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ABSTRACT

Soldiering is one of the oldest professions in the world. Command and leadership, came hand in hand with soldiering, to attain the purpose of having an army in a sovereign state. From the antiquity, commanders of the armies tried to find out better and suitable command system to run the military outfits. In that lineage, at present, the most discussed command systems followed in military environment are directed command and mission command. On the other hand, transactional and transformational leadership styles are considered to be the most practised leadership styles in military context at present. The review of the literature indicates that the transformational leadership is advocated to achieve mission command environment in the army. However, the existing literature does not provide evidence on deep rooted relationship between these two variables. As such this research was carried out to bridge the gap. In this quantitative research an attempt was taken to find out relationship between key features of transformational leadership - idealized influence, inspirational motivation, intellectual stimulation, individual consideration, and mission command. A survey was conducted among sample of 65 respondents from Sri Lanka Army who belong to mid-level and junior officer category. Statistical Package for Social Science software was used for data analysis. Necessary demographic analysis, descriptive analysis, correlation analysis and regression analysis were done. Results indicate that mission command has a significant positive relationship with key factor individual consideration whereas negative insignificant relation with idealized influence. However, mission command does not have any relation with inspirational motivation and intellectual stimulation. The study makes an original contribution to the military literature by examining the relationship between mission command and transformational leadership style. This study is also likely to assist military leaders in implementing mission command in the armies.

Keywords- Mission command, Transformational leadership style, Idealized influence, Inspirational motivation, Intellectual stimulation, Individual consideration.