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The work reported in this thesis is the result of candidate's original work carried out in the Defence Services Command and Staff College, Sri Lanka. It has not been submitted concurrently in candidature for any other degree.

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MISSION COMMAND FOR A BETTER C2 SYSTEM: SRI LANKA ARMY PERSPECTIVE

By

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ABSTRACT

Warfare against traditional and hybrid opponents in new century is creating circumstances which were never seen before. Today's combat offers fleeting opportunities that disappears quickly if leaders, from general to subaltern, fail to grasp those. This necessity actually calls for 'Mission Command' or what Germans used to term as *Auftragstaktik*. This doctrine pushes decision authority to lower echelons of command with maximum flexibility. In contrary to that, direct or managerial approach is characterized by centralization, standardization and detailed order system. Practically Sri Lanka Army (SLA) has long been inclined towards this traditional direct approach of C2 system. But, interestingly, academically it advocates the necessity of decentralized C2 system through different doctrinal pamphlets. This doctrinal dilemma actually necessitated an in-depth study on Mission Command along with its suitability in the context of SLA. This research was a pursuit of aforesaid statement. In doing so, the researcher has applied number of tools for data collection which includes surveys, scholar interviews, focused group discussions and literature study. Views of more than 65 officers of different strata were taken to get the mind of both 'leaders' and 'led'. It is a pioneer research on this topic, leaving wide scopes for further study on the same. The findings and recommendations are expected to benefit the policy-makers of SLA in formulating new doctrines to keep pace with future challenges.

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