



# RANAVIRUWA

DECEMBER 2021 8<sup>th</sup> Issue



## Embarkation of the Protectors of the Nation

DIRECTORATE OF PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS, ARMY HEADQUARTERS, SRI JAYAWARDENEPURA, SRI LANKA.



## SLMA-Groomed Officers Commissioned



The Sri Lanka Military Academy (SLMA) at Diyatalawa wore ceremonial garbs and adorned the shoulders of 316 more brave sons and daughters of the country with insignia of the President's Commission when they proudly passed out in a glittering spectacle after completion of their military training amidst greetings and best wishes of the highest security arsenal of the island, His Excellency Gotabaya Rajapaksa the President of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces on 19 December 2021.

The day's itinerary for the 96<sup>th</sup> Passing Out Parade (POP) commenced with the arrival of the Chief Guest His Excellency Gotabaya Rajapaksa. Officer and Lady Officer Cadets of Regular Intake 89, 89 B, 90 and Volunteer Officer Cadet Course 60 Volunteer Lady Officer Cadet Intake 17 passed out in the presence of the Head of State as the Chief Guest and was dignified by the presence of the top brass of the country's security apparatus.

General Kamal Gunaratne WWV RWP RSP USP ndc psc Mphil, Secretary, Ministry of Defence, Mrs Chithrani Gunaratne, Chairperson of the Seva Vanitha Unit of the Ministry of Defence, Mrs Sujeewa Nelson, the President, Army Seva Vanitha Unit, Chief of Defence Staff, Deputy Chief of Defence Staff, Senior Officers, Other Ranks and the parents of the passed out Cadets participated in the event.







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**The Commission of the heroic sons and daughters of the Nation who shoulder the responsibility of the Protection of the Nation added an extreme pride to the Sri Lanka Military Academy (SLMA). They opened a new chapter in the Sri Lanka Army history as the future leaders of the skilled Army who had defeated the thirty year, extended War.**”





## Army Commander Adorned Epaulettes of New Officers with Rank Insignias

Soon after the passing out of the Officer Cadets, pipping ceremony where the new Officers' rank emblems are pinned on to their shoulder epaulettes got underway under the patronage of the General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army at the Sino-Lanka Friendship auditorium.

Highlighting the importance Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army emphasised the transformation of a civilian into an Army Officer as a true leader who has the best confidence to stand alone as decision-makers and guiding leaders who could direct his subordinates in the right direction as full-pledged leaders in order to reach desired national and organisational goals.

*"You are judged by the quality and equality of your actions and the integrity of your intent since the country require your dedicated commitment more than ever. You must possess a broad heart to listen to requirements of others with high degree of patience and compassion and display utmost confidence in yourself to stand alone, being capable to absorb any pressures as you climb up your professional ladder"*

- General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army





## DSCSC at Sapugaskanda Graduated 145 More Officers Including Foreign Officers



A total of 145 Officers, comprised of Army (76), Navy (25), Air Force (26), three Officers from Bangladesh, two Officers from Nepal, three Officers from Pakistan, four Officers from Saudi Arabia and an Officer each from India, Indonesia, Maldives, Rwanda, Senegal and USA who followed the Passed Staff College (psc) Course No: 15 at the Defence Services Command and Staff College (DSCSC) at Sapugaskanda, the highest seat of military learning for middle-grade tri-service Officers received their graduation in a glittering ceremony at Nelum Pokuna theatre on 10 December 2021.

General Kamal Gunaratna (Rtd) WWV RWP RSP USP ndc psc MPhil Secretary, Ministry of Defence and State Ministry of National Security and Disaster Management graced the graduation ceremony as the Chief Guest, together with invitees, including Heads of Diplomatic Missions, Major General H L V M Liyanage RWP RSP ndu Chief of Staff of the Sri Lanka Army, representing General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army, Commanders of the Navy and Air Force, Director General, Ministry of Finance, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Defence Vice Chancellor, Kotelawala Defence University, DSCSC Officers and former Commandants, Tri-Service Officers at the invitation of the DSCSC Commandant, Major General I H M N N Herath RSP USP psc and members of the Board of Management.





## KDU Convocation Held with HE's Participation



The 32<sup>nd</sup> General Convocation of Sir John Kotelawala Defence University (KDU) was held on 09 December 2021 with the participation of His Excellency Gotabaya Rajapaksa the President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces amidst the colorful events.

One PhD Graduated, 227 Master's Graduated and Postgraduate Diploma holders from the Faculty of Graduate Studies, and 1180 Bachelor's Degree holders from different faculties of KDU were among the 1408 graduates who received parchments at this year's convocation.

The General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University was established in 1981 to meet the educational needs of the Officers of the three Armed Forces. It was elevated into a fully-fledged University in 2007 at the time HE Gotabaya Rajapaksa was the Defence Secretary. In 2012, civilian students were granted the opportunity to study at the KDU. At present, members of the three Armed Forces, local and foreign students can pursue doctoral, postgraduate and postgraduate diploma courses at the University.





General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University was established by the Parliamentary Act No 68 of 1981 and subsequently elevated to University status by the amendment Act No 27 of 1988, empowering to award Bachelors' and Postgraduate degrees in Defence Studies. It is also a member of the Association of Commonwealth Universities (United Kingdom) and maintains necessary standards for educating and grooming Officer Cadets to meet the challenges of modern defence management.

Minister Keheliya Rambukwella, Ambassadors and High Commissioners, Defence Secretary and Secretaries of other ministries, Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Sri Lanka Army, Commander of Navy and Commander of Air Force, the Inspector General of Police, Director-General of the Civil Defence Force and other heads of the security sector, Chancellor of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University, Vice Chancellor, Mrs Sujeewa Nelson the President, Army Seva Vanitha Unit and the members of the academic and non-academic staff were also present.







## SLA's Dazzling 'Colours Night' at Nelum Pokuna Recognised Gunners' Sports Gains

The year's much-awaited glittering spectacle 'Colours Night' awarding ceremony of the Sri Lanka Artillery (SLA) Regiment, staged at Nelum Pokuna Theatre, Colombo with the participation of gunners who excelled in sports in the most recent past on 12 December 2021.

General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army graced the event, at the invitation of Major General K N S Kotuwegoda ndc IG, Colonel Commandant, Sri Lanka Artillery and Deputy Chief of Staff (DCOS) in the dazzling spectacle inspiring all the achievers.



The SLA, having produced a fine assortment of sportsmen and women to the Army throughout the past years took pride in appreciating the commitments of both retired and serving sportsmen during this ceremony after rewarding them with mementos and certificates.

Major General K N S Kotuwegoda ndc IG Colonel Commandant, Sri Lanka Artillery and Deputy Chief of Staff (DCOS) presented an appreciative memento to the Chief of Defense Staff and Commander of the Army prior to the departure. Mrs Sujeewa Nelson the President Sri Lanka Army Seva Vanitha Unit, Mrs Shamini Kotuwegoda, the President, Sri Lanka Artillery Seva Vanitha Unit also participated in the event.





## UNMISS Bound First Army Group Left for South Sudan



The first group of the 8<sup>th</sup> Army contingent of the Sri Lanka Army Medical Corps (SLAMC), bound for the United Nations Peace-Keeping Mission in South Sudan's Level-2 Hospital (UNMISS) to serve the SRIMED Hospital left for South Sudan on 29 December 2021 amidst greetings of General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defense Staff and Commander of the Army who showed up at the airport despite his day's hectic schedules.

This first group comprised of 11 Officers and 22 Other Ranks before their boarding formalities offered the honour to the Chief of Defense Staff and Commander of the Army at the airport. Chief of Defense Staff and Commander of the Army extended his best of luck and reminded them of the importance of maintaining the highest level of discipline while serving and their commitment to the role and tasks in South Sudan.

The 8<sup>th</sup> South Sudan bound is consisting of Army personnel including 4 Consultant Surgeons including Brigadier K G K H Wijewardana RSP USP and 13 Medical Officers under the commandship by Lieutenant Colonel N M Niflar USP.







## Sri Lanka's CDS Condoled Late General Bipin Rawat's Family Members

The military funeral of late Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) of India General Bipin Rawat and his spouse Mrs Madhulika Rawat took place on 10 December 2021 with full military honours at Brar Crematorium in Dhaula Quan, New Delhi, amidst Ministerial delegates, Foreign Diplomats, both foreign and local high ranking military dignitaries, Indian government administrators, Chiefs of the Army, Navy and Air Force Staff of the Indian Armed Forces, Senior Tri Service Officers, Family Members and a vast gathering of mourners.

General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army laid a floral wreath and saluted the remains and personally extended his condolences and handed a special message of condolences to daughters of bereaved family.





## Logisticians at ASL Provided with Much-Needed Residential Facilities



Three- storeyed accommodation complex, 'Clappen View' for Army School of Logistics (ASL) trainees was declared open by General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army on 27 November 2021 fulfilling a long standing requirement of the school.

The Trincomalee based Army School of Logistics (ASL) that fulfills much-needed administrative functions of the country's biggest work forces and grooms logisticians with best and most appealing practices of logistics planning and management. Brigadier J A R S K Jayasekara USP psc Commandant Army School of Logistics, Major General C D Weerasuriya RWP RSP ndu Commander Security Forces (East), Major General T M Abeyratne RSP Lsc Commander Forward Maintenance Area (East) and few Senior Officers also joined the inaugural opening.

## Legendary "Etipola" Family Saga Revived inside the Historic Fort Fredrick



The new one-storied 'Etipola Holiday Bungalow' with four comfortable rooms, erected inside the 2 (Volunteer) Gajaba Regiment (GR) camp premises at Trincomalee Fort Fredrick in an eye-catching setting was vested for the troops on 27 November 2021 by General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army who was in Trincomalee attending several military events.

Fort Fredrick, also known as Fort of Trincomalee, built by the Portuguese in 1624 believed to have been erected on the debris of the world-famous ancient Hindu Koneswaram temple (Temple of a Thousand Pillars) at the same location. Also Gokanna Temple and many Army Camps were also located inside the Fort Fredrick.

The construction of the facility was completed by the troops of Gajaba Regiment together with the technical and engineering expertise provided by the troops of the Corps of Engineer Services (CES) inside this historic Fort where remnants of the ancestral bungalow of the aristocratic "Etipola" family remain to-date as archaeological ruins.



## Commandos to Erect New Office Complex at Regimental HQ, Ganemulla



Commando Regiment (CR) Regimental Headquarters, Ganemulla had General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army as the Chief Guest for the auspicious cornerstone-laying for construction of its proposed new office complex in the HQ premises on 02 December 2021.

The Chief Guest of the event, Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army was warmly welcomed to the Commando Regimental HQ at the entrance by Major General A K G K U Gnanarathne ndc psc Colonel of the Regiment and General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the 14 Infantry Division together with Major General A K Samarasiri RWP RSP USP psc General Officer Commanding (GOC) 65 Infantry Division, Brigadier A S P Silva RWP RSP Centre Commandant Commando Regiment, and Brigadier V M N Hettiarachchi RWP RSP Commander Commando Infantry Brigade for the cornerstone-laying ceremony.

Senior Officers, including, Commandants, Commanding Officers of Commando Regiments and Other Ranks witnessed the brief event that got underway adhering to health guidelines.

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## Officer Cadets Received Leadership Guidelines from Their Guiding Star

Officer Cadets of Intake 89, 89 (B), 90, 60 (Volunteer) and Lady Intake 17 (Volunteer), including three foreign Officers (Zambia, Rwanda, Maldives) training at Sri Lanka Military Academy (SLMA), Diyatalawa as a special segment of their training curriculum called on General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army on 25 November 2021 at the Army Headquarters.

Those Officer Cadets, including Lady Cadets met Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army as an essential part for their preparation for the final presentation at the Sri Lanka Military Academy (SLMA) before commissioning and they shared the views on the theme, 'Rise of Taliban in Afghanistan and its Spillover Effects to South Asia Region's Extremism and Terrorism'. They were also instrumental in gathering inputs from the Commander's practical approaches towards containing the virus transmission in the country and how he mobilised Armed Forces to sustain the island-wide control and the vaccination drive.





