

## RESTRICTED

### ABSTRACT

Naval communications was the paramount requirement for conducting any naval operation throughout the history. The Indian Ocean being the most predominant ocean in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, has subjected to various kinds of threats that would imperil the peace and security of the region. Being strategically positioned, Sri Lanka has the primary responsibility to respond to such threats. Having understood these facets, Sri Lanka Navy (SLN) has promulgated its 'vision 2025' aiming to become a medium regional force projecting navy through the acquisition of different platforms. However, it is evident that, transformation of naval communication in par with these efforts, has been given a less value.

With this background, the researcher identified that SLN communication infrastructure lacks with appropriate equipment (physical support), institutional support and appropriate training to address strategic threats that will possibly pose during the next decade. Through a qualitative approach, it was identified that there are many issues and dogmas exist with SLN communications that need immediate attention. Provision of new equipment in this regard shares a major portion, irrespective of budgetary constraints. The revamping of training and recruitment strategy is to be focused much with the acquisition of new technologies. Insufficient focus on the importance of a fully-fledged communication infrastructure has made to weaken institutional support even from strategic level. Thus, it is needed to maintain both vertical and horizontal communication within the organizational structure.

Divergent thinking requirement is apparently required to design tailor-made indigenous systems. The historical milestones exemplifies that SLN has the potential to enhance the communication infrastructure even through innovations involved with research and development. Most importantly, the amalgamation with external institutions and think tanks in this endeavour has been recognized as a timely prerequisite.

***Keywords:** Transformation, Naval Communication, Strategic Needs, Network Centric concepts, Research and Development.*