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ABSTRACT

Millions of people are being affected by natural and man-made disasters since early stages in the mankind and their impact had been calamitous. The newly invented term 'The industrial revolution' was popularized in the world with the development of human requirements. It made people's lives commencement by technologically, sociologically and culturally. The unforeseen disasters make a turning point to change destiny of a nation or individuals. Actions need to be undertaken to reduce the impact against the catastrophe occurred by many ways and means. Sri Lanka has been experienced by bitter thirty years of internal conflict done to terrorism and after the decisive military victory Sri Lanka stepped forward by addressing many challenges since year 2009. The post war development in Colombo city was impressive and most notably the infrastructure development is in full swing with the development concept like 'Megapolis'. Therefore, the urbanization of the Colombo city is accelerating day by day with the development of the country economically and sociologically. With the megatrend of urbanization in Colombo city it is extremely vulnerable to threats to both natural and man-made disasters. Although our country is not enriched with equipment and well-trained people it is somewhat difficult to deal with Urban Search and Rescue operations during any urban disaster situation. Furthermore, congestions of the Colombo city due to bungled road network, high-rise building and canal systems would obstruct speed and reach for search and rescue capabilities. The SLAF would play a significant role to conduct search and rescue operations with her inborn air power characteristics of speed and reach. Furthermore, well trained and experienced personnel available in Regiment Special Forces, firefighters, dog handlers, medical crews and other supportive elements in the SLAF will contribute for this national requirement as a main force. Therefore, implementation of an Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) unit in Sri Lanka Air Force would be a fruitful investment for the entire Colombo.

Keywords: Urban Search and Rescue, Sri Lanka Air Force, Human Resources, Technology and Equipment, Government Authority and Financial Resources