

10 LESSONS AFTER 26 YEARS

CONTINUED

6 THINK

No situation is permanent and thinking is the first step to effecting change. Think about where you're at and what you want to accomplish. Military members are expected to follow direction, but they're still allowed to think. You don't have to voice or act upon individual thought, but don't lose the ability to think for yourself.



7 FOLLOW-THROUGH

Persistence and follow-through are critical to success. In turn, adversity is a part of life. Skills and judgement are developed based up experience, which includes challenges and obstacles. Commit to your actions and what you tell others you'll accomplish. Not doing what you say erodes credibility and empowers resistance.



8 FOCUS ON RESULTS

Don't confuse activity with accomplishment since results are what matter. Effort and intent are important but irrelevant when positive results aren't achieved.



9 HAVE A MENTOR

Everyone should have at least one trusted advisor they can speak with, discuss ideas and seek council. The ideal situation is having several mentors, both inside and outside the military. If you're more senior, you should also be a mentor to others who need an honest sounding board and candid insights.



10 START PLANNING NOW

Decisions made while in uniform will have a major impact on your post-military life. Lifestyle, occupation, income and location are a few items to consider. And the sooner you begin thinking about your future, the clearer this becomes. Don't wait until the last minute and limit your options following the military.



**SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING
ORGANIZATIONS FOR THEIR SUPPORT**