Artificial Intelligence in Counter Insurgency Operations: Enhancing Combat Efficiency and Combat Effectiveness in Sri Lanka

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Sri Lanka, situated strategically in the Indian Ocean, faces insurgency challenges due to her complex socio-political dynamics. This paper investigates how artificial intelligence (AI) can enhance counterinsurgency (COIN) operations to improve combat efficiency and effectiveness. Historically insurgencies that took place in Sri Lanka, including those by the LTTE, JVP, and ISIS affiliates, have exposed significant operational weaknesses of the state in responding such as slow intelligence processing, inadequate threat detection, and challenges in managing complex terrains and cyber threats. AI presents a transformative opportunity to address these issues. By applying AI, military operations can be benefitted from advanced data analytics that quickly processes vast amounts of information to extract actionable intelligence, thereby reducing the time required for decision-making. AI-powered surveillance systems and unmanned vehicles can enhance real-time monitoring and threat detection, offering early warnings and more precise responses. In addition, AI algorithms can improve target recognition and prediction of insurgent behaviour by integrating with Geographic Information Systems (GIS), which facilitate more accurate operational planning. AI-driven simulations and training programs can prepare troops for diverse and evolving scenarios, enhancing readiness and adaptability. Furthermore, AI can strengthen cyber security by identifying and neutralizing cyber threats and monitoring insurgent activities in digital spaces. This paper argues that the strategic integration of AI into COIN operations will significantly bolster Sri Lanka's ability to effectively counter insurgent threats, contributing to national stability and security.

Keywords: *artificial intelligence, counterinsurgency, Sri Lanka, Military Operations, National Security*