

THE JORDAN HARBINGER SHOW

Worksheet for General Hayden | National Security in an Age of Lies (Episode 87)

If you've been paying attention to current events, you've doubtless read about ex-CIA head John Brennan recently being stripped of his security clearance by the White House [for making unflattering statements about the administration](#). And if you're like a lot of Americans -- on either side of the aisle -- you might be wondering what's *really* happening behind the scenes and what this means for the country as a whole.

Joining us for [episode 87](#) is the perfect person to ask: General Michael Hayden, himself a former NSA and CIA head -- recently threatened with having his own clearance revoked -- and author of [The Assault on Intelligence: American National Security in an Age of Lies](#). Here, we discuss why security clearance of former classified leadership matters, why the intelligence community needs to know it can relay uncomfortable truths to the administration without fear of reprisal, and what General Hayden feels is the way forward in the midst of the current political climate.

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Breaking Bad...News

General Hayden referred to bad news in a rather eloquent way: “the phenomenon of the unpleasant fact.” Though this artful term for inconvenient truth sounds nice, it doesn’t change the fact that no one likes to be the bearer of bad news.

His advice for presenting such information? Be prepared to defend yourself, don’t delay the meeting, and don’t get in anyone’s face. Then, when the interaction has begun, you’re to be nimble in the interaction.

“Mr. President... let me give you another way of looking at that problem.”

While you might work in Washington, it’s unlikely that you’ll soon be tasked with breaking bad news to the President. However, it is super likely that you’ll have to break bad news to someone in the near future. When is the next time you might have practice this art? How might you be able to take the General’s advice into this anxiety-provoking endeavor?

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Public Self-Reflection

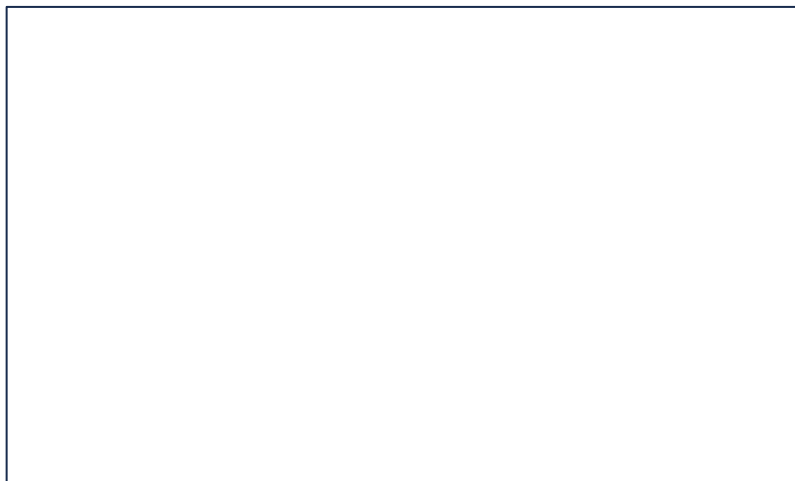
General Hayden may not love bad news but he does love to embrace it quickly. In our conversation, he mentioned that there's a question he always asked himself after an issue was brought up:

Did I do that? Is that my fault?

A "yes" answer would prompt General Hayden to ask the room to tell him more. If "no" was the answer, he let everyone know that they still have a problem to fix. This shows a willingness to hear bad news all while not killing the messenger.

If it's good enough for the General, it's good enough for us.

How can you take more responsibility in a way that takes pressure off of those around you?



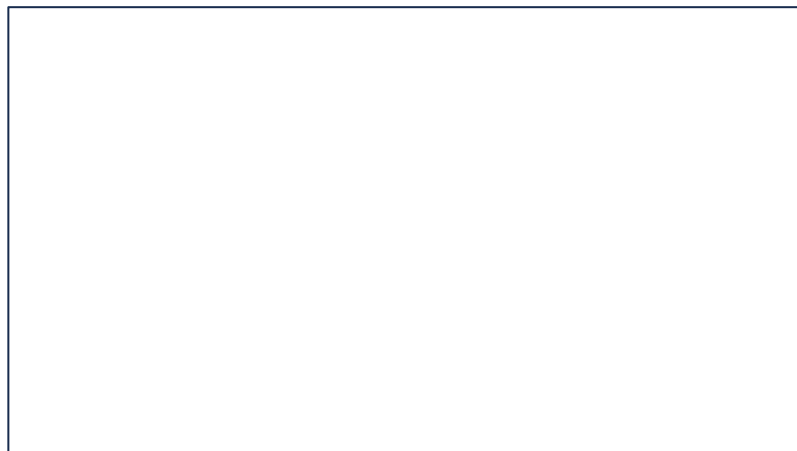
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Stand Up For Your Community

General Hayden's new book (which is one great read) is called [*The Assault on Intelligence*](#). One of the things that it dives into is a term which has entered the zeitgeist in the past few years: *the Intelligence Community*. This is a proud group in which General Hayden has long-standing membership.

He stands up for his community so much that he wrote a book -- even though there will be some blowback.

Most of us belong to some kind of group. Do you consider yourself a member of a community? Has your community, or group, come under attack? Was there some brave action you took in order to stand up for everyone else?



Full show notes and resources for this episode [can be found here](#).

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About



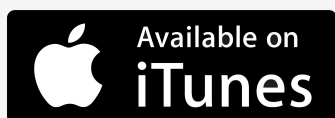
Join Jordan Harbinger (critically acclaimed host, formerly of The Art of Charm) as we get deep into the untapped wisdom of the world's top performers -- from legendary musicians to intelligence operatives, iconoclastic writers to visionary change-makers.

We deconstruct the playbooks of the most successful people on earth -- and learn new strategies, perspectives, and insights you can't find anywhere else. Then, take these insights into your own life and live what you listen.

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support@jordanharbinger.com

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