## Courtesy Meetings



A military delegation led by Lieutenant General Yuri Mikhailovich Stavitsky, Chief of Engineering Troops of the Armed Forces in the Russian Federation met General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army on 25 Novemebr 2021 under the bilateral military cooperation programme. The visiting delegations are intended to observe Sri Lanka Army's humanitarian de-mining roles and to share advanced technical guidance for acceleration of de-mining work.

During their 4-day long stay in Sri Lanka, the Russian delegation observed Army de-miners at work in Muhamalai and Kadduwan areas in the North and the areas to be improved were made aware to the Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army by the Chief of Engineering Troops of the Armed Forces. Russian Embassy officials were also associated with the itinerary of the delegation.



HE Mrs Rita Giuliana Mannella, Ambassador of Italy for Sri Lanka and the Maldives paid a courtesy call on General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army at the Army Headquarters on 07 November 2021.

The cordial meet touched on general matters of mutual interest, gestures of cooperation and understanding that prevail between both Nations and HE Mrs Rita Giuliana Mannella, Ambassador of Italy for Sri Lanka and the Maldives appreciated the preventive mechanism against the COVID-19 pandemic under National Operations Centre for Prevention of COVID-19 Outbreak (NOCPCO).



## The Book - ‘The Conflict that Eluded Peace’ Presented to Army Chief

A copy of the recently-published ‘The Conflict that Eluded Peace’, authored by the former Secretary of Defence and 17<sup>th</sup> Commander of the Army, General Shantha Kottegoda (Rtd) was presented to General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army on 01 November 2021 at the Army Headquarters.



‘The Conflict that Eluded Peace’, a comprehensive masterpiece that recalls gallantry and bravery, associated with true sons and daughters of the Armed Forces, Civil Defence Force and Police during the 30-year long armed conflict launched by Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam intending the division of the country, revives uncountable memories that led to the final win over terrorism in Sri Lanka.

General Shantha Kottegoda (Rtd), a veteran of the Sri Lanka Light Infantry (SLLI) Regiment and the author of the book had included the commendable service rendered by the Sri Lankan Armed troops to save their motherland from LTTE Terrorism bringing the peace to country. Also the book is included how a conflict of this magnitude culminated with the military solution, instead of a political solution due to the uncompromising attitude of the terrorist hierarchy and explicitly shares the lessons learnt from the Sri Lankan experience while combating terrorism.

General Shantha Kottegoda (Rtd), former Secretary Defence and the 17<sup>th</sup> Commander of the Army who had an illustrious military career spanning more than 35 years undertook several diplomatic assignments after retirement representing Sri Lanka in Brazil and Thailand before he was appointed the Secretary of Defence at the Ministry of Defence.

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## East Troops Processed 91,000 kgs of Organic Fertiliser Delivered for Distribution

Another consignment of 91,000 kgs of organic manure, produced by troops serving under the Security Force Headquarters (East), in addition to previously manured stocks handed over to government-owned ‘Lak Pohora’ Ceylon Fertilizer Company Ltd for onward distribution among the farming community by General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army on 27 November 2021.



All Battalions under island-wide Security Force establishments together with the Corps of Agriculture and Livestock would continue to contribute to the project at their best. The stock, produced by the Security Force Headquarters (East) under its Phase -2 of the Organic Fertiliser Project was a result of the collective efforts of all formations under command to the Security Force Headquarters (East) troops on the guidelines given by Major General C D Weerasuriya RWP RSP ndu Commander, Security Forces (East).

The islandwide Security Force Headquarters had extended immense contribution for the Government Organic Fertilizer Production drive as per the instructions given by the Commander of the Army to all formations and contributed nearly 25, 000 kgs chemicle free manure for the success of this National endeavour.



## OCDC Transformed to Army War College



To be compatible with the 21<sup>st</sup> century's dynamic changes to the national/international security environment in the geopolitical spectrum and to groom Senior Officers, well versed in research on defence and security strategies with scholars, Officer Career Development Centre (OCDC), destined to add a new chapter to the Army academia, transformed on 17 December 2021 to be designated as the 'Army War College' which would produce skilled critical thinkers and problem-solvers to match with worldwide standards.

General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army founder of the realisation of the conversion to be in parallel with his 'Way Forward Strategy 2020-2025' for the Sri Lanka Army graced the event as the Chief Guest amidst the military formalities.

Official Website of the Army War College (<https://alt.army.lk/awc/>) was also launched on the same day by the Chief Guest. Major General D B S N Bothota RWP RSP USP psc Commandant at Army War College and Colonel Commandant of the Sri Lanka Armoured Corps joined with the senior Officers.

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## Commander Virtually Declared Open the New Officers' Mess for Gemunu Watch

Soon after the elevation of the Officer Career Development Centre (OCDC) at Buttala to Army War College, General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army virtually declared open the new Officers' Mess of the 18 Gemunu Watch (GW).

Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army at the invitation of Major General P M L Chandrasiri RWP RSP ndu Colonel of the Regiment, Gamunu Watch and Commander Security Forces (East) after viewing a full image of the new



Officers' Mess complex via Zoom platform symbolically inaugurated the new building pressing a button.

Major General P A J Peiris ndu Chief Signal Officer and Colonel Commandant, Sri Lanka Signals Corps and Major General D B S N Bothota RWP RSP USP psc Commandant at the Officer Career Development Centre and Colonel Commandant, Sri Lanka Armoured Corps also attended the occasion.





## Army Choirs Enriching Christmas Spirits Joined Celebrating Yuletide at Nelum Pokuna



The Army Christian Fellowship-organised 'Army Carols', tuned by the Army Choir and the Army Band, heralding the dawn of blissful Yuletide, got underway on 22 December 2021 at Nelum Pokuna Theatre. This colourful and annual feature in the Army calendar of events was filled with the series of events, carols, dancing, prayers, with the participation of famous singers reminding the forthcoming Christmas spirits.

The First Lady, Madam Ioma Rajapaksa graced the spectacular event at the invitation of Major General W B S M Abeysekara RSP USP Chairman, Army Christian Fellowship and Secretary Ministry of Defence and spouse, Secretary to the Ministry of Public Security and spouse, Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army and his spouse, Commander of the Navy and his spouse, Commander of the Air Force and his spouse, Chief of Staff of the Army also joined to share the seasonal greetings.





## SL Army HQ Building Wore Christmas Garbs



Attaching true meaning to Sri Lanka's religious and cultural diversity as well as further cementing age-old bonds of reconciliation and brotherhood, troops serving the HQ Battalion at the Army Headquarters while illuminating the Army HQ complex and roads around it with varied decorations turned the whole area to be an eye-catching and glittering Christmas spectacle, heralding the birth of 'Prince of Peace', the Jesus Christ.

General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army at the invitation of Major General S PA I B M Samarakoon Hdmc Lsc Army Logistic Command and Colonel Commandant of Sri Lanka Electrical and Mechanical Engineers switched on those multifarious illuminations in the fine evening on 23 December 2021 bringing the true spirits of Christmas to the occasion.

Choirs of the Directorate of Army Band and Performing Arts then staged Christmas Carols and praised the Lord as scintillating melodies rent the air. Senior Officers, including Major General H L V M Liyange RWP RSP ndu Chief of Staff, Major General T J Kodithuwakku RWP RSP ndu Deputy Chief of Staff, Major General C D Weerasooriya RWP RSP ndu Commandant Sri Lanka Army Volunteer Force, Major General D M K D B Pussalla RWP RSP Adjutant General and Officers joined the occasion and witnessed colourful illustrations, cribs and electrical illuminations.





## New Chief of Staff Begins His Office amidst the Religious Guidance



The 59<sup>th</sup> Chief of Staff of the Army, Major General H L V M Liyanage RWP RSP ndu of Gajaba Regiment assumed office during a simple ceremony amid religious observances, greetings and best wishes at his office in the Army Headquarters at Sri Jayawardenepura on 09 December 2021.

He also holds the office of Colonel of the Regiment of Sri Lanka National Guard Regiment and served as the Commandant, Sri Lanka Army Volunteer Force (SLAVF) before he took over this appointment on the recommendation of the Commander of the Army.

Senior Officers, including Principal Staff Officers, Directors were there to extend best wishes to him at the occasion.

During his 35 years of illustrious military career, he has held a number of significant command, staff and instructional appointments and, is a veteran Officer produced by the Gajaba Regiment. Ranaviruwa extends the heartiest congratulations on this new appointment.





## New Deputy Chief of Staff (DCOS) Assumed the Office



Major General T J Kodithuwakku RWP RSP ndu of the Sri Lanka Light Infantry (SLLI), was appointed as the Deputy Chief of Staff (DCOS) and assumed office on 21 December 2021 at the Army Headquarters during a simple ceremony. Symbolising his formal acceptance of the new office, he left his signature in a formal document after religious observances at the auspicious minute.

During his illustrious military career, he has served varying appointments in different capacities, mostly in high intensity operational environments, in which he was recognised as a valiant infantryman. He also currently functions as Colonel of the Regiment, Sri Lanka Light Infantry. Prior to this new appointment served as the Commander, Security Forces (Jaffna). Ranaviruwa extends the heartiest congratulations for his new appointment.





## SLAVF's New Commandant Assumed Duties



Major General C D Weerasuriya RWP RSP ndu assumed duties as the 48<sup>th</sup> Commandant of the Sri Lanka Army Volunteer Force (SLAVF) Headquarters at Seethawaka on 15 December 2021 amidst religious rituals and chanting of 'Seth Pirith' by Maha Sangha.

The arriving Commandant of the Sri Lanka Army Volunteer Force (SLAVF) was warmly welcomed to the premises following a formal Guard of Honour, presented by Sri Lanka Light Infantry troops. The formal acceptance of duties took place in his new office where he placed his signature for a document symbolically amidst the religious blessings. Signifying the magnitude event of the day, the new Commandant of SLAVF planted a sapling in the Headquarters premises. Senior Officers including Deputy Commandant and Other Ranks presented the occasion extending their best compliments for the new SLAVF Commandant.





## Student Achievers in Army Families Were Awarded ASVU Cash



Expanding its welfare roles further towards the students in families of fallen, disabled War Heroes, serving Army personnel and civil employees, General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army and Mrs Sujeewa Nelson President Army Seva Vanitha Unit distributed a large chunk of incentives, worth more than Rs 3 million to achievers in Grade 5 scholarship examination, GCE O/L and GCE A/L examinations on 23 December 2021.

During the awarding ceremony, 115 scholarships were distributed among the best achievers spending Rs 3 million. 24 students who obtained more than 192 marks in the Grade 5 scholarship examination (2020) received Rs 20,000.00 each as bank deposit along with a parcel containing necessary school accessories while best achievers in the GCE A/L (2019) and O/L (2019) examinations and 91 students, selected at regimental level awarded Rs 25,000.00 each as bank deposits and a dictionary to 59 students each who have scored 'A' Passes in all 9 subjects in the GCE O/L. At the same occasion, 32 students with the highest Z score at the GCE A/L were also awarded Rs 30,000.00 in cash as bank deposits plus a dictionary for each of them as incentives for those students to continue their higher studies.

Chairpersons of Regimental Seva Vanitha Units, ASVU's senior executive members, civil employees, family members of those students, parents and a gathering of invitees attended the awarding ceremony.





## ASVU President Reviewed Progress of Super Market Construction Project



Mrs Sujewa Nelson President Army Seva Vanitha Unit (ASVU) reviewed the progress of the ongoing construction work of the new supermarket complex at Narahenpita Manning Town premises on 4 December 2021. The new supermarket with all modern facilities such as Bakery, Cafeteria, Barber Shop, Beauty Salon and Tailor shop for men / women is to be built for the welfare of Army personnel reside in the complex. Army Seva Vanitha Unit (ASVU) funds will be utilised for the project. President Army Seva Vanitha Unit (ASVU) closely inspected the ground work and shared her thoughts with the Army Engineers and technicians.

The welfare shop, Cafeteria and Fast Food Corner is maintained at Narahenpita Manning Town premises intending the welfare of the deceased, handicapped, serving, and War Heroes and their family members and it provides the necessary food items / dry rations bakery items, and instant foods are provided for the military and civil personnel at reasonable price.

