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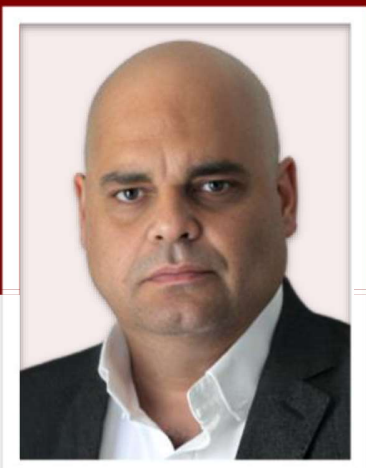


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Leadership in Critical Situations: Exploring Chinese Strategic Thinking in Special Police Operations

by Fabio Gomes

Leadership in critical situations requires an approach that transcends

conventional strategies, incorporating elements of Chinese strategic thinking, grounded in ancient wisdom. This thinking is particularly relevant for special police operations units, where adaptability and the ability to manage complex situations are vital.

The Concept of Maturation and Adaptation

Unlike the Western tradition, which tends to model situations based on preconceived ideals, Chinese strategic thinking values maturation and adaptation to circumstances. In special operations, where each mission can present unknown variables and unique challenges, the ability to adjust tactics and strategies in real-time is crucial. This involves a deep understanding of environmental conditions and the capacity to adapt as the situation evolves.

For instance, in a hostage situation, rather than following a rigid plan, the team must continuously assess the dynamics of the location, the disposition of those involved, and emerging opportunities to resolve the crisis effectively. This flexible approach favors a more agile and appropriate response, significantly increasing the chances of success.

Situational Intelligence

A pillar of Chinese strategic thinking is situational intelligence, which involves accurately reading circumstances and identifying exploitable opportunities. For special operations units, this means developing the ability to "read" the operational field intuitively and strategically, understanding not only the physical aspects but also the psychological and social ones.

Situational intelligence requires continuous training and

an open mindset, encouraging operators to think beyond Cartesian methods. This can include simulations of varied scenarios, case studies of past operations, and integrating observation and analysis techniques that allow a deeper understanding of the operational environment.

Destructuring rather than Destroying

A central concept in Chinese strategic thinking is the idea of destructuring rather than destroying. This means that instead of seeking the total annihilation of the adversary, the strategy aims to destabilize and dismantle its operations. In the police context, this can be applied to crisis management and counter-insurgency operations, where the aim is to neutralize the threat with the minimum of direct conflict.

For example, when dealing with criminal groups, rather than thinking solely about direct confrontation that can result in collateral damage, units can focus on disrupting the adversaries' logistical and financial network, weakening their operational capacity without resorting to armed confrontation. This approach tends to minimize risks and preserve lives while achieving strategic objectives.

The Power of Silent Transformation

Chinese strategic thinking values silent transformation – the ability to enact significant changes quietly and gradually. For special operations units, this translates to the importance of covert operations and the use of strategies that alter the situation almost imperceptibly to the adversary.

These tactics may include infiltration, disinformation, and other forms of indirect influence that shift the balance of power without alerting the opponent until it is too late. This not only reduces the risk of direct confrontation but also allows more subtle and effective control of the situation.

Prevention through Proactivity

Thinking...con't

Another important application of Chinese strategic thinking is the emphasis on prevention and proactivity. Instead of reacting to events as they occur, Chinese wisdom suggests creating favorable conditions that prevent crises from arising. This can be extremely useful for special operations units, which frequently deal with high-risk situations.

Proactivity can involve implementing predictive and preventive security measures, conducting continuous risk assessments, and preparing for various potential scenarios. For example, by constantly monitoring suspicious activities and conducting preventive operations, units can avoid the development of critical situations.

The Appropriate

Chinese thinking also emphasizes the importance of the appropriate, a strategy that can be used in leading special operations units. Instead of adopting extreme approaches, seeking balance or appropriate adjustment enables more efficient adaptation to variable circumstances.

For police forces, this means balancing force with diplomacy, firmness with flexibility. In operations where excessive force can result in collateral damage or loss of public support, a balanced approach can be more effective. This involves negotiations, building trust with the community, and using force only when absolutely necessary. The force is important, but not brute force; it should be intelligent, without excess or scarcity, in the appropriate measure.

The Role of the Leader in Chinese Strategy

In Chinese strategic wisdom, the leader plays a crucial role as the coordinator of favorable conditions for success. The leader must be a keen observer, able to recognize the right moment to act and create the conditions conducive to the operation unfolding as planned.

For special operations units, this means the leader must be constantly vigilant, evaluating the environment and adjusting strategies as needed. The leader should be able to inspire and motivate the team, ensuring everyone is aligned with the objectives and ready to act in a coordinated and effective manner. Always relying on conditions, without imposing will on the situation or resorting to coercion, as this favors the desired outcome to arise naturally.

Conclusion

Incorporating Chinese strategic thinking into the leadership of special police operations units can provide a significant advantage in critical situations. Adaptability, situational intelligence, disrupting rather than destroying, silent transformation, proactivity, and appropriateness are concepts that can be explored to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of operations. This approach not only increases the chances of success but also promotes a more intelligent and strategic way of dealing with conflicts and crises.

Leadership in special operations requires more than just technical skills and brute force; it requires a strategic mindset that allows navigating the complexities and uncertainties of each mission. By adopting the principles of Chinese strategic thinking as an additional resource, leaders can enhance their command capabilities and achieve superior results, protecting lives and ensuring a better sense of security for the public. **ILEETA**

About the Author

Fabio Gomes is a professional with extensive experience in training special operations forces using the Chinese martial system of Ving Tsun. With a solid background in security consulting and years of collaboration with the Brazilian Army's Special Forces and Commandos, he has also conducted training with the Special Police Operations Battalion (BOPE) in Rio de Janeiro, contributing to the enhancement of elite police officers. His approach integrates strategic intelligence and human development, offering comprehensive training that goes beyond physical combat, promoting an adaptive and proactive mindset.

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