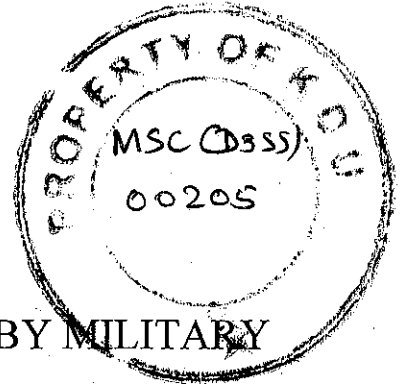
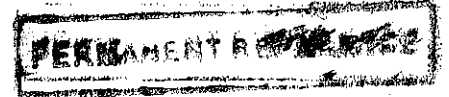


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IMPACT OF USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA BY MILITARY
PERSONNEL ON NATIONAL SECURITY

by



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ABSTRACT

1. Social Media is a mass communication tool, characterized by a global diffusion and an ever-growing level of use, considering their handiness and flexibility, as well as their extreme cheapness. Social media platforms have far reaching social and security implications for the people of Sri Lanka, their government and its national security institutes such as the military and the police.

2. In order to protect Sri Lanka's freedom, security and prosperity, it is only fair that some serious studies be done about how the government and military can harness online social networking tools and in equal measure monitor them in the event it threatens national security. The purpose of this study is to analyse the impact of use of social media by military personnel on national security.

3. Although the Sri Lankan public has readily accepted new media technologies, such as social networking sites, into the daily fabric of their lives both at home and at work, the Sri Lanka military has lagged behind the public and private sectors with integrating those services as a main form of communications and exchange of information tool. Due to the serious business the Sri Lanka military is confronted with, there are legitimate concerns and risks associated with allowing and advocating for using social media as a staple communications platform within the organization.

4. To mitigate the social media threats which leading to national security dangers it must start with creating awareness on policies, proper usage and negative outcomes of misbehaviours. Also need to Social media is not a phenomenon that will go away in the near future, thus if implemented correctly, it can be a force multiplier for the Sri Lanka military. Therefore, if the Sri Lanka Military truly wants to integrate social media into its day-to-day functions but in a more positive manner to develop a respectable bond with general public too, its use must be fully embraced and utilized by responsible military personals.