Few senior Officers including Brigadier T S Balasuriya Brigadier Coordinating Army Seva Vanitha Unit and staff of the office of the ASVU office associated with the inspection tour on 4 December 2021.



## ASVU's Financial Incentives Gifted to Selected Army Families



A project to distribute financial aids to a group of selected Army personnel who were not able to make their housing dream a reality due to the financial hardships was held at the Army Seva Vanitha Unit (ASVU) office at Sri Lanka Army Headquarters, chaired by Mrs Sujeewa Nelson President, Army Seva Vanitha Unit on 06 December 2021. Accordingly, 5 Army perosonnel including Officers of various Regiments received those cash incentives.

Army Seva Vanitha Unit is rendering motherly care to improve the welfare of the deceased, handicapped, serving, War Heroes and their family members and house donations are one of the significant features among their charity programmes.

Meanwhile, Mrs Janaki Liyanage Chairperson, Sri Lanka National Guard Seva Vanitha Unit (SLNG-SVU) presented 45 Face Steamers to the Abhimansala to be used by COVID-19 patients. Several senior members of Sri Lanka National Guard Seva Vanitha Branch also joined the occasion.



## The Sri Lanka Signal Corps Seva Vanitha Branch

The Sri Lanka Signal Corps (SLSC-SVU) Seva Vanitha Branch in close cooperation with the Sri Lanka Signal Corps Regimental Centre at Panagoda distributed 24 tablet devices each worth Rs 34,000.00 among the most deserving school children of Other Rankers and Civil Staff who are serving in the Sri Lanka Signal Corps and having difficulty to afford such exorbitant purchases, inevitably required for online education in this pandemic era.

Mrs Sajeewani Peiris President, the Sri Lanka Signal Corps Seva Vanitha Branch graced the occasion as the Chief Guest with few other members including Officers, Other Ranks, Civil Staff of Sri Lanka Signal Corps Seva Vanitha Branch and school children. This donation was made possible through Mrs Yashoda Jayawardhana, the Secretary of the United Sri Lanka Association (USLA) as a result of the Ranaviru fund which they have started in the year 2009 in New Zealand to help family members of the Security Forces every year.





## Gemunu Watch Seva Vanitha Branch



Mrs Geetha Athukorala assumed as the President of Gemunu Watch Seva Vanitha Branch on 08 December 2021 at the Regimental Centre Officers' Mess. The outgoing Mrs Pathma Perera, former president of Gemunu Watch Seva Vanitha Branch together with senior members of the Gemunu Watch Seva Vanitha Branch participated in the event wishing good luck for the new appointment.

## Vijayabhahu Infantry Regiment Seva Vanitha Branch



Mrs Kumudu Manage assumed Office as the 13<sup>th</sup> President of the Vijayabhahu Infantry Regiment Seva Vanitha Branch on 22 November 2021 at the VIR Regimental Centre in Boyagane during a simple ceremony including religious observances.

To mark the event, the new chairperson donated a new bathroom set worth Rs 138,072.00 for a disabled Sergeant of the Vijayabhahu Infantry Regiment (VIR).

## Military Intelligence Corps Seva Vanitha Branch

Ladies in the Military Intelligence Corps Seva Vanitha Branch, headed by Mrs Manori Salley together with senior member Mrs Manori Amith held the monthly alms-giving to adults in the Warusawithana Elders' Home in Ambalangoda on 27 November 2021.

The inmates were given all three meals, books and reading materials and plywood sheets to be used in the beds. Few senior members of Military Intelligence Corps Seva Vanitha Branch also attended the event.





## Corps of Engineer Services Seva Vanitha Branch



Under the instructions of the President Corps of Engineer Services Seva Vanitha Branch essential dry rations were gifted to the elderly inmates at Sujatha Elders' Home at Kalutara with the organisation of 1 Corps of Engineer Services Regiment on 26 November 2021.

## Sri Lanka Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Seva Vanitha Branch

A wheelchair was donated to the paralysed mother-in-law of S 629258 Corporal Ruwan T H I A presently serving under Artillery Battalion of Sri Lanka Electrical and Mechanical Engineers at 3 Sri Lanka Electrical and Mechanical Engineers under the patronage of Chairperson, Sri Lanka Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Seva Vanitha Branch. In line with the same event essential items were donated for few members of the Civil Staff.



## Sri Lanka Corps of Military Police Seva Vanitha Branch

Sri Lanka Corps of Military Police Seva Vanitha Branch awarded 6 scholarships to best achievers of Army and Civil Staff families who excelled in Grade 5 and Advanced Level Examinations on 28 November at Sri Lanka Corps of Military Police Regimental Centre. The each student received Rs 10,000.00. At the same occasion, school bags, shoes and other stationery items were also donated to the students. Mrs Inoka Illangakoon Chairperson, Sri Lanka Corps of Military Police Seva Vanitha Branch and a few senior members attended the occasion.







# ***The Warrior Reinforced the Operation “Trivida Pahara”***



**O/50981 Lieutenant Colonel A F Laphir  
PWV RWP RSP**

Making the dreams of famous Doctor in the Kandy, Mr G A Mohomad Laphir and his beloved wife Mrs S L Siththi Hanul's a reality, a young baby boy was born on 26 December 1958. The couple named the young baby boy Aslam Fazly Laphir. Dr Laphir had early prepared to enter the child to famous school in Kandy when he reached age of schooling. Then the young Aslam Fazly Laphir was entered to the St Antony College in Kandy.

He was amongst the few of highest mark holders of the school during the school time. Also he earned the prestige to the alma mater playing various sports as a good cricketer in the leading cricket team and active member of school scout team.

He successfully completed his Ordinary Level and Advanced Level Examinations with flying colours

making the expectations of the parents a reality. He had collected the marks to enter the Engineering in University with his results earned at Advanced Level Examinations. Seeing only child as a engineer was his father's only dream. Dr Laphir had also earned a scholarship for his child from Libya encouraging him to study in Engineering. The young Fazly Laphir had reviewed his journey to Libya in various fields. His mind always advised him not to depart from the motherland. Therefore he decided to take sometime to obtain experiences being with the society. He got an idea to share the experiences what he got from cricket and scouting with others.





*With his beloved spouse*

Though he was a moor by birth it did not took much time to win the hearts of Sinhalese and others as he was equipped with divine human qualities. He had rendered a meticulous service to the school earning the membership of School Union of St Anthony to pay the gratefulness. The young man in the bold youth was having an idea to wear a military uniform. Though the parents had persuaded him to go to Libiya to study Engineering, the desire to wear the military uniform was higher than that. His constant request to join the Sri Lanka Army to protect the Nation was finally granted before his continuous beg for the dream.

It was 11 August 1980. A brave youth stepped into the premises of Military Academy, Diyatalawa with head held high. It was none other than a young cadet Aslam Laphir. The young Laphir was enlisted in the Officer Cadet Course 14. He was completed his preliminary military training and commissioned as a Second Lieutenant on 27 February 1982 winning the award for the second place of the Officer Cadet Course. Then after he assumed duties as the Platoon Commander of the Corps of Rajarata Rifles. The establishment of Gajaba Regiment absorbing the Corps of Rajarata Rifles and Vijayabahu Infantry Regiment, he received an opportunity to serve as an Officer of a Company.

**“Major Laphir’s leadership and dedication was a key reason to highlight the Special Forces Regiment as the force of gallantry in the history. Majority of the astonishing respect earned by the Special Forces Regiment during the various operations to rescue the Motherland from the terrorism is deserved by Lieutenant Colonel Aslam Fazli Laphir”**

The idea to establish a new fighting method to face the guerrilla method of LTTE was initially raised in 1985. In order to counter the guerrilla method, a new team was initiated with the participation of 38 Other Ranks and 02 Officers at the Commando Training School in Ganemulla. The team concluded their training in December 1985 and was deployed in Welioya and Kokilai. The prime responsibility of this team was to control the terrorist violence spread in the area. The master head behind this plan was none other than Lieutenant Aslam Fazly Laphir. The Combat Tracker Team was organised by Lieutenant Aslam Fazly Laphir applying his own tactical methods to counter the LTTE attacks. The careful observation was the prime tool of their operations. The special attention of the planning heads was placed on a key figure behind the master plans. He was none other than Lieutenant Colonel Fazly Laphir

Lieutenant Colonel Fazly Laphir had undertaken this task without any hesitation. But rescuing the own troops attacking the large flock of enemy troops was a deadlier task in a situation where all the routes in sea and land were blocked by the enemy parties while having no support of fire power and connectivity. A team comprised of 275 specially trained troops





was organised to fulfill the task. The operation was named as “Tri Forces”. Before launching the operation, he addressed the own troops and said *“1200 of our own troops are in the battle with the LTTE at the Mullaitivu Camp. If we delay a minute their valuable lives will be destroyed by LTTE. We voluntarily joined the Special Forces Regiment. We voluntarily undertook the operations because we are strong in our minds and body ready. The opportunity has searched us. Let's use our maximum strength to free our own troops by destroying the terrorists. We shall not leave a single space to fall our soldiers to the LTTE. Let's move towards with determined dared and done”*. This was the initial address that the Lieutenant Colonel Fazly Laphir had made as the Commanding Officer before the operation started. The importance of rescuing own troops was embedded into the minds of the each member after the fluent speech of Lieutenant Colonel Fazly Laphir of Special Forces Regiment.

The first time in the history all the air power including M I 17, Kafeer and MI 24 was lifted for a common goal opening the gate for another massive operation. The Special Force members prepared themselves in both mind and body for the upcoming crucial operation. Yet facing the risk when on air he led his own troops to the victory supporting the own troops firing at the enemy. Also his helicopter landed at the place where the LTTE heavy weapons were placed. Even though the helicopter was caught to LTTE firepower, the Special Force Regiment troops were able to launch a massive fire towards the LTTE terrorists in the camp. He landed M I 24, M I 17 surprising the enemy to the enemy camp. The Special Force troops were able to control the LTTE fire. However the Team including Lieutenant Colonel Laphir had to face a delay threat from LTTE. The Special Forces members were not able to get into the land in either way. Therefore Lieutenant Colonel

Fazly Laphir had to manage the situation with the available troops. It was very difficult to fire at the selected targets as there were no radio connectivity. The firepower taken from the maximum length was effortless at the situation. Taking the advantage of the situation, LTTE had launched a massive fire targeting the place where the Lieutenant Colonel Laphir and troops were located. At this situation few soldiers had sacrificed their lives for the wellbeing of the Nation. Considerable casualties was identified at the beginning of the operation but that was never a reason to let down the morale of the protagonist. He was anyways able to take the control of the battlefield. The battle lasted few days. At the last day the battle transformed to its fearsome phase with the owl light. At that night the LTTE had attempted to over run the Special Forces.

The Mullaitivu area was trembled with the fearsome fire of both sides. Even at the fearsome phase of the battle Lieutenant Colonel Laphir had encouraged each of his team members and reminded the duty boosting their morale up while taking care of the battle casualties as the beloved father. The night fell slowly but there was no cease of the fire of LTTE.

This special leadership was planning the next step of the operation to rescue the own troops. When realised the forces are attempting to reach the camp amidst the LTTE fire, the terrorist had escalated the firepower. Special Force troops were also badly damaged by the fire. The Commanding Officer had to continue the operation from the place where they were located. The night began to fall. Members had forgotten their supper almost. The night was getting dangerous at every hour but it was no surprise or challenge for the mastermind Lieutenant Colonel Laphir. This was proven by his few thoughts he had revealed to the Major Jayantha Rathnayake of G Team Special Force. It was the best and most special night that Lieutenant Colonel Laphir was ever spending.

Terrorist attacks were increased with the midnight. But at the time the terrorists had realised that they were facing to the Special Force members. Terrorist shad already knew the capacity of their enemy and resultantly the enemy leaders attempted to withdraw as they knew it was utter difficult to face this bunch of multi-talented warriors. The terrorists were yet firing at the Lieutenant Colonel Laphir and his team.



