FIRST MANASSAS

"You are green, it is true; but they are green, also; you are green alike."
~ Abraham Lincoln to Union General Irwin McDowell, June 1861

When the Civil War began in April of 1861, the Union and Confederacy disagreed on nearly everything. Their one area of agreement was that their desired result – independence for the Confederacy, an end to the rebellion for the Union – could be accomplished by one dramatic victory. The first attempt to deliver that result came on July 21, 1861, at the Battle of First Manassas or Bull Run. An examination of that battle, including the events before and after, offers today's leaders fabulous windows into **leading people, driving efficiency, and achieving results.**

Located just 30 miles west of Washington D.C., Manassas is an accessible location that permits a thorough program plus transit time to fit within an eight-hour day. There are various options for this program:

1. Groups can utilize a bus to travel to the battlefield and move from stop to stop.
2. Individuals can drive their vehicles to the battlefield and caravan to three different stops.
3. Individuals can drive to the battlefield and then do a modified tour whereby the entire program is on foot.

Regardless of the logistical format, some of the content highlights and discussion pieces include:

- A map study that leads to an investigation into building our own **technical skill**.
- The introduction of a **problem solving** technique that would have helped Union General Irvin McDowell identify the flaws in his plans, and can help you.
- A thought-provoking anecdote encourages participants to reflect upon **accountability** and **effective delegation**.
- Bringing a model on **operational mindset** alive by using it to examine the leadership of General McDowell.

As a concluding exercise, we reflect upon all we have seen and develop a plan to carry the learning back to participants' workplace.