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**DEVELOPMENT OF SRI LANKA NAVY SHIPBORNE AIRCRAFT TO
PROTECT THE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE AND
ITS EFFECTIVENESS**

By

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ABSTRACT

Maritime security and the protection of the Exclusive Economic Zone are paramount for island nations such as Sri Lanka. Developing a ship borne aircraft fleet by the Sri Lanka Navy will significantly enhance its capabilities in safeguarding the EEZ. This research employs a qualitative approach with purposive sampling, drawing on insights from experts within the Sri Lanka Navy and Sri Lanka Air Force. Through semi-structured interviews, the study gathers comprehensive data which is then analyzed thematically. The findings aim to provide a strategic framework for the integration of ship borne aircraft, highlighting its potential to bolster maritime surveillance, rapid response and overall maritime security. This research contributes to the broader discourse on maritime defense, offering practical recommendations for the effective deployment of ship borne aircraft in the operational situations of the Sri Lanka Navy, to protect the maritime interests of Sri Lanka.

Keywords: Exclusive Economic Zone, Sri Lanka Navy, Shipborne aircraft, Maritime security, Qualitative research, Purposive sampling, Semi-structured interviews, Thematic analysis, Maritime surveillance, Rapid response, Sri Lanka Air Force , Maritime interests, Defense capabilities