

**CMS876 History of Media and Technology: Eternal War  
Assignment#2 reading response paper**

**Write a response to one of the following questions utilizing in your answer at least two sources from the assigned course reading and one independent source.**

**1. War technology and war media**

**In his article “How Tech Failed in Iraq,” David Talbot discusses the history of military technical progress, arguing that the in contemporary wars information is the most powerful weapon to possess and what one sees in current warfare is a revolution in information technologies. He writes, “Military intellectuals call them ‘revolutions in military affairs’.’ Every few decades, a new technology or a new ‘doctrine’ to use the military jargon, changes the nature of war. Single technologies like gunpowder or nuclear weapons spur some of these revolutions. New doctrines like Napoleonic staff organization or Nazi blitz tactics drive others....the newest revolution is known to Pentagon planners as ‘force transformation’. The idea is that robotic planes and ground vehicles empowered by an ever expanding range of sensing, targeting, imaging, and communication capabilities (new technologies) would support teams of networked soldiers (a new doctrine)” (39).**

**Comment on whether information networks can substitute for actual troops, using materials from the class reading, as well as references to Dr. Owen Cote’s class presentation, and any new media sources that are relevant.**

**2. The Art of War**

**In Sun Tzu’s 500 B.C. text, when he discusses the Art of War, what does he mean by the term “art” in this context? How are tactics, strategy, logistics discussed in the treatise? Sun Tsu writes, “All warfare is based on deception.” Comment on the quotation and discuss whether it contradicts his previous injunction of war and “moral law.”**