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ABSTRACT

Geographical centrality and its closeness to the main Sea Line of Communications of Sri Lanka in the Indian Ocean possess many challenges for Sri Lankan economy, social, culture and National Security. Transnational crimes is one of the main security challenges on which government struggling to mitigate by applying varies measures. Growing drug menace indicates the severity of this nature. As Sri Lanka surrounded by the vast natural coastal boundary and adjacent sea area, Sri Lanka Navy and the Sri Lanka Coast Guard work closely to mitigate the transnational crimes. Sri Lanka Air Force conduct the maritime operation in support of Sri Lanka Navy and the Coast Guard. Due to inadequate air and naval assets, independent operation alone cannot address the problem effectively and efficiently. Therefore researcher examine and explored the possibility of integrating both air and naval assets into the integrated platform in which all the assets would be utilized optimally, thus enhancing the synergy of the while minimising duplication of effort. The mixed research approach used to obtain primary data in which quantitative research approach utilized and used flight planning and performance calculation to ascertain the capabilities of assets available in SLAF, SLN and SLCG. The qualitative research approach was used to obtain data by interviewing an expert in the Sri Lanka Air Force, Sri Lanka Navy and the Sri Lanka Coast Guard and subsequently analyse their validity of opinion with available literature. The researcher provides better insight by introducing an integrated mechanism for the SLAF, SLN and SLCG by understanding the gaps in the present operation. Finally, at the end of the research researcher had conducted a case study on the onboard fire incident that took place MT Diamond ship to see the validity of the research findings.

Key Words: Transnational Crimes, Air and Naval Integration, Maritime Domain Awareness, Optimal Assignment of Fleet, Assets Performances, Optimization.

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