

Abstract

The Indian Ocean provides major sea routes connecting the Middle East, Africa, and East Asia with Europe and the Americas. It carries a particularly heavy traffic of petroleum and petroleum products from the oilfields of the Persian Gulf and Indonesia. Today the world is menaced by terrorism, both global and regional. Terrorism is the major threat to comprehensive security in most parts of the world especially in the South East Asia. Due to the historical disputes, internal insurgencies, narcotics, oil, arms sale and strategic raw materials, Indian Ocean area became hot spot of external powers. Since Sri Lanka is an Island strategically located in the Indian Ocean, it has a responsibility and a role to play to protect the territorial integrity of the own nation and also of the neighbors.

The Sri Lanka Navy (SLN) is a resource limited organization whose recent development has been determined by the existence of a single threat and it is unique in South Asia in that it possesses no effective offshore capabilities. The Navy's force structure is based wholly upon the need to defeat the Tamil insurgents. Thus, while navies elsewhere in the region look to monitoring their 200 mile exclusive economic zones, the SLN most concentrated on inshore patrols and counter-terrorist operations.

Thus, it is important that the Sri Lanka navy should be equipped well to ensure effective maritime security around Sri Lanka to prevent her maritime resources and existence of terrorism again. The study has established a very clear elaboration of importance of maritime security to Sri Lanka and the role of Sri Lanka Navy in achieving effective maritime security.