

ABSTRACT

Sri Lanka Air Force steering its unique air roles, SLAF come across with many ground based transportation requirements and these transport necessities are happened regularly across the diverse functions of the respective air force establishments. Short distance transport requirements are befallen within the camp or in close proximity of air force establishment. At present light vehicles such as Land Rover Defenders, Tata and Mahendra Bolero Cabs are utilized to cater these short distance transport requirements and those vehicles are military versions or near military versions which include all terrain capabilities. The initial purchasing cost, running cost and maintenance cost of those vehicles are a costly. Assignment of such vehicles for the purpose of routing non-military nature necessities are accounted as wastage of scarce resources. Non organic transportation requirements of SLAF are very significant on the effective, efficient and smooth function of SLAF since it is mainly concentrated on administrative nature activities. Meanwhile, SLAF is non profit generating government organization, reduction on transport cost and best utilization of scarce transport resources are prime and timely necessity. Hence, when a properly evaluated mechanism is not available to manage and control short distance transportation requirement of SLAF, it effects on the efficiency and effectiveness. Therefore, the objective of this research is to identify the factors affecting on efficiency of short distance trips of SLAF base Vavuniya and to find out a logical solution to overcome the existing difficulties. This study is based on qualitative analysis method and the sample was carefully selected based on the observations and experience of the researcher. Accordingly, interviews and focus group discussions alone with observations were used to gather primary data and thematic data analysis method was used for analysis. The study found that the utilisation of three wheelers and motor bicycles on identified nonorganic short distance transportation is highly cost effective. Although when identifying the transportation requirements in which three wheelers and motor cycles could be utilised many aspects such as maintaining of decorum, organisational culture and standards are required to be considered.

Keywords: Short distance transportation, Non organic military transportation.