

FROM ORDERS TO OPTIONS

When Military Excellence Meets Civilian Possibility

“I didn’t need someone to tell me what to do. I needed help seeing myself clearly enough to trust my own judgment”

- Col. SJ (US Army, Retired), transitioning to the private sector.



THE CROSSROADS



After 20+ years in the military, I was selected for senior command through an Army leadership development program. It should have felt like validation. Instead, it made me pause.

I found myself questioning whether this next level of responsibility was actually what I wanted—for me or my family. The military had been my entire adult life. But I was starting to wonder what leadership might look like outside of it.

The challenge wasn’t capability. I’d proven myself. The challenge was that I’d never seriously considered options beyond the path I was on—and I didn’t have a framework for evaluating them.



THE REFRAME



Chris didn’t try to solve my career decision for me. He helped me develop the tools to see it more clearly.

We worked through assessments I’d accumulated over the years—Gallup StrengthsFinder, EQi 2.0, the Motivated Abilities Pattern—and for the first time, actually integrated them. Instead of feedback sitting in different files, we pulled it together to see patterns and use it to shape real decisions.

Chris introduced me to mind mapping for exploring options I’d never considered. He taught me to navigate polarities—to stop seeing everything as binary, either/or choices the way military training had conditioned me to think.





He met me as someone ready to do the work but needing help with blind spots. Not a problem to be fixed. A leader in transition who needed better questions, not better answers.



WHAT SHIFTED



The transformation was practical. I learned to ask different questions. To think about problems in ways that weren't just mission-or-abort decisions.

The shift moved across multiple dimensions: from feeling uncertain about options to having a clear sense of direction. From binary thinking to navigating complex polarities. From relying on external structure to trusting my own judgment. From competing priorities to knowing what actually matters for my family and me.



None of this happened because someone told me what to do. It happened because I finally had tools to evaluate choices and trust my own assessment of what I was seeing.

I could see where I bring value while also taking care of myself and my family. My priorities became clear. I developed confidence about making this pivot work. And I could articulate my strengths in ways civilian executives actually understood.



WHAT SHIFTED



I made the decision to leave the military, and I'm confident as I search for my next chapter. Nine months of work with Chris clarified my priorities and where I bring value.

During the interview process, executives have remarked on the clarity of my communication and sense of purpose. One asked how I'd developed such a clear articulation of my leadership philosophy. I attribute that directly to this work.

I'm armed with tools I'll use wherever I land: the mind mapping, the polarity navigation, the integrated assessment feedback. These aren't abstractions—they're practical resources I'll carry forward into whatever comes next.

The most valuable shift wasn't about the decision itself. It was learning to evaluate choices from a place of clarity rather than reacting to circumstances. That's a capability I'll use for the rest of my career.

If you're facing a major transition and need a thinking partner who'll walk with you—not hand you a playbook—you can expect someone who meets you where you are and helps you see yourself clearly enough to choose your own path.



lead yourself well ... serve your great purpose

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