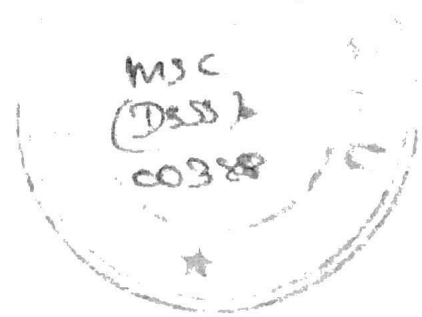


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ABSTRACT



Sri Lanka Air Force (SLAF) took a great decision and established a Research and Development Cell in the year 2010 to find ways and means to innovate essential machinery, equipment, and effective and efficient procedures in SLAF. This effort aimed to save the currency which incurred to purchase them from the local or overseas market while increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of the subject goods and services. In parallel to that, the technical Research and Development projects initiated by the Aircraft Maintenance Units of flying formations are significant since they are highly essential for the active and efficient maintenance tasks on aircraft and extremely low budgetary requirement to manufacture or assemble within Sri Lanka. Many innovations originated from the Aircraft Maintenance Units in the recent past, and the same were scrutinised centrally by the Command Research and Development Cell established at AFHQ through the Research and Development Unit at SLAF Base Katunayake. However, it is a known fact that the intended objectives have not met successfully, and authorities are finding ways to overcome the issue. After identifying this research problem, the researcher performed a related literature review and collected primary and secondary data to conduct the research. During data collection process, the feedbacks were collected from samples of aero technicians, who perform duties in Aircraft Maintenance Unit at flying formations, and also through interviews with decision-makers in the SLAF Research and Development sector. Analysing the respondents' feedbacks revealed some lapses in the Research and development process in SLAF. The researcher disclosed that lack of interest of involved parties in Research and Development, lapses in Research and Development administration process, lack of knowledge and inadequate training on this aspect, lack of trained manpower, and the poor attitude towards engaging in Research and Development projects are the significant focal points. The researcher evaluated the situation and presented viable recommendations that can be implemented in the existing system.

Keywords: Research and Development, Aero technicians, Sri Lanka Air Force

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