

ABSTRACT

This dissertation is intended to examine the challenges faced by the Sri Lankan contingent in UN Mission in Haiti. Credibility of the United Nation in every mission depends upon the ability and the quality of behavior of each peacekeeper. The local population of the host country and the international community closely observe the conduct of United Nation peacekeepers. Therefore it is prime important to carefully analyze the challenges faced by the Sri Lankan Contingent in UN Peacekeeping Mission in Haiti in order to meet the future challenges in the UN environment. In this dissertation, I have identified three vital areas which itself emerge as challenges for the Sri Lankan peace keeping contingent in Haiti. These areas are Training development, Logistics improvement and importance of selecting most suitable and appropriate personnel through proper selection process according to the Army selection criteria. Certain areas of those aspects need urgent modification and amendments to fit the Sri Lankan peacekeeping contingent in UN mission to face future challenges. It is a fact that participation for the UN Peacekeeping mission by any country help to improve the professionalism of its Forces. Opportunity received by the Sri Lanka Army, to be a member state of UN mission in Haiti, opened new approaches in respect of Training, Logistics and Selection of personnel for such missions. The MOU signed between Sri Lanka and UN in this regard has given all instructions pertaining to the deployment of troops with necessary Logistics requirements. During the study it was found that over 14,000 personnel of Sri Lanka Army, Navy and Air Force have served in Haiti in various capacities and the Head of UN Peacekeeping mission in Haiti has said that he is satisfied with the current performance of the Sri Lankan contingent in Haiti, despite of this many of the past Contingent Commanders and served personnel in Haiti as members of UN contingent said there are many aspect, Sri Lankan contingent has to improve to meet the challenges in future. The Training, Logistics and Selection of personnel for the Haiti contingent identified as areas to improve in terms of meeting future challenges. Various factors have been identified under those three aspects which seems to be critical for the overall performance in Haiti. The research problem of this study focused to find out "Should the overall performances of the Sri Lankan peacekeeping

contingents be further improved, even though their present performance meets expected standards set by the UN mission Headquarters in Haiti". Both primary and secondary data were used for this study. Primary data was mainly collected from the circulated questionnaires among the different personnel of Sri Lanka Army, Navy and Air Force who have served in Haiti and qualified to serve in Haiti with next contingents. Secondary data collected from Sri Lanka Army Directorate of Operations, Directorate of Training, past contingents' reports and relevant publications. After giving the concluding remarks recommendations were made on improving of the Training, Logistics and Selection process.