

# "Simple Rules"

'How to Thrive in a Complex World'

Board Meeting H&OP Minute – Kassie Bertilson March 3, 2025

#### THE NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

'An indispensable guide to organizational change'
WALTER ISAACSON, author of Steve Jobs

### TEAM

- OF

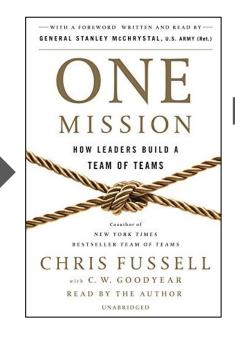
#### TEAMS

NEW RULES OF ENGAGEMENT FOR A COMPLEX WORLD

### GENERAL STANLEY McCHRYSTAL

US Army, retired,

with Tantum Collins, David Silverman and Chris Fussell



"THE NERD BOOK OF THE SUMMER."



## SIMPLE RULES

HOW TO THRIVE
IN A COMPLEX WORLD

DONALD SULL | KATHLEEN M. EISENHARDT

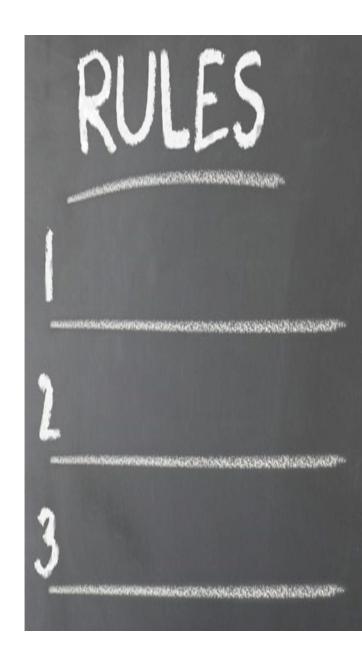


### Rapid-Changing, Complex World

- Detailed rules have a place in preventing catastrophic error.
- Meeting complexity with complexity causes more confusion.
- Both consistency & flexibility have their advantages, but increasing one reduces the other.
- Often, complex rules and regulations arise out of a distrust of human nature.
- Need to move from 'command & control' to providing guided adaptability through simple rules.

### What are Simple Rules?

- = "rules of thumb" to make decisions and act quickly & effectively.
- Shortcut strategies that save time & effort by focusing attention and simplifying the way information is processed.
- Tailored to the user & task at hand, which balance concrete guidance with freedom to exercise judgement.
- Allow people to act without having to stop and rethink every decision.
- Provide a powerful weapon against the complexity that threatens to overwhelm individuals and organizations.



### **Types of Simple Rules**

#### What to do / What NOT to do...

- 1. **BOUNDARY** (yes / no)
  - "What is acceptable to do"
- 2. **PRIORITIZING** (ranking)
  - "What is more important to do"
- 3. **STOPPING** 
  - "What to stop doing"

#### vs. How to do things better...

- 4. HOW-TO
  - "How to guide task execution"
- 5. **COORDINATION** 
  - "What to do in relation to others"
- 6. TIMING
  - "When to take action"



### **Benefits of Adopting Simple Rules**

- Closes the gap between strategic intent and dayto-day action.
- Applies a handful of guidelines to critical activities or decisions.
- Provides flexibility to seize opportunities.
- Produces good decisions when data and time are scarce.
- Helps coordinate activities to achieve common objectives.



#### FIRST PRINCIPLES of H & OP

- People have dignity
- Error is normal
- Blame fixes nothing
- Context drives behavior
- Learning is deliberate & vital
- Our response matters

Questions?

Thank you!

