

Contact

www.linkedin.com/in/mahesh-upasani-4a3a60267 (LinkedIn)

Top Skills

Teamwork

Written Communication

Communication

Certifications

MAX Intelligence & Physical Security Training

Mahesh Upasani

IAF veteran, Former Director of Media Operations at IAF & Spokesman | Marketing | Corporate communications | Indian Air Force | IIM Lucknow

Delhi, India

Summary

* With colossal diverse work experience in public affairs and event & exhibition management alongside military operations, I am a professional seeking a leadership role in Marketing and Corporate Communications within the Defense industry, Academics, and Administration. My expertise lies in leveraging my extensive background to create value for the industry, and society while contributing to Nation and international-society building.

*During my career, I had the privilege of serving as a 'Media Advisor' to six Chiefs of Air Force and Army Staff in India, providing strategic counsel on public affairs and shaping communication strategies during critical military operations and peacetime. This exposure has honed my ability to navigate complex environments and deliver effective messaging to diverse stakeholders.

*My educational background is equally comprehensive, with formal education in science(Bsc), journalism, law (LLB), MBA, and MPhil. This multidisciplinary foundation enables me to bring a well-rounded perspective to the table, combining analytical thinking, communication skills, and business acumen.

*Additionally, I possess motivational training experience as an instructor of the Air Force's Leadership Training Team, known as CLABS. This role has allowed me to refine my training and mentoring abilities, instilling leadership qualities and fostering a high-performance and productive culture. I am therefore a General Management Trainer as well. Needless to say that long service in the armed forces makes you an able administrator.

*I have also undergone formal training in Digital Marketing, recognizing the growing importance of leveraging digital platforms

to drive brand awareness, engage target audiences, and achieve strategic marketing objectives.

*Now, as I transition into the Corporate sector, I am eager to apply my wealth of experience, leadership acumen, and digital marketing skills to drive growth and success for defense industry organizations, & academic institutions. I am passionate about shaping compelling narratives, building strong relationships, and delivering impactful communications that resonate with key stakeholders, and sharing my knowledge.

*If you are seeking a dynamic, results-oriented leadership with a proven track record in marketing and corporate communications within the defense industry, or Academic sector and administration. In that case, I welcome the opportunity to connect. Let's collaborate to create a brighter future for your organization and contribute to the advancement of the defense sector as a whole.

Experience

Indian Air Force

Director of Media Operations

July 2021 - Present (3 years 3 months)

New Delhi, Delhi, India

Indian Air Force (IAF)

Commander TAC

July 2017 - August 2019 (2 years 2 months)

Tezpur, India

Commanded An IAF Stn. Being the commander of the formation involved planning and conducting military operations with other services, administration, and man-management of the force.

Centre for leadership training and behavioural sciences (CLABS)

Senior Instructor

May 2015 - July 2017 (2 years 3 months)

India

Motivation training, Life Skill, and EQ training of Officers, Trainees, and all staff of IAF.

College Of Air Warfare

Training Course

May 2014 - May 2015 (1 year 1 month)

Hyderabad, Telangana, India

Underwent Study program for handling commands of IAF stations and other critical staff appointments at HQs. Obtained Master Of Philosophy (MPhil) with research paper on the 'Role of media in National security

Directorate of Public Relations, Ministry of Defence, India

Spokesman

January 2003 - January 2014 (11 years 1 month)

New Delhi, Kolkata and Nagpur

As a Spokesman and Public Relations Officer with the Ministry of Defense, the tasks involved were planning and coordinating all communications on behalf of the Armed Forces and organization under MOD. I was media and communications advisor to four Chiefs of Air and army staff. It also involved coordination and organizing Media affairs during Aero India & DefExpo exhibitions.

Indian Air Force

10 years

Instructor

July 1998 - December 2002 (4 years 6 months)

Hyderabad, Telangana, India

The role involved Training the Cadets prior to joining Indian Air Force as officers. The aim of the training was to skill up the cadets with professional skills, leadership skills, life skills, and physical fitness.

Staff Air Crew

January 1993 - June 1998 (5 years 6 months)

Nagpur and Jodhpur, India

Aircrew VIP communication flights and Adjutant. Effective handling of the administration of the IAF units where I was posted. It included planning and coordination of flying programs, men, and material management and logistics.

Education

Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow

Business Administration and Management, General · (July 2023 - December 2023)

Nagpur University

Bachelor of Laws - LLB, Legal Studies, General · (June 1998 - June 2001)

Osmania University

Master of Philosophy - MPhil, Defense studies · (April 2014 - May 2015)

ICFAI University

Master of Business Administration - MBA, Management studies · (June 2010 - April 2013)

University of Madras

Diploma in Mass communication, Media and journalism · (January 1998 - December 1998)