

## **Abstract**

Leadership remains the essential ingredient in armed forces so as to successfully meet the challenges faced in defence of the nation. However, there remains an essential difference between military leadership and leadership in other spheres of life. A military leader has to motivate, inspire and lead men in the face of death. In no other organisation such a sacrifice is expected from a man in the normal course of his duty. This unique requirement of the armed forces dictates a military leader to set an example before his men, and be prepared to risk his own life. The bond between the leader, his men and the organisation must be built and strengthened around sound fundamentals and values. Thus the quality of the leaders corps in the armed forces at all levels play a decisive role in achieving the national objectives. No amount of hard ware and sophisticated technology can substitute the military leadership built with proper training over decades.

In the last decade or so there has been a general perception about the falling standards of leadership in the armed forces. The blame has been squarely put on the junior leadership, that they have no consideration for ethical and moral values and more inclined towards materialistic society and career advancements rather than organisational goals. A number of reasons such as lack of responsibility and confidence, lack of motivation and initiative, improper grooming, lack of physical and moral courage, lack of decision making ability, behavioural degradation have been cited as the cause of decline. The change must come through education and training. Hence this proposal to look at what is available, what is done around the world and a proposal for the Sri Lanka Navy on Leadership training.