



IRONSIDE

**30 YEARS HISTORY OF
5TH RECONNAISSANCE REGIMENT
SRI LANKA ARMoured CORPS
1994 - 2024**





5TH RECONNAISSANCE REGIMENT
30 YEARS OF HISTORY

1994 - 2024

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The creation of this comprehensive History Book would not have been possible without the invaluable assistance and unwavering encouragement of many individuals who guided and motivated the editorial team throughout this journey. At the outset, we extend our sincere and heartfelt gratitude to all the Senior Officers, Officers and Other Ranks who have contributed to this endeavour.

We owe a special debt of gratitude to Major General N A Ranasinghe (Rtd) RSP VSV USP ndc psc Isc, the 'Father of the Regiment', and Maj General M S Devapriya USP ndc, the Colonel Commandant of the Sri Lanka Armoured Corps. Their guidance and the sharing of their invaluable experiences were instrumental in the preparation of this comprehensive and analytical History Book, which details the establishment of the 5th Reconnaissance Regiment of SLAC and its 30 years of dedicated service to the Sri Lanka Army and the Nation.

Additionally, we extend our sincere thanks to the following Senior Officers of 5 SLAC, who generously shared their insights, knowledge and real-time battle experiences during the compilation of this History Book. Without the guidance and support of the following Senior Officers, the editorial team would not have been able to produce such an informative and comprehensive History Book.

Major General M P Peiris (Rtd) RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc Mphil

Major General N Udawatta (Rtd) WWV RSP VSV USP ndc psc Mphil

Lieutenant Colonel G J S Piyatunga (Rtd) RSP

Brigadier R G U Rajapakshe (Rtd) RSP psc BSc (DS) KDA MSc (DS) KELANIYA MASS (NDU) WASHINGTON DC

Major General (Dr.) A L P S Tillekerathne (Rtd) RWP RSP USP PhD MCPS PGDHRM psc

(Late) Major S A U Nanayakkara

Lieutenant Colonel N P Samarakoon (Rtd) RSP USP

Major General M S Devapriya USP ndc

Brigadier T C Harasgama RSP

Colonel T A M K De Silva (Rtd) RSP USP psc

Colonel W A I S Mendis RSP USP

Colonel D K S M Kariyawasam USP

Lieutenant Colonel W A W T Sujith RWP psc

Major L B K Pussadeniya (Rtd) RWP

The Editorial Team of the History Book, under the leadership and supervision of Lieutenant Colonel A K Gamage psc, the Commanding Officer of the 5th Reconnaissance Regiment, worked tirelessly from the inception of this project to bring this book to fruition. The dedication made by the following Officers were very helpful for accomplishment and successful completion of this first ever History Book of the 5th Reconnaissance Regiment of Sri Lanka Armoured Corps;

O/66281 Maj K G J O Kariyawasam RSP USP psc

O/70323 Maj D M U D Dissanayaka

O/71524 Capt D A G S N Karunaratne

O/71554 Capt M E K N Enderage

C/86085 2/Lt D J G R Jayawardhana

C/86860 2/Lt M A Jayarathne

We are also profoundly grateful to the Centre Commandant and the Commander Armoured Brigade for their valuable guidance and support in locating relevant documents and providing accurate details essential for the completion of this History Book. Additionally, we are fortunate to have received constant encouragement, support and guidance from all the Officers of 5 SLAC, who were instrumental in the successful completion of this History Book. We also extend our sincere regards to all Ranks of 5 SLAC for their timely and valuable support.

Finally, we extend our deepest and most unreserved appreciation to the War Heroes of the 5th Reconnaissance Regiment of SLAC. Their actions and sacrifices have etched a respectable and honourable history, one that we are privileged to chronicle and celebrate after decades. These courageous individuals gave up their tomorrow for future generations and for the enduring freedom of our Motherland. Their legacy of valour and dedication remains a beacon of inspiration to all of us.

DEDICATION

This History Book is dedicated with deep respect and gratitude to the brave souls, who selflessly sacrificed their lives and those who had been wounded in the noble act, of protecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of our beloved Motherland. Their courage and unwavering commitment to duty stand as a testament to the enduring spirit of our Nation.

