



Mandy Hickson

Mandy Hickson is an inspirational speaker with unmatched expertise, bringing real front-line experience into the corporate world. A former Royal Air Force fighter pilot, she was the first woman to fly the Tornado GR4 on the front line. Her keynotes translate lessons from complex aviation systems into practical strategies for peak performance and building stronger teams in fast-paced, high-pressure workplaces.

KEY TOPICS

- Why we need cognitive diversity in our teams
- Maintaining a Resilient Mindset 'Under Fire'
- Decision-making under pressure
- Challenging process to achieve different results.
- Leadership from the front line

BIOGRAPHY

Mandy Hickson: From Raf Pilot to Professional Speaker

Mandy operated in some of the most critical environments imaginable. Across three tours of duty, *she flew 45 combat missions over Iraq*. That unique journey through a male-dominated world sharpened her judgement, reinforced the value of effective teamwork and showed how poor decision-making can cripple performance when communication fails or when trust breaks down. As one of the female pilots who broke through at the highest level, and often referenced among the first female fighter pilots, she helps leaders face similar pressures with a structured approach that keeps people safe and results strong.

Human Factors and Peak Performance

Mandy is a trained human factors specialist and a Fellow of the **Royal Aeronautical Society**. She has served as an **Aviation Ambassador** and as a trustee for leading RAF charities. Her work focuses on how human beings really behave under load, and how to design checklists, briefings and habits that drastically improve outcomes. Audiences gain invaluable insights into situational awareness, psychological safety and communication so they can make confident decisions, build high-performing teams and deliver under pressure while embracing diversity.

What Leaders and Teams Gain

- Practical strategies for building high-performing teams in critical environments then applying them to leading teams in the corporate world
- Tools for combating bias and avoiding poor decision-making when timelines compress

- Ways to use diverse thinking and psychological safety to drive progress on complex challenges
- A clear method to maintain peak performance when many organisations struggle with change, risk and speed

Lessons From an Officer, Not a Gentleman

Mandy's bestselling book, *An Officer, Not a Gentleman*, shares the training, operations and mindset behind front-line flying at supersonic speeds. Event planners value how she translates those lessons into the right tools leaders can use immediately helping any team inspired by her story act with clarity and resolve.

Why Bring Mandy to Your Next Event

Mandy delivers powerful messages with great passion and a personal level of honesty. Event hosts often highlight Mandy's engaging storytelling, which makes complex ideas simple, connects across functions and gives people the confidence to face challenges head-on. Expect a speaker who understands the front line, can translate lessons for business, and leaves mindsets stronger in a way that will resonate long after the session ends.

Sample Outcomes for Clients

- Enhance team performance through clearer communication and shared situational awareness
- Build high-performing teams with psychological safety and diverse thinking at the core
- Improve decision quality in fast-moving situations using tested human factors practices
- Equip leaders to deliver results under intense pressure without losing trust or safety

Book Mandy Hickson for Your Next Event

Bring Mandy to your conference, leadership offsite or client gathering to help people operate at peak performance when it matters most. As a former **Royal Air Force** fast-jet pilot and a trailblazer on the **Tornado GR4**, she has inspired audiences worldwide. Her unique journey, practical strategies and powerful messages will leave your organisation ready to deliver results.

WHAT PEOPLE SAY

"I just wanted to drop you a note to say thank you again for your session yesterday, what a way to end the event!! Feedback has been glowing from everyone I have been speaking to - hugely inspirational and many have said that it was great that they were able to take away so many practical points that they can apply to their own roles. I hope many more people get to hear your story. Your book is on it's way from Amazon!"

— Barclays Bank

"You were an absolute pleasure to work with and we have had absolutely phenomenal feedback from delegates with many saying that you are the best guest speaker they have ever heard. You literally had the room spellbound."

— Airbus

""Would you mind relaying to Mandy that I never want to follow her speaking at an event ever again please?! She was so inspiring, amazing, brilliant, honest and open about her experiences that she captured the attention of all of our audience to a level I just couldn't hope to maintain!! She was undoubtedly the star of the show and a really amazing speaker and inspiration.""

— NewDay Credit