

Heuristic Awareness Checkpoints

We all start from what we know. The problem isn't starting there, it's stopping there.

1 · Problem framing

- What is the core challenge we are solving?
- Are we addressing a symptom or the root cause of a broader issue?
- Is this a tactical problem or a strategic one?

2 · Contextual analysis

- What makes this environment, threat, or population unique?
- How do life safety, business continuity, and public perception influence the stakes?
- What constraints (legal, spatial, social) shape the feasible options?

3 · Option diversification

- What solutions exist outside my personal or organisational default toolbox?
- Who from other disciplines (technical, behavioural, architectural, environmental) should inform the strategy?
- Are we considering layered, integrated approaches rather than single-point fixes?

4 · Bias audit

- Why am I drawn to this solution? Because it worked before, or because it fits this context?
- What alternatives did I dismiss too early, and why?
- Have we challenged our initial assumptions through inquiry or feedback?

5 · Decision rationale

- Can I clearly articulate why this option is the right fit for this specific challenge?
- Can others evaluate, understand, and defend this decision under scrutiny?
- Are we documenting our rationale to support institutional learning?

Heuristics are not the enemy. Without reflection, they become shortcuts to stagnation.