We also honour and extend our heartfelt appreciation to all the individuals who have played a crucial role in the creation, development and continual strengthening of the 5th Reconnaissance Regiment. Their tireless efforts, perseverance and dedication have forged a legacy of excellence and resilience that will inspire future generations.

May their sacrifices, contributions and the values they embody continue to guide and inspire us in our pursuit of peace, security and unity. This book stands as a humble tribute to their heroic deeds and enduring legacy.



CONTENT

Foreword from Commanding Officer	v
By Lieutenant Colonel A K Gamage psc.....	
Message from the Colonel Commandant	vi
By Major General M S Devapriya USP ndc.....	
Message from the Commander Armoured Brigade	vii
By Brigadier A A D P Kulathilaka USP ndc psc.....	
Message from the Centre Commandant	viii
By Brigadier A P C R Premathilake RSP USP ndc.....	
Chapter 1	01
Introduction.....	
Chapter 2	05
Role as a Reinforcement Unit.....	
Chapter 3	11
Induction of the Regiment into the Battlefield.....	
Chapter 4	19
The Role and impact of the 5 th Reconnaissance Regiment in Humanitarian Operations in the Northern and Eastern regions.....	
Chapter 5	52
Post-operation role and responsibilities of the 5 th Reconnaissance Regiment in Humanitarian Contexts.....	
Chapter 6	75
Achievements of 5 th Reconnaissance Regiment in the Field of Sports.....	
Chapter 7	79
Gallantry Awards & Distinguished Medals	
Chapter 8	84
Roll of Honour of the 5 th Reconnaissance Regiment.....	
Chapter 9	87
Past and Present Appointment Holders.....	
Chapter 10	97
Profiles of Commanding Officers of the 5 th Reconnaissance Regiment.....	
Bibliography.....	126

FOREWORD FROM COMMANDING OFFICER



By
Lieutenant Colonel A K Gamage psc
Commanding Officer, 5th Reconnaissance Regiment

It is indeed a deep honour to serve as the Commanding Officer of this prestigious Regiment on the occasion of unveiling the History Book of the 5th Reconnaissance Regiment. This History Book is set to become a vital reference, offering insight into all the significant events of the 5th Reconnaissance Regiment over the past 30 years.

Despite the challenges posed by our Regimental commitments, we have endeavored to produce this book as a retrospective of 5th Reconnaissance Regiment. This comprehensive history guarantees a detailed account of the challenges and hardships the Regiment has faced since its inception. It documents how the Regiment has combated ruthless enemies and highlights the resilience and bravery of our valiant tankers in their efforts to eradicate terrorism from our homeland. The book provides a thorough overview of the Regiment's transformation from a reinforcement unit to a classic one.

I take this opportunity to salute all the Gallant Heroes who sacrificed their lives to protect the territorial integrity and sovereignty of our Motherland. Their memories are preserved within the chapters of this History Book. A perusal of the various articles and photographs will offer an accurate impression of their valour and dedication. I hope that the history recorded in this book will be of significant value, guiding the Regiment towards a brighter future in terms of strength and achievement.

I extend my sincere appreciation to the President and members of the Editorial Board and to all who contributed in various ways to make this project a success. The tireless and consistent efforts of the Editorial Board have culminated in the effective presentation of this masterpiece. Every Squadron of the Regiment has shown keen interest in providing their inputs, enriching the content and enhancing the visual appeal of the History Book.

Finally, I extend my best wishes to all the past and Serving Officers, men and their families and the civilian staff who have contributed to the success of the 5th Reconnaissance Regiment over the past 30 years and for the years to come. May this History Book serve as a testament to their dedication and an inspiration for future achievements.

MESSAGE FROM THE COLONEL COMMANDANT



I have utmost pleasure in penning these words as a message to the occasion of the disclosure of the History Book of the 5th Reconnaissance Regiment, as the Colonel Commandant of the Sri Lanka Armoured Corps. I am grateful for the valued toil exerted by the proud Regiment during 30 years of long span years, which bore testimony to the high standard of credibility and visibility.

