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ROTC Essay

A Warrior’s Intellect

Throughout history man have always been at war; whether it’s man vs man or man vs nature. Charles Darwin best description of the meaning of life is the phrase, “survival of the fittest”, and he may have been right. There have been many great warriors throughout time, but none can compare to the intellect and instincts of Sun Tzu. This Chinese scholar, military leader, set forth the guidelines of how to do battle and win wars. Many heroes and villains alike; from Bill Belichick to General Patton Jr., have looked towards this book for inspiration. In the book Sun Tzu states, “There are five dangerous faults which may affect a general: recklessness, which leads to destruction; cowardice, which leads to capture; a hasty temper, which can be provoked by insults; a delicacy of honor which is sensitive to shame; over-solicitude for his men, which exposes him to worry and trouble. These are the five besetting sins of a general, ruinous to the conduct of war” (Tzu, *Art of War*). By looking deeper, how can a lieutenant apply this to his practice? LTG Harold Moore displays these values in the Battle of Ia Drang in South Vietnam, November 1965. In lab, we learned how to conduct an assault and the tactic is similar to one in the book. Soldiers would attack the enemies to get their attention, then they would retreat making the enemy think they have the upper hand; and finally, the soldiers would ambush the enemy on both sides and win the battle. This tactic is no different from what we use today in our military. Sun Tzu was way ahead of his time.