

ABSTRACT

Since the independence until 1983, the leaders and the governments who have governed this country did not give much attention to the country's military development. The main reason was they thought that there were no internal or external enemies to our country. The military forces at that time mainly carried out ceremonial duties and there were hardly any military improvement to the forces. The only military operation that the military forces carried out during that time was to control the 1971 JVP insurgency.

The ethnic conflict, which was a faint ideological disparity between the main races, the Sinhalese and Tamils during the pre independence era, gradually transformed into a full-scale guerilla war between the government of Sri Lanka and the Tamil militant groups. The present scenario is that both parties have acquired weapons that are more sophisticated and the guerilla war has transformed into a full-scale conventional war.

As a result the Air assets of the Sri Lanka Air Force have grown with the purchasing of special purpose Aircraft. The Aircraft squadrons have increased and more personnel were recruited to the Air Force. The Air Force is presently facing the huge challenge of restructuring it to face the future challenges. This paper will discuss in depth, the restructuring of the Sri Lanka Air Force to face future challenges.