



JIM HARSHAW JR.

Revealing Failure as the Path to Success

Success Through Failure Podcast

Action Plan Episode #384

Scott Mann

Scott Mann is a retired US Army Green Beret who has served on tours worldwide, including Columbia, Iraq, and multiple tours in Afghanistan.

He is a warrior storyteller and the founder of [Rooftop Leadership](#) where he shares the rapport-building skills he learned in Special Forces to help today's leaders make better human connections in high-stakes, low-trust engagements.

Scott is also the international best-selling author of "[Game Changers: Going Local to Defeat Violent Extremists](#)" and "[Operation Pineapple Express](#)."

What you'll hear in this interview is an incredible story— a [success through failure](#) story— of Operation Pineapple Express or the heroic rescue operation headlined by Scott and other retired Green Berets that saved their former comrade and 500 other Afghans targeted by the Taliban in the chaos of America's withdrawal from Afghanistan in the summer of 2021. Don't miss it! Tune in now!

Top Quotes From This Episode

"You can actually do more than people twice your size if you put in the work."

"We don't have to wait for permission to lead. We don't have to wait for permission to fix things that are broken in our society and our community. We just lead and we just step in and do the best we can with it."

"To any gold star families, if you lost loved ones there, I'm telling you that nothing is written. It's not done yet. And what we paid the price for and gave our youth has yet to be realized, but it will be."

"I think it's our last best hope in this country is the ability to lead through our failures and our scars, because that's where the real power is, and that's what people are so hungry for: leaders who can lead through failure."

Show Notes

This episode touches on the following key topics and ideas:

- **A 14-year-old's dream (2:41):** Scott shares his journey to becoming a Green Beret.
- **Thanks to Mark! (5:03):** Scott talks about his long-time mentor who made his dream possible.
- **From doubts to triumphs (7:10):** The pivotal moments in Scott's life.
- **September 11, 2001 (11:46):** How the 9/11 terror attack changed Scott's life.
- **Village Stability Operations (13:02):** Meet Nazam, Scott's good friend and one of the first members of the Afghan Special Forces Team.
- **Dead man walking (15:04):** The "low point" during the war in Afghanistan.
- **Betrayal at its purest (16:20):** Scott's reaction to America withdrawing from Afghanistan.
 - (17:39) What could've been done differently
- **"Hello, sir. I am the Pineapple." (21:24):** Scott recalls the successful Operation Pineapple Express.
- **[Success Through Failure](#) lesson (31:34):** Scott calls for the people to not "count out the sacrifice of our military families and warriors who held space for 20 years."
- **The Hero's Journey (35:09):** How Scott uses storytelling to help first responders and military family members to find their voice and to tell their story.
- **Rooftop Leadership (36:48):** A for-profit organization that teaches business leaders how to use interpersonal skills.

List of Resources Mentioned in the Episode

Scott Mann's book, "[Operation Pineapple Express](#)"

Scott's play, "[Last Out](#)"

Watch "[Rambo](#)"

Want to talk to a personal performance coach?

Want to consider executive life coaching? Claim a spot on Jim's calendar for your free one-time clarity call: JimHarshawJr.com/APPLY

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