Without considering the fearsome fire Lieutenant Colonel Laphir had commanded the battle as a Lion. Knowing the situation, LTTE terrorists had signaled to escalate the firepower from sea using their maximum fire support. Although members had wounded it was not enough to discourage the warrior, he continued his command. Knowing that it was difficult to win the battle, LTTE decided to send their suicide bombers to destroy Lieutenant Colonel Laphir and his team. Lieutenant Colonel Laphir had already detected this plan of his enemy by his versatile experiences earned from various battles.

The Special Forces motto was beginning to play in hearts of Lieutenant Colonel Laphir's team with the escalating fire. As a member of the Special Forces Regiment they vowed themselves this: *"I shall destroy my enemy in the battlefield with the determination and dare. I shall never surrender the enemy and I shall not leave wounded mates to fall in the enemy hands. I shall never take actions to bring disgrace for the Special Forces Regiment and I shall display the strength I have to combat as a brave soldier"*. Nothing could discourage the brave warrior who was leading the battle fearlessly having a serious wound. However, the Special Forces members were able to make a serious damage to the enemy. The terrorists had realised that the strength of the team was centred on their leader and they decided to finish the leader of the Team with the intention to abort the government attempt to regain the Mullaitivu camp back.

Terrorists attempted to target one place and continued the fire from the place where they captured. Having realised this idea of the Terrorists, Lieutenant Colonel Laphir had deployed another team and continued the battle. If the leadership was decided to cease the firing, the camp may fall into the hands of the terrorists. But this bold leadership had implemented his brave decision to rescue own troops of 1200 in enemy custody. His body and mind were functioning very fast to rescue the team having noticed that his team was badly wounded. But he realised that the victory is nearby with the firm determination. He understood the capacity of his win troops who were in action at the time having no supportive troops or firepower depending on the ammunition what they took over two days to launch the battle. He knew that the terrorists cannot destroy bold spirit of his team. With this feeling the notion to rescue Mullaitivu

ran across his mind. When the day reaches again the terrorists had began to escalate their fire power towards the troops. Meanwhile Lieutenant Colonel Laphir was caught to the terrorist team deployed to destroy the leadership of the Special Force. Lieutenant Colonel Laphir was the clear target of the terrorists. After a while a sharp bullet ran through the chest of the warrior making a deadly wound.

But the bullet was not strong enough to break down the spirit of the warrior. Lieutenant Colonel Laphir had commanded leading his men in the battle having the bleeding wound mesmerising the firm determination as a warrior of a Special Force. The heroic spirit of humanity and the kind heart of the Special Force Regiment bade farewell to the Nation on 19 July 1996 due to the wound made by enemy attack. His leadership was always a fine example for juniors. He was not just a boss but a fine leader. He always won the hearts of others. He bought the silver spoon with his birth. If he was alive, he will be a fine Major General today leading his men with the genuine smile. As the 10 giants who defeated the enemies at the Kings time, this name is also embedded in the history for his exceptional gallantry.

Although the enemy bullet had made a hole in his body he did not gave up the battle until his last breath. Lieutenant Colonel Laphir was awarded the Parama Weera Vibushanaya (The Supreme Heroism Decoration) posthumously for his individual acts of gallantry and conspicuous bravery of a military nature of a high order in a face of a enemy performed voluntarily whilst on active service without regard for his own security with the objective of safeguarding the lives of his comrades. The Parama Weera Vibushanaya (The Supreme Heroism Decoration) was delivered to the beloved spouse of this supreme hero Mrs Anoma Wickramasooriya by Her Excellency Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, the President and the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces at the time at Bandaranayeke Memorial International Conference Hall on 24 April 2001.



*Extracted form "Uththamachara" published by Sri Lanka Army Headquarters.*



## Assumed Duties on Auspicious Time



Major General D G S Senarathya RWP RSP ndu assumed duties as the Commander, Security Forces (Jaffna) on 17 December 2021 amid religious and military formalities including Guard of Honour, presented by 11 Sri Lanka Light Infantry troops.



Major General P M L Chandrasiri of the Gemunu Watch assumed office as the 22<sup>nd</sup> Commander, Security Forces (East) on 15 December 2021 amidst religious and traditional military formalities at the Security Force Headquarters (East) premises at Welikanda.





Major General K Liyanage RWP RSP ndu Colonel of the Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment assumed duties as the new Commander of the Security Forces (West) on 16 December 2021 amid religious blessings and military formalities at the SF Headquarters (West) in Panagoda.

## Two More Houses Warmed in Jaffna

Marking another leap forward in the housing project of “Shelter for Head” implemented under the conceptual guidance of Major General T J Kodithuakku RWP RSP ndu Commander, Security Forces (Jaffna), two new houses for deserving families in Karainagar and Puttur were warmed on 27 November 2021 under the patronage of Major General T J Kodithuakku RWP RSP ndu Commander, Security Forces (Jaffna) during a brief ceremony.

Accoridngly, Mr Thampirasa Mathiyalagan in Karainagar and Mr S Sureshkumar in Puttur received the ownership of their new houses amides Hindu religious observances and traditions. These two houses were donated in par with uplifting the livelihood of needy people in the area while promoting gestures of goodwill, reconciliation and harmony between the Security Forces and the civil communities.

Financial contribution for the newly constructed houses was granted by the philanthropist Mr and Mrs Mohan Shanker while much needed manpower and technical support were provided by the troops of 11 Battalion of Sri Lanka Light Infantry and 15 Battalion of Gajaba Regiment under the supervision of Commanders of 513 and 522 Infantry Brigades.





## The Members of ICRC Met the Commander Security Forces (Wanni)



The Members of International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) had a courtesy meeting with Major General C D Ranasinghe RWPRSP Commander Security Force (Wanni), at Security Forces Headquarters on 12 November 2021.

Commander Security Forces (Wanni) welcomed the Members of International Committee of the Red Cross and discussed the military involvement in social welfare projects and assistance to civil community. At the culminating of the discussion a memento is presented by the Commander Security Forces (Wanni).

## Commander Security Forces (Wanni) Visited Religious Places in Vavuniya



Major General C D Ranasinghe RWP RSP the Commander Security Forces (Wanni) visited the religious places in Vavuniya on 02 December 2021. There he visited the most Venerable Chief Maha Sanghas of Sri Bodhidhakshinarama Viharaya - Vavuniya, Sri Dalada Viharaya - Madukanda, Sri Sudarshanarama Viharaya - Etabagaskada and reviewed blessings. Senior Officers Security Forces (Wanni) also accompanied the visit.



## One More New Home Warmed for the Deserving Families in East

With the determination to make the housing dream a reality among the economically deprived families in the East, Major General C D Weerasuriya RWP RSP ndu Commander Security Force (East) vested one more newly-constructed house for Mrs K Malethana in Panama and Mrs M I Sitti Fathima in Ampara and Panam areas on 30 November 2021.

Construction was effectively carried out by the troops of 23 Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment and 8 Sri Lanka National Guard and the raw materials were extended from the housing project of 'Obata Geyak Ratata Hetak', of the National Housing Development Authority. Senior Officers of National Housing Development Authority, General Officer Commanding of 24 Infantry Division, Commanding Officers of 23 Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment 8 Sri Lanka National Guard along with civilians in the village were present at the ceremony.



## Commander, 1 Corps of Sri Lanka Army Visited the Under Commnad Formation



Major General H P Ranasingha RWP RSP ndc Commander, 1 Corps of Sri Lanka Army visited 5 Gemunu Watch after assuming duties of his new designation on 05 November 2021. The Commander, 1 Corps of Sri Lanka Army was warmly welcomed by Commanding Officer of 5 Gemunu Watch and a sapling was planted in memory of the event at the premises.

Aftermath, Commander, 1 Corps of Sri Lanka Army appeared for the group photo with the Senior Officers. A souvenir was offered to the Commander, 1 Corps of Sri Lanka Army. General Officer Commanding of 53 Infantry Division, Commander, Air Mobile Strike and Colonel General Staff I of 1 Corps of Sri Lanka Army also joined the event.



## Memorabilia of Security Forces (Kilinochchi) Declared Open



Memorabilia of the previous Security Force Headquarters (Kilinochchi) before it was converted to be the 1 Corps Headquarters, designed as the Reserve Strike Force for all types of emergencies were conserved and placed in a new museum at the 1 Corps HQ at Kilinochchi.

The constructions were made possible with the manpower of 1 Corps of Sri Lanka Army, 9 and 11 Field Engineers Regiments troops. The new museum that gives special value to the remnants of the previous Headquarters was opened by Major General H P Ranasinghe RWP RSP Commander, 1 Corps on 1 December 2021 during a simple ceremony.

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## Mullaitivu Commander Visited under Command Formations



Major General W A S S Wanasinghe RSP USP ndu Commander Security Forces (Mullaitivu) continued his field visits to under command establishments of the Security Force Headquarters (Mullaitivu) soon after assuming the duties of his new appointment on 29 November 2021.

Accordingly, he visited the 59 Infantry Division and its under command 591, 592 and 593 Infantry Brigades and he was warmly welcomed by Major General J D Sooriyabandara USP General Officer Commanding, 59 Infantry Division together with respective Brigade Commanders. Aftermath a tree planting was held at the premises to mark the visit of the new Commander Security Forces (Mullaitivu).

Afterwards, Commander Security Forces (Mullaitivu) visited the 7 Sri Lanka Army Ordnance Corps, 24 Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment and 23 Sri Lanka Light Infantry camps in the area and met troops.



## Security Forces (West) Improvised Accommodation Block for Other Ranks



In order to uplift the living standard and the accommodation facilities of soldiers, a renovated accommodation block (30 x 60) was declared open by the Commander Security Forces (West) Major General D G S Senarathya RWP RSP ndu at the Security Forces Headquarters (West) on 23 November 2021.

The accommodation block is consisted of 29 beds with sanitary facilities and a dining hall for the well-being of the soldiers of the Security Forces Headquarters (West). The manpower for the construction was extended by Garrison Engineers of Security Forces (West) and 1 Corps of Engineer Services.

## More than 95 Soldiers Donated Blood to Batticaloa Hospital



More than 95 soldiers serving in the 231 Infantry Brigade under the 23 Infantry Division of the Security Force Headquarters (East) in order to replenish dwindling blood stocks at blood bank at Batticaloa Teaching Hospital volunteered to give their blood during an arrangement, held at the 231 Infantry Brigade Headquarters premises on 19 November 2021.

The blood donation was organised in response to a request made by the Blood Bank at Batticaloa Teaching Hospital as their stocks were fast on the decrease. Major General C D Weerasooriya RWP RSP ndu Commander, Security Force (East), Major General K A N N Koswatta General Officer Commanding, 23 Infantry Division, Brigadier W M N K D Bandara Colonel General Staff 23 Infantry Division participated in the event.



## Troops Inaugurated the Seasonal Sripada Pilgrimage Season



19 Sri Lanka National Guard (SLNG) troops under command to the 112 Brigade of the 11 Division under the Security Force HQ (Central) assisted the seasonal inauguration of the annual 'Sripada' pilgrimage by carrying symbolic replicas and ornamental jewellery to Sripada from Nallatanniya on Unduwap Full Moon Poya day (18 December 2021). Major General M K S Silva RWP RSP ndu Commander Security Forces (Central), Brigadier DK Dissanayake WWV RWP RSP Commander, 112 Brigade participated in the religious event.

The Army in the past three decades has been in the practice of supporting the carriage of those sacred ornaments to the Sripada during the seasonal pilgrimage period.

## Handing Over of Newly Constructed House for a Needy Family



Newly constructed house on behalf of Mr Y M Jayarathne in Monaragala Wellassa Grama Niladari Division by troops of 121 Infantry Brigade was vested to the beneficiaries by Major General M K S Silva RWP RSP ndu Commander Security Force (Central) on 15 November 2021. The financial donorship for the house was extended by Basnayake Nilame of Kataragama Devala with the manpower of 121 Infantry Brigade troops. Major General Prasanna Ranawaka RWP RSP USP General Officer Commanding 12 Infantry Division, Brigadier D U N Serasinghe RWP RSP Brigade Commander of 121 Infantry Brigade, Mr Dilshan Gunasekara, Basnayake Nilame of Kataragama Devala participated in the event.





