ends with a high-level review of the Debrief process, the Stop, Start, Continue Workshop is a perfect addition. Working in an organization where we can express our ideas in a safe, honest, and open environment is a key to receiving valuable feedback to bounce back quickly from down turns.