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ABSTRACT

The focus of conducting a Hostage Rescue and Counter Terrorism (HR and CT) Course is to prepare and produce an elite HR and CT warrior to face contemporary unconventional threat situations steadily and effectively. In order to achieve this aim, innovative teaching methods are often deployed, including computer games and simulations. The using of computer simulations to train the soldiers is a practical, limited-cost alternative to expensive physical training. Simulations also offer training where physical training cannot be conducted easily, like wet weather conditions and high populated area. Further, well-designed virtual world-based simulations can be motivational, interactive, educational, flexible and, not to forget and fun. Thus, with the development of technology, computer games and simulation have become more and more widely used in many fields. Presently, the most powerful military forces like the USA and UK use this facility as a learning tool to train their soldiers in Special Operation Forces (SOF), marines, combatant, and so forth. (Richards, Kavakli and Dras, 2007) as well as have been able to gain more results in the battle field than earlier. At present Sri Lanka is considered as one of the most peaceful countries in the region. After the victory from humanitarian operation against Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), one of the fiercest terrorist groups in the world, people in this country presently enjoy the long awaited sensation of prosperity, sustainability and secureness at its best. However, this calm and quiet condition prevailing in the state does not guarantee that Sri Lankans are well protected from the terrorist activities which may sparkle out from overzealous Tamil diaspora operating from abroad. In addition, the strategic position of the Sri Lanka and its socio economic structure also may signify a background which will nourish the calamitous activities of various extremist groups operating all over the world. Thus, it is much important to review the potential threats that may obstruct the national security at any moment and to evaluate the national security strategy accordingly. During the past era, entire training and development of CR, HR and CT courses were mainly focused on physical practical sessions with stereotyping and drills. But, with the development of technology and contemporary unconventional threat situations that Sri Lanka has to face, time has come to do the modifications on the existing course curriculum. This would enable to build a confident and skilled elite HR and CT warrior, who can steadily face to those unconventional threat situations. Hence, as an ideal solution to overcome those problems, using of computer games and

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simulation-based technology to train the operatives of HR and CT would be much benefited. Structure of this thesis was carefully planned and performed in such a way to address all the concerns limitations that needs to be modify and the areas to be modernized and developed. This study heavily depends on available literature since the studies and the practical application of the respective subject area in Sri Lanka at present is minimum. Findings of the research were also coupled with the recommendations produced by the careful reference of the available literature and the opinions given by the Senior Officers during their interviews carried out. However, the findings of this comprehensive study open up the stage for a further discussion on the feasibility of these modifications.

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