## **"Using tobacco products and consuming excessive amount of alcohol have negative consequences on your oral health"**

***Lieutenant Colonel Lochana Fernando ( Dental Surgeon - Army Hospital )***

Lieutenant Colonel Lochana Fernando is a Dental Surgeon who obtained the Bachelor of Dental Surgeries (BDS) degree at Faculty of Dental Science at the University of Peradeniya and joined the SL Army as a Direct Enlisted Confirmed Captain in 2002, during the hard period of Humanitarian Operation in Sri Lanka. However, during this period, he had the opportunity to work all over the country including the operational areas such as Welioya, Welikanda, Vavuniya, Mannar, Trincomalee, Mirusuvil and Palali. Moreover, he had rendered his services to the civilians in Trincomalee and Batticaloa areas by engaging in Dental Mobile Clinic (owned by RDS Trincomalee) as they had not any of routine dental clinics during the war period. Also Lieutenant Colonel Lochana Fernando had participated in two UN missions during the period of past 20 years and has a reputed name as an excellent dental surgeon at the military society as well as the civil society. He is also known as a talented poet and had written poems for the Vesak Greeting Cards which was printed by SL Army for several years. He is the lyrics writer for the anthem of Sri Lanka Army Armored Corps, Signals, Medical Corps and the Staff College Batalanda.

This feature article related to the oral hygienic was written after an interview with him.

**Question:-** What sort of facilities could be obtained at the

Dental Section of the Army Hospital ?

**Answer :-** Actually, we have 5 dental surgeries with advance facilities for routine dental treatments. For examples, dental restorations, dental extractions, teeth cleaning and polishing, denture treatments, oral examinations etc. Also the experience senior dental Officers are dedicating for those treatments. Also we have a pediatric dental surgeries conducted by qualified and well experience dental therapists. Furthermore, there are another 5 surgeries for consultants' clinics such as consultant orthodontist treatments, consultant restorative treatments, consultant of treatments. Also, we have two senior consultant orthodontics. They are dedicating to correct teeth alignments, spacing, crowding, wrong jaw relationship, teeth proclamation etc. Also we have two senior Consultant Restoratives and another visiting Consultant Restorative from Ministry of Health. They are dedicating for advance restorative treatments such as advance nerve filling treatments. Crown and bridge treatments, implant dental restorative treatments, teeth whitening are some of them.

Apart from this, we have three senior consultant OMF Surgeons including Director Dental Services. They are dedicating for advance oral and maxilla facial surgeries under general anesthesia. Surgeries for cancer patients,





surgical correction of jaw relationships, correction of cleft palate and cleft lip, minor oral surgeries are among the services provided. Most of the Dental Surgeons and Consultants are senior and experienced officers, resultantly patients will have the best treatments.

**Question :-** Once you knew you were interested in healthcare, why did you choose dental and not medical or veterinarian?

**Answer :-** I had 285 marks on my A/L examination in 1993. As my district was Colombo. I selected to faculty of Dental Sciences.

**Question :-** What are your tips for better oral hygiene at home?

**Answer :-** You have to use the right tooth brush. It should be a soft/ medium bristled multi tufted tooth brush, with a head that's small enough to reach comfortably all around your mouth. It should have a handle which is easy to grip. Also, you should not brush too hard or too often (more than twice a day) brushing too often hard, can cause gum recession and damage the root surfaces of the teeth by abrading them. Exposed roots may be quite sensitive and at greater risk for decay. Also do floss at least once a day. Flossing is the best way to remove plaque in places where your brush just cannot reach in between the teeth. Do not snack on sugary foods and do not snack between meals. It is observed that the tooth decay is the most common chronic disease of both children and adults. Even though, it's almost entirely preventable. Do the tongue test to check the cleanliness of teeth. Do inform your dentist that if you notice bleeding gums or lumps, bumps ulcers. Does not start bad oral health habits. Using any tobacco products, consuming excessive amounts of alcohol, and chewing on pencils or fingernails have the negative consequences for your oral health. Also you have to use fluoride tooth paste. Don't brush or floss immediately after drinking acidic beverages (such as soda, sports drinks and juices) Acids "soften" the hard enamel covering of your teeth by dissolving the superficial layers. Do drink enough water.

**Question :-** Why should people maintain optimum oral health at their homes?

**Answer:-** Having a good oral hygiene is a symbol of

good personality and it is essential for a good quality life. If someone's oral hygiene is bad, it will affect the personality of a person directly and also the efficacy of the person. Sometimes he might end up with cancerous lesions too if there are bad oral habits. So we should have a good oral hygiene for a good personal life and social life.

**Question :-** How can people improve the whiteness of their teeth?

**Answer :-** Regular brushing is the first choice. If there are stains on the surfaces of the teeth, we can get rid of them by full mouth scaling and polishing methods. Also when there are internal colour changes due to vitality problems, fluorosis there are advance treatments to restore the tooth colour. Also there are some whitening tooth pastes which can remove stains. It's always better to avoid consuming anything that stains teeth. Also should regularly visits to your family dental surgeon.

**Question :-** How often people should go to a dental surgeon ?

**Answer :-** According to my opinion, it should be for a period of every six months.

**Question :-** In what type of situations people should consider for dental implants ?

**Answer :-** If there are no general or local contraindications , implant supported dentures are the method of choice in rehabilitating all types of tooth gaps.

**Question :-** At what age, should a child visit to the dental surgeon ?

**Answer :-** The first dental visit for a child is recommended by 12 months of age or within 6 months of the first tooth coming in.

**Question :-** When do their baby teeth typically fall out ?

**Answer :-** Babies teeth begin to develop before they are born. But in most of the cases do not come through until they are between 6 and 12 months old. However when they reach 5 or 6, these teeth will start to fall out, making way for adult teeth.

**Question :-** What procedures can improve the strength' of the teeth ?

**Answer :-** Limiting the sugary foods and drinks, eating foods that protect enamel, avoid over brushing and getting regular checkups will improve the strength of your teeth.



*By Lieutenant Duminda  
Senarath, SLAGSC  
Directorate of Media.*



## Workshop on Military in Internal Security Operations



A two - day workshop on Human Rights (HR) and International Humanitarian Law (IHL) was conducted at the Security Forces Headquarters (Jaffna) by International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on the instructions given by the Directorate of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law on 23 and 24 November 2021. Brigadier (Rtd) Jacques Lemay the Regional Armed and Security Forces Delegate of ICRC in Colombo, Mr Claudia and Mr Channa Jayawardena conducted the two-day workshop which widened and bridged the knowledge gap on HR and IHL of Brigade Commanders, Commanding Officers and Staff Officers serving in Jaffna peninsula.



Following the intention of Commander Security Force (Mullaitivu) a workshop on legal framework of Geological Survey and Mines Bureau was held on 03 and 04 December 2021 with the coordination of Geological Survey and Mines Bureau at the 57 Infantry Division under the patronage of Major General G R R P Jayawardana RWP RSP ndu General Officer Commanding, 57 Infantry Division at Lotus Shade Auditorium.

## Battalion Training Course at 3 (V) SLSR Commenced



The Battalion Training Course at 3 (V) SLSR commenced at the Battalion Training School – Walamandiya on 01 to 19 December 2021. The initial troop address was held on 01 December 2021. Senior Officers including Brigadier D K A Disanayeke WWV RWP RSP, Brigade Commander graced the event.



## Series of Donations from SF Mullaitivu



With the intention to promote the reconciliation between Sri Lanka Army and civilians in the Mullaitivu area, a programme of gifting school items for the students at Ambalaperumalkulam Primary School in Ambalaperumalkulam was held on 03 December 2021 with a view to elevating their educational standards. The event was held under the patronage of Major general B K J M L Rodrigo RSP psc IG, General Officer Commanding 66 Infantry Division.

## A House Erected Making a Dream Home a Reality



The house built for Mr Shantha Wadiwle a resident of 281/D, Shasthrikulam Grama Niladhari Division, Vavuniya was warmed to the beneficiaries on 01 December 2021. The event took place with the coordination of Brigadier A M S Premawansa RWP RSP USP, Commander, 562 Infantry Brigade. The financial donorship was extended by Chief Incumbent Rev Ududumbara Sobhitha Thero, the International Vipassana Meditation Centre and the manpower was of 15 ( V ) Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment.

## 66 Infantry Division Celebrated its 12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



66 Infantry Division celebrated its 12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on 10 December 2021. The series of ceremonies in line with the commemoration held under the patronage of Major General B K G M L Rodrigo RSP psc IG General Officer Commanding 66 Infantry Division. A Buddhist Bhoothi Pooja and Prayer Session at Marmas Church were also organised in line with the Anniversary. All the Officers and Other Ranks joined the Anniversary ceremony.



## Quarter Master General Inspected the Maintenance at AHQ



More than 02 years has been passed since the establishment of the Sri Lanka Army Management and timely renovation of the Sri Lanka Army Headquarters reflecting the majesty and the pride of the Sri Lanka Army is the prime responsibility of this Directorate of Maintenance. Major General P J P Gamage Quarter Master General visited to inspect the maintenance in progress under the supervision of Brigadier P Wimalasiri RWP RSP Director Management and Maintenance Directorate on 07 December 2021. He inspected the main duties of the Directorate and the machines which are in use.



## New Home Gifted to a Resident in Vavuniya



The new house erected with the manpower of 15 (V) Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment troops on behalf of Mr Govinda Shantha Vadiwel resided at Sasthreekulam, Vavuniya was warmed to the beneficiary by Major General C D Weerasooriya RWP RSP Commander, Security Forces (Wanni) on 01 December 2021. The financial assistance for the house construction was extended by Mrs Nirmala Adikari and Mr Anura Kehelella at Greenvilage in Maspotha with the coordination of Ven Ududumbara Sobitha Thero.



## Foundation Stone Laid for another New House



With the financial donorship extended by the Old Girls Association of Musaeus Collage Colombo, new house was erected on behalf of Mrs Madusha Prashani Dharampala resided at Galewela Divisional Secretariat. Accordingly, Brigadier T M R B Rathnayaka RWP RSP Commander, 111 Infantry Brigade laid the foundation stone for the new house on 13 December 2021.

## Shramadana Campaign at Regional Hospital, Oddusudan



Major General U P R Weerakoon U P R Weerakoon WWV RWP RSP USP General Officer Commanding 4 Infantry Battalion engaged in a field visit on Regional Hospital, Oddusudan on 01 December 2021. At the visit the hospital staff had requested the visiting General Officer Commanding to clean the hospital premises and accordingly a shramadana campaign was organised to clean the hospital premises with the patronage of 641 Infantry Brigade on 06 December 2021. Troops of the under command units and the residents in the area participated in the campaign.

## Cashew Sapling Distribution at Community Center, Isamalathivu



A distribution of cashew saplings under the instructions of Colonel W S V Fernando USP IG, Commander, 542 Infantry Brigade with the intention to uplift the living conditions of the low income families in the area was taken place at the community centre, Isamalathivu declared open on 07 December 2021. 400 cashew saplings were distributed during the event and 8 Vijayabahu Infantry Regiment and 15 (V) Gemunu Watch Officers and Other Ranks participated in the event.



## 513 Brigade Distributed Nutrients and Babywears for Pregnant Women



Troops of 513 Brigade under the 51 Infantry Division under command to Security Forces Headquarters (Jaffna) gave away nutrients, babywear and other essentials, to 40 pregnant women in Keeramalai area on 20 November 2021 under the guidance of Brigadier Mohomad Fariz Commander 513 Brigade with sponsorship, provided by several private companies at the request of the 513 Brigade Headquarters.

Major General M G W W W M C B Wickramasinghe RWP RSP ndu psc General Officer Commanding, 51 Infantry Division, Assistant Divisional Secretary, Thelippalai, together with senior military and civil officials joined the distribution.

## Army Gifted Essentials to Oddusuddan Hospital



With the sponsorship provided by members of the Association of Sri Lanka Hotel Graduates, the Security Force Headquarters (Mullaitivu) coordinated the donation of a stock of linen and sanitary essentials including donated the stock, inclusive of mattresses, bed sheets, pillow covers, towels and other essential clothes to the Oddusudan Government Hospital and 64 Infantry Division Headquarters in a move to further foster gestures of reconciliation and cooperation on 01 December 2021.

