



# THE OODA LOOP

- OBSERVE
- ORIENT
- DECIDE
- ACT

Early in their training, Marines learn about the OODA loop (Observe, Orient, Decide, Act), a four-step approach to decision-making that focuses on analyzing available information, putting it in context, and quickly making the most appropriate decision while also understanding that changes can be made as more data becomes available. The framework can be applied to all aspects of your life.

## OBSERVE BY COLLECTING NEW INFORMATION

- WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?
- HOW DOES IT AFFECT ME OR OTHERS?
- IS THERE A TIME CONSTRAINT?
- SHOULD SOMEONE ELSE OFFER INPUT?
- IS MY PERCEPTION ACCURATE?
- WHAT ARE THE POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES?

## ORIENT YOURSELF BY REFLECTING ON THE PAST

REFLECT ON PREVIOUS EXPERIENCES AND OUTCOMES. THINK ABOUT:

- YOUR BIASES, PERCEPTIONS, AND VALUES.
- ETHICS, MORALS, AND BELIEFS.
- ADVICE YOU'VE RECEIVED.



## DECIDE WHAT YOUR NEXT STEPS WILL BE

DECIDE WHAT TO DO BY CONSIDERING YOUR OBSERVATIONS AND ORIENTATION. DECIDING IS A CONTINUOUS CYCLE OF MAKING THE BEST JUDGMENT BASED ON THE THINGS YOU KNOW AT THE TIME.

## ACT BY FOLLOW-THROUGH

ACT BY FOLLOWING THROUGH ON THE DECISION, MONITORING THE OUTCOME – GOOD OR BAD – AND CYCLING BACK TO ORIENT WHEN NEEDED. IF THE FIRST COURSE OF ACTION DID NOT SOLVE THE PROBLEM, REWORK THE PROBLEM. NEW INFORMATION CAN AFFECT THE COURSE OF ACTION.

Try using the **OODA Loop** to troubleshoot challenges and strengthen your total fitness.