

**RESTRICTED**

**ABSTRACT**

As an island nation, Sri Lanka is situated near to the equator in Indian Ocean and consisted with fare and balanced weather condition. Although it has a normal weather condition, during last five years Sri Lanka suffered many time from heavy natural disaster including huge flood situation due to the change of normal weather pattern. The capital city Colombo, main commercial city of Sri Lanka suffered a lot during last five years due to flood situation. In each occasion Sri Lankan Armed forces carried out number of rescue operations to help and to make normalcy in public. During flood rescue operation majority of the participant were infantry soldiers of the Sri Lanka Army. Disaster Management Centre (DMC) utilized the armed forces as their last resource. They have structured to receive assistance from armed forces during an emergency. Although Sri Lankan Army carried out rescue mission in flood situation, most of the soldiers carried out those missions based on their basic military training. However, they manage to carry out flood rescue operation during last five years in Colombo District but it seems to be the hundred percent outcome of infantry soldiers have not come out due to various kinds of matters. During this thesis, the researcher tried to find out a new way to increase the competencies of officers and soldiers of Sri Lanka Army infantry regiments in order to achieve maximum out come during flood rescue operation in Colombo District. In this dissertation the researcher tried to find out the difficulties and challenges which are facing by infantry soldiers during flood search and rescue operation and how could be overcome those situations. It apart from the basic military training, the researcher has considered about the search and rescue operation training, skill development and strengthens unit line with new equipment to face any kind of flood rescue operation in Colombo District. Further, researcher found primary data by questionnaire and interviews while secondary data collect through old report and research, data related to DMC, and information from Directorate of Training of the Army. During the thesis, the researcher tried to identify other develop countries adopting methods for flood rescue operation. Finally, the result of this study shows the relations between equipments availability, training, formulated policies, techniques and skills of infantry soldiers' towards the improvement of competencies of infantry battalions for flood rescue operation in Colombo District.