In line with the same event mid-day meals were distributed among 25 indoor patients under treatment at the Government Hospital, Oddusudan under the patronage of Major General U P R Weerakoon WWV RSP USP General Officer Commanding, 64 Infantry Division.



## GR Gifted School Essentials

A programme of distributing the school essentials worth for each Rs 6000.00 for 35 students studying at Gemunupura Primary School which is located at the area under command to 9 Gajaba Regiment was held on 14 November 2021. Library items, stationary commuters were included in the donation items in order to uplift their education during the COVID-19 pandemic period. Officers including Commander, 623 Infantry Brigade, Commanding Officers attended the charity event.



## 54 Division Assisted the Annual Katina Pooja at Sri Jayathilaka Viharaya



The annual Katina Pooja (Robe Offering Ceremony) at Sri Jayathilaka Viharaya at Sinhala Vijayagama in Silawathura was held on 07 November 2021 with the participation of Venerable Maha Sangha and devotees in the area. The almsgiving for 13 monks, laying the corner stone for the new pagoda and dry ration distribution for the economically-deprived families in the area were also taken place in the same occasion. Philanthropists including Brigadier K W S Perera RWP and few others extended the financial donorship for the event. Major General U D Wijesekara RWP RSP USP psc General Officer Commanding, 54 Infantry Division graced the religious occasion as the Chief Guest together with Brigade Commanders of 541 and 542 Infantry Brigades respectively.

## Retired Army Officer Sponsored a New House to a Needy Family



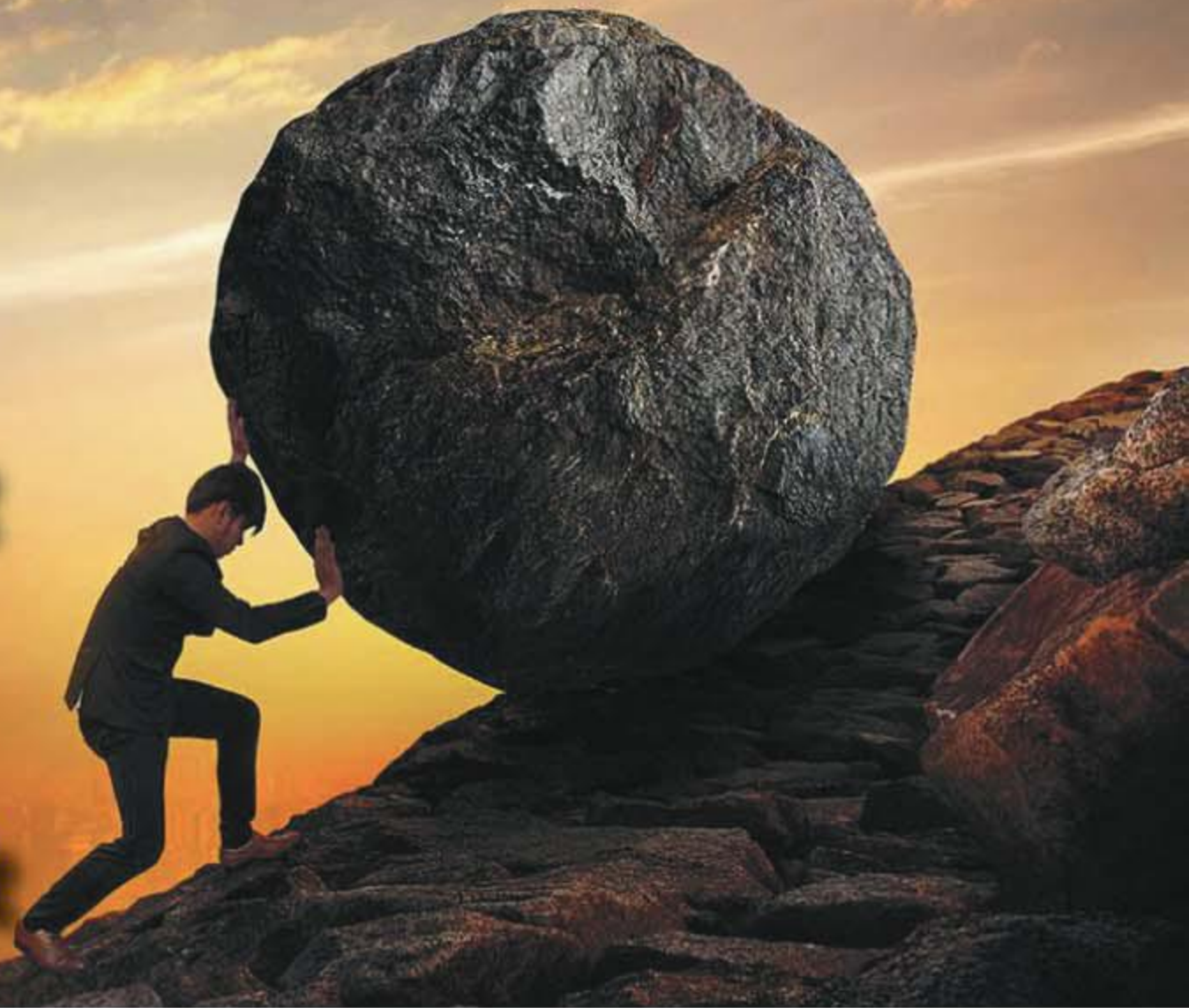
Hambantota-based 12 Infantry Division troops of the Security Force Headquarters Central put up new houses for Mr P S Wasantha in Gothameegama in Kataragama and Mr K H Piyarathne in Weeravila New Town considering their miserable plight into serious consideration.

The charity event was taken place under the supervision and guidance of Major General R A D P Ranawaka RWPRSPUSPndc General Officer Commanding, 12 Infantry Division. The house was warmed to the beneficiaries on 28 and 30 November 2021. The financial donorship was extended by Major S Weerasooriya (Rtd) and Mr D Amarathunga. Several Officers, relatives of the beneficiary and civilians in the area joined the ceremony.





# HARD WORKER VS SMART WORKER



Every organisation is consisted of two types of good workers who are often identified as hard workers and smart workers. Generally, hard workers are ready to welcome any challenges sweating and toiling hard for the organisation while smart workers doing only what they asked or got to do. Hard worker always commits himself for the development of the organisation while smart worker illustrates less commitment. Unarguably, both types of these workers play their part for the organisation well. But hard worker usually takes a painstaking effort when performs his job while smart worker merely exaggerates on what he does. There are significant characteristics that we could find among these two types of workers.

Hard worker always concerns about his organisation and work hard undertaking the pain, but smart worker mainly focuses on his perks and privileges unlike the hard worker. Hard worker is generous while smart worker is selfish and egocentric. Also, hard worker usually worries about the future of his organisation and take preventive measures accordingly. But smart worker does not bother much about the future of his organisation as much as the hard worker. Hard worker has the positive approach for everything while smart worker's approach is lackadaisical and tardy.

Hard workers welcome risks and make progressive decisions. They do not waste time to take appropriate actions. They are self-motivated. They reluctant to keep work pending. Nevertheless, smart workers are rather slow in making decisions. They always wait for the guidance and directions. Their works are considerably pending with many excuses. They are too worrying about their future but not ready to take risks when performing their duties. They seem to be YES men while hard workers are quite upright.



*Major General Keerthi  
Kottawaththa (Rtd) RWP RSP USP*



Hard worker is always ready to help others. He is a good team player and never isolate his peers and co-workers. He is so enthusiastic and cheerful. He enjoys his work and share the wisdom he earned with others. He is willing to work extra hours giving priority for his work than his personal affairs. Smart worker is skillful albeit selfish and very serious in mood. He barely completes his part and move ahead without worrying much of the others. Hard worker is efficient, open-minded and approachable while smart worker is quite enigmatic and inaccessible.

Hard workers are very courageous and inspirational. They get on with people well. However, smart workers are reluctant to motivate others and restrict for their particular part. Smart worker always finds faults while hard worker always finds remedies. Hard worker is not much worrying about pleasing his superiors but engross his work unless



the smart worker is seriously worrying about what his superior may think about him than his assigned task completion. The peculiarity of hard worker is that he usually tends to take the responsibility of the work onto his shoulders while smart worker always shares the responsibilities with co-workers and even with subordinates.

It is doubtfully true that both the types of workers are better than weak and corrupted workers. They contribute their share for the development of the organisation. The notable difference is in their character, attitudes and approaches towards producing results. However, it is

common phenomenon that hard workers are not listed in the good book of superiors in contrast to the smart workers. The pessimism of this situation is many of the hard workers who often become an asset to the organisation does not get their due recognition and the place in the organisation. Hence, it is paramount important for the leaders at all levels to identify these two types of workers under them to lead them in an accurate manner, placing them in a right place assigning them with right responsibility for the progression of the organisation. Otherwise, it is impossible to reap the maximum from these extraordinary two types of workers under your inspiring leadership.

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## Remembrance Day Commemorated with Poppy Flowers at Colombo Cenotaph

The Remembrance Day alias World Poppy Day (November 11) commemorative ceremony that recollects memories of world-wide fallen War Heroes, inclusive of those perished in World Wars, organised by the Sri Lanka Ex-Servicemen's Association was held on 14 November 2021 at the cenotaph in the Vihara Maha Devi Park, Colombo.

General Kamal Gunaratna (Rtd) WWV RWP RSP USP ndc psc MPhil Secretary, Ministry of Defence and State Ministry of National Security and Disaster Management Secretary Defence as the Chief Guest graced the event, together with a representative gathering of both serving and retired tri service Officers and Other Ranks, including Secretary to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Admiral Jayanath Colombage (Rtd), Secretary to the Ministry of Industries, General Daya Rathnayake (Rtd), Navy and Air Force Commanders, past Commanders, Officers and members of the diplomatic corps.

Remembrance Day also known as Poppy Day, Armistice Day (the event it commemorates) or Veterans' Day is a day to commemorate the sacrifices of members of the armed forces and of civilians in times of war, specifically since the World War I. It is observed on November 11 to recall the end of World War I on that date in 1918.





## 2 SLSR Troops with State Funds Gifted a New House for a Needy Family



A new house constructed for a needy family in Pupuressa, Gampola in the Doluwa Divisional Secretariat symbolically handed over to the beneficiaries on 30 October 2021. 2 (V) Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment troops of the 111 Infantry Brigade under the 11 Infantry Division of the Security Force Headquarters (Central) made the dream of the deserving family a reality. Hon Anuradha Jayarathna (MP), Major General K Liyanage RWP RSP ndu General Officer Commanding, 11 Infantry Division, Brigadier T M R B Rathnayake RWP RSP 111 Infantry Brigade Commander participated in the event.

Another new house erected on behalf of the deserving family in Matale District was warmed to the receiving family on 22 October 2021. The financial donorship for the house was extended by Mrs Thanuja Nadarajah and her family. More than Rs 6 00000.00 has spent for the construction. 11 Infantry Division, 111 Infantry Brigade military Officers and few government officials attended the house-warming ceremony.

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## 1 SLAGSC Marked Anniversary by Donating Essentials to Child Development Centre



1 Sri Lanka Army General Service Corps (SLAGSC), coincident with its 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary provided a stock of essentials including confectionery items for little children to the Leela Jayasekara Child Development Center at Moratuwa on 27 November 2021. The donation included dry rations, such as rice, dhal, green gram, spices, milk powder, etc and some confectioneries, needed for children. In addition, several essential sanitary equipment was also gifted to the Centre. Also a pair of crutches were gifted to the special need child of Non Commissioned Officer of 1 Sri Lanka Army General Service Corps (SLAGSC) under the patronage of Lieutenant Colonel C S Demuni Commanding Officer, 1 Sri Lanka Army General Service Corps, together with several Officers.



## Inter Regiment Chess Championship Tournament- 2021 at Pangolla

Inter Regiment Chess Championship Tournament - 2021 of disabled War Heroes got underway at the 'Abhimansala 3' at Pangolla during 17-19 November 2021 under the guidance and organisation of Colonel A H Wijegunawardene RSP Commandant Suwasahana Resortat Pangolla grandly.

