# *Strategic Thinking and Strategic Leadership for Decision Advantage*

Increasing uncertainty and ambiguity in the strategic environment necessitates an increasing need to not just fire effectively first but also to *think effectively first*. Thinking is critical to competitive advantage in the Cognitive Age; and any good strategy must begin with good strategic thinking.

*This course focuses on developing the thinking foundations for developing strategies and driving organizational change in the Cognitive Age*

In this course we will focus on:

♦ How to cultivate strategic, innovative, and critical thinking and to develop cognitive and dispositional skills for creating and utilizing asymmetric competitive advantages in a changing and uncertain strategic environment.

♦ Tools for thinking critically, leading, and managing in situations with ill-structured and wicked problems.

♦ Understanding and applying principles, ideas, and frameworks for leading agile organizations.

♦ Synthesizing and integrating ideas, perspectives, and examples from national security and business contexts and then applying them to our own organizations and to current strategic competitors.

♦ Examining and learning from cases, critical thinkers, and strategic leaders (such as John Boyd, Andrew Marshall, Steve Jobs, Wayne Hughes, and Al Gray) and ways to use critical thinking to be a more effective strategic leader of warfighting organizations.

The course is taught by warrior-scholar team and recognizes that active minds are best built through active learning which we will embrace through discussions, cases, and exercises. No lectures and no death by Power Point!

NWSI Critical Thinking and Judgment Branch.
meaugier@nps.edu | rgpugh@nps.edu