

Thriving in the Hot Seat

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Today's business environment is fast-paced, dynamic and complex. Managers require extreme leadership skills to manage beyond normal projects and make it in a world of tight timelines and limited resources. There is little time for consensus management to gain buy-in across the many teams and partners. There is no question – it's a project-driven and mission-critical environment. Who better to develop leaders in a mission-critical environment than the military?

"Management skills are fundamental to lead moderate-risk, moderate business-impact projects."

150 Years of Experience

The Military adopts a blended learning strategy to develop their leaders including training, leadership models, simulation and mission-based experience that is often well beyond an officer's years of maturity:

- Basic leadership training or 'boot camp'
- Technical training and professional development – basic and advanced
- Simulation – challenging real-life recreations of UN missions and international conflicts
- Mission-based experience – practical experience in a team leadership role

"Today's business leaders are coming to realize what the military has known for 150 years: simulation allows managers at all levels to practice converting informed choice into timely action. From such practice comes faster decisions, crisper execution and better integration."

Fast Company, November 2003

Strong leadership models, such as the widely known S.W.O.T. Analysis, are deliberately engrained at the earliest stages of an officer's leadership training and provide a methodology to approach leadership tasks. These models are not unlike the technical methodology a project manager will employ to manage a project. Having a format, template or framework to rely upon provides stability, a common plan and language that the team understands.

Mission Critical Leadership

Although most managers are trained in the technical aspects of management, this is not adequate to bring order to chaotic and time-critical projects that are increasingly common. The military's holistic approach combines technical expertise with the advanced leadership strengths imperative for success in a complex, mission-critical environment.

"Organizations don't accomplish anything. Plans don't accomplish anything either. Endeavours succeed or fail because of the people involved."

Colin Powell

Management skills are fundamental to lead moderate-risk, moderate business-impact projects. Mission critical leadership skills elevate the manager into the realm of leading high-velocity, high-risk projects delivered in a dynamic and complex business environment.