Major General D B S N Bothota RWP RSP USP psc Chairman, Army Chess Committee, Brigadier I H M T H Senarathne USP Director Rehabilitation graced the event, together with several Senior Officers. The championship was conducted under individual and group categories.

S/ 329898 Corporal Dasanayake R D D S of Abhimansala 3 won the first place, S/472169 Sergeant Premalal D G M won the second place and S 419691 WO II Samantha K W A won the third place In the individual championship category respectively. Abhimansala 111 grabbed the championship of the Inter Regiment Chess Championship Tournament- 2021 during the second day and second place and third place were won by Ranaviru Sewana- Ragama and Abhimansala 11- Kamburupitiya Teams.



## 6 SLNG Troops Extended Helping Hand to Flood Victims



Troops of the 6 Sri Lanka National Guard (SLNG) in Mullaitivu under command to the 682 Brigade of the 68 Infantry Division under the Security Force HQ (Mullaitivu) provided meals to a group of families affected by minor floods after relocating them to safer places a few days ago. The Commanding Officer of the 6 Sri Lanka National Guard closely supervised the troops during the assistance process.





# ARMY WAR COLLEGE – BUTTALA

**A**rmey War College-Buttala, the premier training establishment of excellence for mastering stability, security, transition, reconstruction and peace operations at the strategic and operational level; formally known as Officer Career Development Centre – Buttala (OCDC), is renowned as a world class knowledge hub that focuses on the career progression of the officers of Sri Lanka Army. It is

at the suburbs of Buttala located in a rich heritage which covers 87 acres of piece of land.

This land had been chosen on behalf of the 14<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ‘Gam Udawa’, the programme of ‘Village Re-awakening’ in 1992. Then, the land was transferred to the University Grants Commission to begin an Affiliated University College. Later on the Buttala Affiliated University College (BAUC) had

been commissioned in the same premise under the new concept and commenced its functions on 21<sup>st</sup> June 1993. Then, with the expansion of the Affiliated University College, it developed into three fully fledged national universities in early 1996, and later these three colleges: Sabaragamuwa, Uva and Buttala were amalgamated to form the Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka and this land was chosen for the Applied Sciences Faculty of the new university. In March 2008, this faculty was relocated in the main university premises of Belihuloya.

Thereafter, this land had been abandoned and the plans were afoot to hold the Deyata Kirula National Exhibition which was declared open by the then President His Excellency Mahinda Rajapaksha on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2011 coinciding with the 63<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of independence. Subsequent to the exhibition, on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2011, then His Excellency the President handed over this land to Sri Lanka Army on its request to establish a training institution for officers serving in the armed forces. Thus, the preparatory work to form a training centre was entrusted to the Sri Lanka Military Academy, Diyathalawa since it was the nearest training centre of the Sri Lanka Army and the Army Headquarters formulated an organisational structure to function as an officer training institute.

Transforming an army, that is fully committed on a protracted counter terrorist campaign; to reach academic excellence in an overnight is impossible. The necessary military doctrines, concepts, tactics, techniques and procedures should be well understood, practised and followed by all army officers in order to be competent as career officers of a professional army. In order to reach professional competence, the demand for extending training with appropriate facilities led the basic foundation for the creation of





this premier training establishment. Based on that objectives, this envisioned institute was named as the Officer Career Development Centre and was declared open by the then President's Secretary Mr. Lalith Weerathunga under the motto "Service through Wisdom" and commenced its service to the nation on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2012.

The vision of this training establishment was to serve the nation as an educational centre of excellence for study on subjects of defence management and other related fields, creating an academic forum for sharing, gathering and discussing views and issues of relevance while promoting its professional standards par with international acclaim. Based on the above, this institution develops the academic knowledge of junior, middle grade and potential commanding officers including officers of the friendly foreign forces. Presently, this training centre conducts three courses: Junior Staff Course (JSC), Junior Command Course (JCC) and Senior Command Course (SCC) simultaneously thrice a year.

One of the key concerns of His Excellency President Gotabhaya Rajapaksa and Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army General Shavendra Silva are to nurture, train and sustain the Army. Thus, under their vision and direction,

decided to elevate this institution into the status of a 'War College' boosting of all training aspects to be on a par with the training standards of the contemporary armies in the South Asian Region and the world. Specifically, the introduction of Senior Command Course marks a significant milestone in the long run of grooming senior officers and it aims to enhance professional knowledge, competencies and skills of officers to assume responsibilities as battalion commanders with sound understanding on command, staff and administrative functions and procedures.

The Sri Lanka Army War College – Buttala educates and develops leaders for service at the strategic level while advancing knowledge in the global application of the military strength. It produces graduates from all courses who are skilled critical thinkers and complex problem solvers in the global application of Land power. Further, the college aims to provide high quality professional military education, aggressively conduct research, publish, engage in discourse, and war-game, conduct strategic leader development, attract, recruit and retain a high quality faculty and staff. The college helps develop senior leader competencies necessary for success in the contemporary operation environment that contribute to the development of senior leaders.

So, the entire spectrum of military training will be adjusted; hence, the strategic intent of the military training is focused on developing highly skilled, confident, well-motivated, tactically and technically proficient officers who are capable of protecting security interests of our country and its people. Thus, with this new transformation, the Sri Lanka Army can advance to reach its new destination towards achieving military professionalism.

The newly formed Army War College will continue its scope of work with a broad spectrum having well designed courses in order to nurture, train and sustain the Army. This training establishment endeavours to develop junior, middle grade and senior officers to be agile, adaptive, and innovative to accept any future challenge and to be competitive tactically and technically. It is achieved by deliberate career development programmes, soundly based on its core values and professional ethics.

Moreover, future military commanders will have to be ready to encounter advanced capabilities such as cyber, electronic warfare, robotics, and artificial intelligence. Therefore, the re-designation of Officer Career Development Centre as the Army War College will promote greater academic rigor, improve internal integration and enhance external collaboration with other military and civil training establishments to prepare military commanders to face any situation that emanates either by way of re-emergence of terrorism, violent extremism, disaster management, transnational crimes which include drug trafficking, human trafficking and sex slavery or other forms of hybrid threats.

From all these courses, a total number of 2148 Student Officers including 44 Student Officers of friendly foreign nations and two officers from Sri Lanka Navy and Sri



Lanka Air Force have been bestowed as professionally qualified officers. Since 23 January 2012, Officer Career Development Centre had been able to prove its excellence, by moulding a considerable number of junior, middle and senior level officers, to meet the demanding needs of military while confirming to the ethics of professionalism in tri services. Further, this prestigious institution has paid an extra effort, to upgrade the leadership, managerial and public relation qualities of the government sector, by providing its mission and the vision set with the grand strategic focus.

The approved organisational structure for the Army War College consist headquarters which is further divided under three main branches which are the General Staff Branch, Administrative and Quartering Branch and the Defence Study Branch while Major General D B S N Bothota is the Commandant of the institution. The Defence Studies Branch is further classified as Senior Command Wing, Junior Command Wing, Junior Staff Wing which focuses all training matters related to each course and the Academic Wing consists of the English Language Studies Cell and the Library. Apart from those, a fully-fledged Information Technology Section is also available to improve the Information Technology skills of those officers who are undergoing training.



The Army War College will focus basically on the changing strategic environment in the modern context. So, the entire spectrum of military training should also be adjusted; hence, the strategic intent of the military training is focused on developing highly skilled, confident, well-motivated, tactically and technically proficient officers who are capable of protecting security interests of our country and its people. Thus, with this new transformation, the Sri Lanka Army can advance to reach its new destination towards achieving military professionalism.

Moreover, future military commanders will have to be ready to encounter advanced capabilities such as cyber, electronic warfare, robotics, and artificial intelligence. Therefore, the re-designation of Officer Career Development Centre as the Army War College will promote greater academic rigor, improve internal integration and

enhance external collaboration with other military and civil training establishments to prepare military commanders to face any situation that emanates either by way of re-emergence of terrorism, violent extremism, disaster management, transnational crimes which include drug trafficking, human trafficking and sex slavery or other forms of hybrid threats. Further, the Higher Command Course will be introduced to the course curriculum in 2024 and it will be a compulsory prerequisite to hold command appointments at brigade level in the army.

Accordingly, the re-designation of this educational centre as Army War College is timely and, pertinent and it will definitely serve as a beacon of wisdom of the Sri Lanka Army.



*By Lieutenant  
Manohari Katugampola  
SLAGSC  
Directorate of Media*







## SL Army Services Rendered to the Nation during Pandemic

COVID-19 pandemic has spread in every corner of the world by affecting not only human lives but also the lives of animals too. It has made a huge impact on almost every main sector of the country; agriculture and live stocks, sports, technology innovations, manufacturing, welfare etc.

Introducing the new concept of 'living with COVID-19' directed people all over the globe to think broadly and adjust their lifestyles par with the avenues of the new system. The collapsed businesses of the world were re-opened and continue with work focusing on new challenges.

In the Sri Lankan context, with the country's situation turned into the new normalcy, experiencing the pros and cons of 'living with COVID-19', various industries commenced

their work to make a change in the downward arced economy.

Sri Lanka Army as the "Protectors of the Nation", giving a new meaning to 'living with COVID 19 concept' extends hands towards raising the future of the country following various ways and means under the direction of General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army.

Amidst the pandemic situation, Army being the largest, effective, efficient and most disciplined human resource entity, continued their role of duty towards the nation marching in a different avenue. The concept of bio-bubble was the foundation of the way forward of the multiple contributions of the Army to the nation.

### Quarantine Centres

The Army joined hands in constructing Quarantine Centres (QCs) at the preliminary stage of the pandemic and extensively extended the service with the constructions around the country. Not only constructing but facilitating those QCs with free meals, medicine, WIFI. In addition, providing special attention and caring by the troops giving priority to the differently-abled inmates and infants. Presently, 50 QCs are maintained by the Army.

### Intermediate Care Centres (ICC)

In strengthening the efforts of the government health sector, to provide adequate treatments to COVID-19 patients, the Army constructed, renovated and established



Intermediate Care Centres island-wide on small scale and a large scale such as centres in Iranawila and Brandix Seeduwa. Medical experts of the Sri Lanka Army together with the Ministry of Health Officials worked hard to save the nation from the pandemic.

### Vaccination Drive

To reduce the spread of the Coronavirus and to reduce the death rate, the vaccination process was started in the country on 29 January 2021. Medical experts of the Army together with the Officials and Public Health Inspectors of the government health sector carried out vaccination programmes vaccinating the front-line workers of the COVID 19 pandemic, employees of the Free Trade Zone, Education sector and the general public.

Enhancing the vaccination drive, Sri Lanka Army introduced new and different strategies such as Day Vaccination Centres, 24 hour Vaccination Centres, Mobile Vaccination Drive to serve the nation in a better way as the Protectors of the Nation.

### Thuru Mithuru Nawa Ratak

Even in a situation, the pandemic engulfed the whole country, the troops did not stop their contribution to the protection of the environment. Empowered by the concept 'Thuru Mithuru Nawa Ratak', the green drive of the Sri Lanka Army, the troops conducted tree planting programmes, shramadana campaigns around the country. Especially the removing the Xpress Perl Ship waste from the coastal belts by the troops of the Sri Lanka Army is commendable.

### New Innovations

With the emerge of the pandemic to the country, the troops shouldered the responsibility of making innovations concerning the prevention of the Coronavirus. The outcome of the

innovations lined up consisted of disinfection equipment, machines, vehicles developed to match with the requirements of COVID-19 preventive measures. These innovations helped to save the public money in the country. Sri Lanka Army Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Sri Lanka Signal Corps and Sri Lanka Engineers played a vital role in this regard.

### Disaster Relief Operations

Disasters, especially natural disasters do not care about the pandemic situation of the country. In the Sri Lankan context, apart from the COVID-19 pandemic, floods, landslides and bushfires challenged the day-to-day lives of the people worsening the situation. Nevertheless, the Sri Lanka Army, as a guardian angel behind the nation, has taken the lead in search and rescue operations, bush fire distinguishing operations.

