

ABSTRACT

The Research was conducted to identify the negative impacts of military investigations, which is the responsibility of Military Police, on soldiers' morale. This is the first documented study of this nature in the Sri Lanka Army and would contribute in the fields of military discipline, investigations, human rights and fundamental rights.

The hypothesis was that the soldier suspects' morale remains intact only if military investigations remain professional. When investigations are handled unprofessionally, there are negative impacts on morale of troops and combat effectiveness. There is a clear gap in desired level and the existing process of military investigations. This needs to be addressed effectively to align Military Police with military objectives of the Army and also to ensure soldiers' morale intact.

The main objective is to highlight the negative impacts of military investigations and suggest policy implications to ensure effective military investigation practices to enhance soldiers' morale. Basically the scope would be explanation type in this Research. The sub objectives of this research are as follows;

- a. To examine and subsequently suggest the need for professional investigators to conduct investigations on military offences.
- b. To explore whether rights of soldiers are assured in current investigation process.
- c. To identify reasons for unethical military investigations.

The data were collected mainly from a questionnaire, interviews and non participative observation method. The limitations of the research paper were the sensitivity of the subject, fewer chances to follow up and lack of relevant data. However it was very clearly proved from the analysis that there were violations of soldier suspects' rights and that affects the soldiers' motivation and ultimately the morale to produce desired combat effectiveness.

The reasons for conducting unethical military investigations were identified and the effective procedure of handling professional investigations is also studied in the paper. The hypothesis was proved and objectives of the research paper were achieved. In order to avoid adverse effects on soldiers' morale, following policy implications were identified during the research.

- a. Requirement of training and selection criteria for Investigators.
- b. Introducing a Sinhala Investigation Manual for Investigators.
- c. Basic facilities for soldier suspects in custody.
- d. Process for arresting and detaining of suspects for investigations.
- e. Free from torture, during investigations
- f. No confessions for suspects and burden of proof with Investigator.
- g. Resources to conduct investigations, including manpower.
- h. Respect for natural justice during investigations.
- i. Aligning Military Police role with National and Army objectives.
- j. Ensure Command responsibility on military discipline.