ABSTRACT

The use of Social Networking Services (SNS) such as Facebook, Viber, WhatsApp, and YouTube is a popular and integral part of daily communication in the world. This situation intensified with the inception of smartphones to society and people of almost all levels of society are engaged with SNS via a computer or smartphones on a daily basis. As cited in the literature, this situation intensifies continually. Hence, addressing this situation straightaway is vital than countering the consequences later. This conceptual study discovers Facebook as one of the most challenging information leakage channels. The research addresses the mode of occurrence of this issue by understanding the fundamental factors of information leakage through Facebook that will facilitate making recommendations to combat this problem. The objectives of the research were to identify the effect of Facebook on the SLN working environment, to analyse the strengths and weaknesses of the SLN social media policy, to identify the relationship between OPSEC and Facebook, and to provide suitable recommendations to improve the ethical use of Facebook. The target research population was SLN officers who were Facebook users. The population was narrowed down to officers of the ranks of Lieutenant Commander, Lieutenant, and Sub Lieutenant working on ships, craft, and based on an operational aspect. The tools employed to measure variables were a questionnaire, an interview, and the Facebook survey. Research objectives were accomplished and the findings supported the core argument. The results were, lack of security awareness among the target group, weak social media policy in SLN, and the lack of punishments when breaching rules and regulations. Also, the officers' attitudes were largely highlighted during the research, and they directly impacted the OPSEC in SLN. The use of Facebook directly influenced the SLN working environment and was suggested for further research as well. SLN is one of the main pillars of national security, and the prevailing situation could be a threat to national security. With the present situation, any time the SLN, OPSEC could be attacked through Facebook users. Therefore, strengthening social media security within Sri Lanka Navy is vital.

Keywords: Facebook, Social Networking Services, Social Media , Operational Security Vital Military Information, Information Leakage