Who Wins Wars, Who Loses Them

Description

An accidental find, worthy of todayâ€™s situation in Iraq and Afghanistan:

> Wars and battles are not lost by private soldiers. They win them, but they donâ€™t lose them. They are lost by commanders, staffs and troops leaders, and they are often lost before they start.
>
> â€“ LtCol (BG) Sam Griffith, USMC
> CO 1st Raider Battalion

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It goes to the responsibility of the leadership, at every level to set the stage for a win or a loss in conflict. The Marine or soldier or sailor cannot change that outcome much at all.

Will will soon see the effect of this in 2011, as the war, that has gone on too long for some, is hastily retired from, with some rationale of we need the money elsewhere.

It will be penny wise and pound foolish, if the enemy that has been beaten back is allowed to thrive in our absence, to enable us to see if we really can absorb another major terrorist attack.

Update: another yellowed 3â€³x5â€³ card holds this bit of history to put things in perspective once again:

> Come with me into Macedon, most portent, grave and reverend senators and taste the rigors of a soldierâ€™s bed, the blood and anguish of a soldierâ€™s wars. Come with me into Macedon, fat comfortable strategists at home, and you will see how humble men have died to save the freedoms â€“ and the baths â€“ of Rome!
>
> â€“ General Lucius Aemilius Paulis addressing the Roman Senate after being critisized by same for certain aspects of his victorious campaign against Perseus in the Third macedonian War, 2nd Century BC

Rings true today. Just change a few names and places and itâ€™s a good fit.

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Date Created

October 19, 2010
Author
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