



## Former NASA Mission Leader | Preventing Failure in High-Stakes

### Short Bio

Mike Ciannilli is a former NASA mission leader who equips leaders in high-stakes environments to protect decision quality under pressure. Drawing on human spaceflight experience, he shows how risk shifts as confidence grows and what it takes to maintain discipline when decisions carry real consequences.

### Medium Bio

Mike Ciannilli is a former NASA mission leader who equips leaders to protect decision quality in complex, high-pressure environments.

During his time supporting human spaceflight missions, Mike worked in conditions where small decisions carried significant consequences for mission success and crew safety. He saw that programs do not fail because risk is invisible. They fail when risk begins to feel acceptable.

Today, he works with leadership teams operating under sustained pressure to recognize how risk evolves, challenge assumptions, and maintain discipline as confidence grows. His focus is on preventing failure by strengthening how decisions are made before problems become visible.

### Long Bio

Mike Ciannilli is a former NASA mission leader and expert in how complex programs prevent failure under sustained pressure.

While supporting human spaceflight missions, Mike operated in environments where decisions directly affected mission success, crew safety, and public trust. He saw how programs rarely fail because leaders ignore risk. They fail when risk begins to feel manageable as momentum builds and expectations rise.

Today, Mike equips leaders and teams operating in complex systems to protect decision quality as conditions change. His work focuses on how risk is interpreted, how assumptions are validated, and how discipline is maintained when confidence increases.

His insights are especially relevant for organizations managing safety-critical systems, rapid technological change, and increasing reliance on automation. He connects mission-level lessons to the realities leaders face as systems grow more complex and the consequences of small decisions increase.

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