



It Takes Only One Mosquito

Do you remember any of your high school physics? The simple formulae that yielded solutions to incomprehensible questions like, how many mosquitoes would it take to stop a train? From the lay man's perspective it is not even a possibility but to the mathematician it is. So let us concede that it is possible for a sufficient swarm of mosquitoes to stop a train and then let us take it one step further. It is that very last mosquito to join the swarm that actually stops the train the others just slow it down sufficiently to make the inevitable happen! So inasmuch as we have to acknowledge the contribution of the entire swam we must not forget the final contribution of that last, small addition to the entire effort. That one mosquito!

This analogy sums up the effort required of the members of every group of employees. Everyone has to do their part in order to prepare for the final outcome and then it takes that final contribution from the person responsible for it to bring the whole effort to fruition. This is especially true in situations that require teamwork. Everyone must contribute to the efforts of the mass if the goal is to be reached. It is not only those who led the charge to centre the mass of the swarm on the nose of the train it is every mosquito banding together to supply the mass and acceleration toward the train that creates the counteracting force.

It is important for the members of your team to each understand their role, the goal and the contribution required to meet the objective and then for each of them to make the required contribution to the effort. They must also realize that each contribution is important even down to the last contributor, that last one mosquito, without whose effort the train is not stopped. Although slowed significantly ...not stopped! And if the objective is to stop the train then that swarm has not succeeded.

We can also look at this example in an individual sense as well. Simply the effort that we expend on completing a task can be measured against the energy required to see it through. So what is the total effort demanded of us in any particular situation. Can we deliver on it and do we even know what that effort might require. In some cases it may be the need to sacrifice something that we look forward to. In other cases it may be taking on tasks that are above our capacity which requires us to perform and learn all at the same time and yes redo and adjust for our lack of skill. These all take that full effort and the contribution of that last little effort that allows for the final realization of the goal. Many times we analyze failures only to find that success was so close, just missed by that small extra effort or that one small turn that took the employee off the mark.

It is simply us or our group giving that last little bit more that makes the difference in most cases. The final contribution that makes it all work; the contribution of that last one mosquito!

Please call us in for a visit and allow us to help you explore your team building or employee development programs. We can assist in the development of training tools to allow you to develop employees to optimize their personal or collective contributions to the organization.