

## 4 Tips to Incorporate Strategic Thinking

This job aide provides practical tips to incorporate strategic thinking. Applying these tips will improve your strategic thinking and help you solve complex problems.

### 1 Ask Strategic Questions

- This allows you to exercise your planning skills, become adept at spotting opportunities, and develop a more strategic mindset.
- Examples of strategic questions you can ask:
  - How does this project align with NAVFAC's overall mission?
  - How do my team's efforts on this project help to achieve NAVFAC's strategic goals?
  - What is the direction of growth for NAVFAC over the next five years and what strategic steps can I take now to align my growth with this direction?

### 2 Observe and Reflect

- Ensure any strategy you are considering is grounded in facts based on the current situation and influencing factors.
- Gather as much information and historical data as possible to use when crafting your strategy.
- Review and analyze the information and historical data to anticipate possible contingencies and understand the impacts of your strategy.

### 3 Consider Opposing Ideas

- Identify and document your assumptions related to the strategy, then question each assumption independently.
- Have others review your strategy to help identify any weaknesses in your argument and equip you to better defend your strategy.
- Put your hypothesis through rigorous testing to ensure you are not overlooking other possibilities.

### 4 Cultivate a Strategic Mindset

- Self-assess your strategic thinking competency and embrace training opportunities to increase your level of proficiency.
- Leverage complimentary skills such as problem solving, communication, analysis, planning, and critical thinking to support and enhance your strategic thinking.
- Posture yourself so that you are able to spot new opportunities, address emerging challenges, and plan for future success.