

Crossing the void, war and business

Utility of British military management methods beyond the military

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Abstract

This paper reviews the initial findings of a research programme which was designed to establish the utility of the Army's Mission Command approach beyond the contextual confines of the military environment. The military metaphor has been widely used throughout business literature but, there has been little research to justify or refute the validity of such comparisons. This programme evaluates the utility of key military leadership and management techniques through an examination of Territorial Army (TA) Officers who have been selected and trained by the British Army whilst establishing and developing their own business practices. The research programme examines the adaptation of these key concepts by business and suggests further avenues for future research. The research suggests that the British military method of leadership and management practice does have utility within a non-military environment. The ability to share context, empower staff and ensure that context volatility is managed, which lead to competitive advantage are critical observations that have emerged.