### Blood Donation Campaigns

The troops of the Sri Lanka Army, not only dropped their sweat for the betterment of the nation but donated their blood fulfilling the national requirement that emerged during the pandemic situation. In doing so they did not bother about the nationality, religion or caste of the receiver of the blood, they care only to save a life of a needy from point Pedro to Point Dewundara.

### Dry ration and other items donating campaigns

Pandemic hurts all the Sri Lankans in many ways. But the helping hand of the Sri Lanka Army was there at all the time to heal the people by providing dry rations and sanitary items to the doorstep when they required. The drinking water facility is also provided by the troops to the needy families in drought-affected areas.

### Assisting Senior Citizens

Senior citizens of the country can be considered as the roots of the nation. Hence, without forgetting the contribution they provided for the country, the troops of the Sri Lanka Army, during the pandemic, carefully assisted the senior citizens to collect their monthly pensions. It is by providing transport facilities from their doorsteps to relevant banks or post offices. Vehicles of the Sri Lanka Army and buses of Sri Lanka Transport Board (SLTB) were utilized for this purpose.

### Housing projects for the Needy

Sri Lanka Army was always with the view of, 'pandemic cannot beat our motivation.' Even with abundance of commitments, they did not stop completing the housing projects for the needy families around the island including northern and eastern areas.

### Disinfection Programmes

To decrease the spreading of the COVID-19 virus among the public, several disinfection programmes were carried out around the public places by the Army troops. Especially the places such as bazaars, railway stations, bus stands, banks around the country were disinfected around the clock. People were highly benefited by these disinfection programmes, in attending their day to day requirements.

### Roadblocks and Security

During the period of quarantine curfew, Army troops gave their fullest cooperation to the Sri Lanka Police to maintain the law and order of the country. In addition, the rider teams of the Sri Lanka Army conducted patrolling around the country, ensuring the security and the safety of the public.

### Agriculture and Livestock

When carrying out duties, Sri Lanka



Army, by nature, acts with foresight. Hence even under the pandemic situation, the Army continues the cultivation of paddy, vegetables, wheat, coconut, chilly and turmeric. Also dairy products like fresh milk, pasteurized milk, curd, layer chickens, eggs and fruits like mango, papaya and banana.

### Nation Building Programmes

Pandemic situations, natural disasters, or any other form of obstacle will not be able to stop the forward march of the troops of the Sri Lanka Army. The Corps of Engineers Services including all the others rendering a meticulous service for the nation-building tasks. Following the directions of HE the President, under the concept of 'vitas of prosperity and splendour' they played a vital role by carrying out road constructions for needy villagers (Lankagama), play-ground and

building constructions at schools, tank renovations for farming etc.

### How the Army spear-headed all of these directions at one time?

The simple answer is DISCIPLINE. Yes, indeed discipline made them stay in their respective bio bubbles and it proved its value with real tangible and intangible outcomes.

Under the direction of General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army, Major General Priyantha Perera Chief of Staff, Major General Sampath Kotuwegoda Deputy Chief of Staff, Commandant Sri Lanka Army Volunteer Force, Commanders of the Security Force Headquarters, Colonel Commandants and Colonels of the Regiments, Division Commanders, Brigade Commanders, Commanding

Officers, all Officers and Other Ranks are the stake-holders of all the said outcomes.

The pandemic situation is still prevailing in the country fluctuating the affected rate and the death rate. But the efforts and the contribution of the Sri Lanka Army towards the Nation in eradicating the Coronavirus is remaining unchanged. Discipline, training and professionalism of the troops of Sri Lanka Army will make a better future for the nation by proving the complete meaning of the phrase, "Protectors of the Nation".



By Captain Nisal Rukshan  
SLSR  
Directorate of Media

## Service Corps Basketball Players Became Champions of the Year



The Army Inter Regiment Basketball Championship - 2021 finals (3x3) got underway during 28 - 30 November 2021 at Panagoda Army Indoor Stadium. Major General W L P W Perera RWP RSP ndu Chairman, Sri Lanka Army Sports Committee and Sri Army Basketball Committee who is also the Chief of Staff graced the final awarding event as the Chief Guest.

For this year's championship, 28 teams representing 15 Regiments of the Army competed with one another and the tournament was meant to select the best of the best for the Army and National Basketball Pool. This year's Championship was grabbed by players in the Sri Lanka Army Service Corps. The 2<sup>nd</sup> place went to the Sri Lanka Signal Corps and the 3<sup>rd</sup> place was won by Sri Lanka National Guard players. The day's Chief Guest after the finals, together with a few other invited senior Officers gave away awards, trophies and certificates to the winners. Senior Officers, including Commander, Security Forces (West) and Deputy Commandant Sri Lanka Army Volunteer Force attended the final event.



# Ranaviruwa Extends Heartiest Wishes for the Newly Appointed Officers



**Major General  
H L V M Liyanage RWP RSP  
ndu**  
assumed duties as the Chief of  
Staff of the Sri Lanka Army  
on 09 December 2021



**Major General  
T J Kodithuwakku RWP RSP  
ndu**  
assumed duties as Deputy  
Chief of Staff of the Sri Lanka  
Army  
on 21 December 2021



**Major General  
C D Weerasuriya RWP RSP  
ndu**  
assumed duties as the  
Commandant, Sri Lanka Army  
Volunteer Force  
on 15 December 2021



**Major General  
I H M N N Herath RSP USP psc**  
assumed duties as the Colonel  
Commandant  
Sri Lanka Corps of Engineers  
on 24 December 2021



**Major General  
D G S Senarathya RWP RSP  
ndu**  
assumed duties as the  
Commander, Security Force  
Headquarters (Jaffna)  
on 17 December 2021



**Major General  
W A S S Wanasinghe RSP  
USP ndu**  
assumed duties as the Colonel  
Commandant Sri Lanka  
Artillery  
on 23 December 2021



**Major General  
S U M N Manage WWV RWP  
RSP psc**  
assumed duties as the Director  
General General Staff of  
Army Headquarters  
on 13 December 2021



**Major General  
W M G C S B Wijayasundera  
RSP USP ndu**  
assumed duties as the Chief  
Field Engineer  
on 27 December 2021



**Major General  
K Liyanage RWP RSP ndu**  
assumed duties as the  
Commander Security Forces  
(West)  
on 16 December 2021



**Major General  
D G Hewage RSP**  
assumed duties as the Director  
General Infantry  
on 21 December 2021



**Major General  
P M L Chandrasiri WWV RWP  
RSP ndu**  
assumed duties as the  
Commander, Security Force  
Headquarters (East)  
on 15 December 2021  
also assumed duties as the  
Colonel of the Regiment,  
Gemunu Watch  
on 08 December 2021



**Major General  
D B S N Bothota RWP RSP USP  
psc**  
assumed duties as the General  
Officer Commanding,  
61 Infantry Division  
on 16 December 2021





**Major General  
M K Jayawardena RSP  
USP ndu**  
assumed duties as the  
Commander, Engineer Division,  
Sri Lanka Corps of Engineers  
on 22 December 2021



**Major General  
L D S S Liyanage RSP USP psc  
Hdmc**  
assumed duties as General  
Officer Commanding,  
56 Infantry Division  
on 20 December 2021



**Major General  
P S K Sanjeeva RWP RSP USP**  
assumed duties as General  
Officer Commanding,  
11 Infantry Division  
on 16 December 2021



**Brigadier  
E A P Ediriweera RWP**  
assumed duties as the Director  
Directorate of Recruiting  
on 23 December 2021



**Brigadier  
S A Kulathunga RWP RSP  
USP psc**  
assumed duties as the Director  
Directorate of Planning  
on 14 December 2021



**Brigadier  
J M R N K Jayamanna RWP**  
assumed duties as the  
Commandant, Combat Training  
School  
on 24 December 2021



**Brigadier  
I H M R K Herath USP psc**  
assumed duties as the  
Director of the Future  
Planning and Implementation  
on 09 December 2021



**Brigadier  
V D S Perera**  
assumed duties as the Brigadier  
General Staff, Security Force  
Headquarters (Jaffna)  
on 20 December 2021



**Brigadier  
A M A Abewardana WWV RWP  
RSP**  
assumed duties as the  
Commander, 533 Infantry  
Brigade  
on 21 December 2021



**Colonel  
S W R Prasanna RWP RSP USP**  
assumed duties as the  
Commander,  
573 Infantry Brigade  
on 25 November 2021



**Colonel  
M A D S Munsinghe RWP RSP  
psc IG**  
assumed duties as the  
Commander, 541 Infantry  
Brigade  
on 17 December 2021



**Colonel  
B M A Balasooriya RSP USP psc**  
assumed duties as the Colonel,  
General Staff of General Staff  
Branch  
on 16 December 2021



**Colonel  
M B L Perera RSP USP psc**  
assumed duties as the Colonel  
General Staff of  
Security Force Headquarters  
(West)  
on 14 November 2021



**Colonel  
M J Ubeseekara RSP psc**  
assumed duties as the Colonel  
General Staff,  
Security Force Headquarters  
(Central)  
on 20 December 2021



# 1 Corps at Kilinochchi Educated Officers on Internal Security



A two-day workshop on 'Military in Internal Security Operations' (MISO) initiated by the Directorate of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights under the guidance of the Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army got underway at the 1 Corps Headquarters at Iranamadu, Kilinochchi during 25 and 26 November 2021. 40 senior Officers participated in the workshop representing Headquarters 1 Corps, 53 Infantry Division, Forward Maintenance Area-Kilinochchi, Commando Brigade, Special Forces Brigade, 8 Sri Lanka Artillery Regiment and 9 Sri Lanka Signal Corps. The session was conducted by Regional Arms and Security Forces Delegate Brigadier (Red) Jacques Lemay and Mr Channa Jayawardena, representing the International Committee of Red Cross.



**COMPUTER FONTS, COVER DESIGN AND PAGE LAYOUT**

S/ 752158 WO11 Senarathna GC - 3 CES

S/ 753797 Cpl Kumarasinghe MGAM - 11 CES

S/ 754676 L/Cpl Lakthilina WR - 11 CES

## RANAVIRUWA ADDRESS

Ranaviruwa  
Directorate of Psychological Operations  
Army Headquarters  
Sri Jayawardenepura, Sri Lanka.

## EMAIL

dtepsyops@army.lk  
ranaviruwa@yahoo.com

## TELEPHONE

+ 94 011 2993076

## ARMY MICRO

51445/51446

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Directorate of Psychological Operations  
Sri Lanka Army



## SUPERVISION

Brigadier AHLG Amarapala  
RWP RSP ndc psc



## ADVISOR

Lieutenant Colonel DMM Dissanayake  
RWP MIR



## RANAVIRUWA EDITOR

Lieutenant Colonel EAA Sujith Chaminda  
SLAGSC



## ENGLISH TRANSLATOR

Captain KVN Lakmali  
SLAGSC



## Commander Addressed the Graduates of Defence Services Command and Staff College (DSCSC) at Sapugaskanda



Following the deep rooted tradition, General Shavendra Silva WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army delivered an customary address for the undergraduates following 'psc' (passed staff college) Course No-15 at the Defence Services Command and Staff College (DSCSC) at Sapugaskanda on 08 December 2021.

The Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army expressing his thoughts on Role of Armed Forces in the Contemporary Security Landscape elucidated that the today's multifaceted and complex security challenges demand more systematic, comprehensive and interwoven approaches and lines of operations rather than mere direct use of military force.





## War Memoir



## Come to Walk with Me

*Healing the split hearts of hatred  
Raising the sprouts of hope and goodness  
Sharing the solidarity, love and friendship  
Come and see our land Heroes saved*

*Sounds of weapons dominated the air  
Had no courage to see through there  
Dawning peace with just and fair  
Rejoiced barefoot move happily there*



Christmas did not reach the peace yearn corners though it was the true meaning of it. Only the fear and uncertainty filled their lives. However that pathetic era was permanently removed dawning era of peace and hope. This bunch of happy kids enjoys the walking barefoot freed roads in 2009 exhibiting the true essence of the liberty they gained.