

OODA vs FOR-DEC vs TDODAR

Three approaches to decision-making under pressure



Why compare them?

Similar purpose, different structures and ways of thinking



For professional discussion and reflection • OODA, FOR-DEC and TDODAR are decision-support models, not substitutes for professional judgement • Apply alongside appropriate organisational procedures, authority, evidence and governance

Three approaches at a glance

Each supports decision-making, but with a different structure and focus

OODA

Rapid, continuous decision cycle



- Iterative and fast-moving
- Responds to change and new information
- Suits dynamic and time-critical situations

FOR-DEC

Structured evaluation and choice



- Step-by-step structure
- Helps analyse options and consequences
- Useful for complex and high-stakes decisions

TDODAR

Structured diagnosis, action and review



- Starts with time and clear diagnosis
- Includes assignment and review
- Well suited to operational and crisis situations

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OODA

Observe • Orient • Decide • Act



- 1 Observe**
Gather and monitor information from the environment.
- 2 Orient**
Interpret the information, consider the context and understand what it means.
- 3 Decide**
Choose the most appropriate course of action.
- 4 Act**
Implement the decision and monitor the outcome.

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How OODA works

A continuous cycle of observing, interpreting, deciding and acting



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FOR-DEC

A structured approach to evaluating options and making a decision



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How FOR-DEC works

A structured process to identify facts, develop options, assess risks, make a decision, implement and check the outcome



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TDODAR

A structured approach to rapid assessment, clear decision-making and follow-up



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How TDODAR works

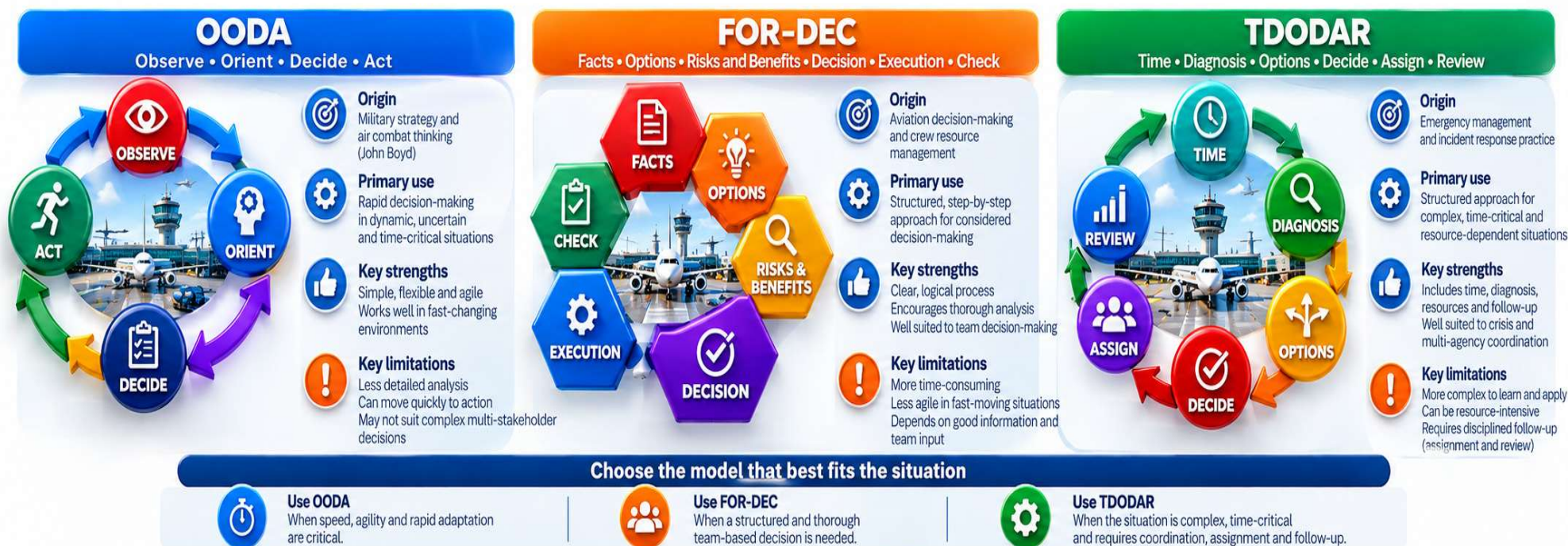
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Three models – different strengths

All three support decision-making, but are designed for different contexts and needs



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Key strengths and limitations

Each model has advantages and limitations.
Select the approach that best fits the context and decision requirement



Complementary models – use the right approach for the situation.

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When to use each model

Consider the context, time available and decision complexity

OODA

Fast, iterative and adaptive

Typical use cases for OODA

- Fast-moving and time-critical situations
- Dynamic and rapidly changing environments
- Tactical and operational decisions
- When there is limited time for analysis
- Security incidents and emerging threats

FOR-DEC

Structured option evaluation

Typical use cases for FOR-DEC

- Situations with multiple options
- When a structured assessment is needed
- Decisions with clear objectives
- When risks, benefits and feasibility need to be assessed
- Strategic, tactical or operational decisions

TDODAR

Practical and operational

Typical use cases for TDODAR

- Operational and crisis decision-making
- When time, diagnosis and coordination are critical
- Multi-agency and multi-stakeholder situations
- When clear roles and actions are needed
- Airport and aviation security operations

Choose the model that best fits the situation, or combine elements as needed.

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Choosing the right approach

The choice depends on the situation, time available, information and decision complexity

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Key takeaways and practical application

Three complementary models to support better, faster and more informed decision-making



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