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I help military veterans achieve big goals in the simplest ways possible. I also write life-changing books and bicycle for great causes, like the 1700-mile [Fallen Hero Honor Ride](#).

Christopher D. Kolenda, Founder of the Strategic Leaders Academy, helps veterans lead as their best selves, build winning teams, and make the pivotal decisions that create sustainable growth.

Chris is a warrior-diplomat, combining assertiveness, statesmanship, and wisdom to help his clients gain dramatic wins. A West Point graduate, internationally renowned combat leader, and retired Army colonel, his Task Force developed a strategy that motivated a large insurgent group to switch sides, the only example in the war 's 20-year history.

Unsatisfied with the complacency in the White House, State, and the Pentagon, Chris inspired change in the military's strategy and got Defense officials on board to push for new diplomatic initiatives. As a trusted adviser to three 4-star generals and two Secretaries of Defense, Chris became the first American to have both fought the Taliban as a commander in combat and negotiated successfully with them.

After resigning from the government, he's brought the wisdom of warrior-diplomacy to the private sector, helping business leaders challenge conventional wisdom, imagine the future, and implement innovations that soar their businesses to new heights.

His unique warrior-diplomacy has been featured in the *New York Times* bestselling books: *The Outpost* by Jake Tapper and *Stones into Schools* by Greg Mortenson, as well as Steve Coll's *Directorate S* and several others. His contributions have also been cited in journals and newspapers such as the *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times*, *The Economist*, and *The London Times*, and he's appeared on nearly every major news network in the US and UK.

His books include [Leadership: The Warrior's Art](#), which has sold over 50,000 copies. [The Counterinsurgency Challenge](#), and [Zero-Sum Victory: What We're Getting Wrong About War](#).

To help his Gold Star families and unit veterans and their families pursue their American dreams, Chris created the [Saber Six Foundation](#) in honor of the six paratroopers from his unit who were killed in action in Afghanistan.