Being a Cavalry Regiment, number of fearless War Heroes during the course of the 30 years sacrificed their valuable lives, sweat and blood to rescue the Motherland as a human shield to enable all the Sri Lankans to enjoy the present day's spirits of freedom. This Regiment itself made more life sacrifices in the battlefield during times of warfare. The freedom thus gained should be shared not by exaggerated glorification or through mere rhetoric and hyperbole but by showing our sentiments of deep gratitude to all War Heroes for the selfless contribution and supreme sacrifices made for the protection of our country's unitary status. I salute the families of all the Officers and Other Ranks for their incomparable commitments and dedications made in honour and respect of this Regiment.

My utmost pleasure and sincere appreciation are hereby paid to all Officers and Other Ranks for their conscientious personality of high caliber and professionalism displayed in a manner of befitting its motto 'Whither the Fates Call' which led the way towards the zenith of success for glittering future.

May you all have the strength and courage to uphold the glorious of the traditions of the 5th Reconnaissance Regiment to reach greater heights in all future endeavors.

M S DEVAPRIYA USP ndc
Major General
Colonel Commandant

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDER ARMoured BRIGADE



I consider it's a great pleasure and pride to send this message to the History Book of the 5th Reconnaissance Regiment as the Commander of Armoured Brigade.

With the inception of the Cavalry Regiment, 5th Reconnaissance Regiment has rendered invaluable service in safeguarding the territorial integrity and sovereignty of our motherland over three decades. During the period the Regiment accomplished the highest achievements by what was Commended by many Superiors. It is high time for the Regiment to glance retrospectively to gather all lessons learnt and compile them into a document which could be spared for future generations.

Also, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Officers and Soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice to our motherland, and I always pray for the speedy recovery of all heroic Soldiers who were injured during the battle.

I express my great honour and sincere gratitude to all past Commanding Officers, Second in Commands and all Squadron Commanders for their visionary leadership and unwavering contribution towards the improvement of the Regiment where it is today.

Behind every story in this book, there were many heroes of all the ranks who made tremendous efforts. Some of them sacrificed their lives and were injured. Without them the stories compiled in this book would not have been existed.

Finally, I wish success and good luck to all the retired and serving Officers and Other Rankers of the 5th Reconnaissance Regiment, in their future endeavours.

A A D P KULATHILAKA USP ndc psc
Brigadier
Commander Armoured Brigade

MESSAGE FROM THE CENTRE COMMANDANT



It gives me immense pleasure and pride to pen down a message as the Centre Commandant of Sri Lanka Armoured Corps on the occasion of disclosing the History Book of the 5th Reconnaissance Regiment.

Being in the capacity of the Centre Commandant of the Sri Lanka Armoured Corps, I am humbly proud of the 5th Reconnaissance Regiment for the recognition it has gained over the 30 years for its unparalleled contribution towards the development of the country and well-being of the public. The 5th Reconnaissance Regiment has come a long way in its desire to achieve the best.

It is indeed that by referring this valuable History Book, we will be able to identify the challenges and hardships which the 5th Reconnaissance Regiment came across since its inception. The future of 5th Reconnaissance Regiment will be yet more demanding and challenging for them and their saga is well reflected throughout the chapters of this History Book. I believe, all will find interesting to read this book while finding how active the troops were in the past.

Let me take this opportunity, with a profound honour and respect to pay my tribute to all War Heroes of the 5th Reconnaissance Regiment who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty for the safeguard of Motherland. Moreover, I salute the families of all the Officers and Other Ranks for their incomparable commitments and dedication made in honour and respect of this Regiment. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all the past Commanding Officers, Second in Commands, Squadron Commanders, Officers and Other Ranks who dedicated their commitments to uplift the Regiment and to keep the 5th Reconnaissance Regiment flag flying high throughout the last 30 years.

Finally, I wish the 5th Reconnaissance Regiment every success in all its future endeavours.

A P C R PREMATILAKA RSP USP ndc
Brigadier
Centre Commandant

INTRODUCTION

5th Reconnaissance Regiment SLAC is celebrating its proud 30th Anniversary in the year 2024. As a Unit this book is published to record this significant milestone in the continuing saga of the raising of 5th Reconnaissance Regiment. In late 1993, due to necessity of having more Armoured Fighting Vehicles on the Battlefield, a decision was taken by the then Commander of the Army; to raise the 5th Regiment of Sri Lanka Armoured Corps. Unfolding a much-awaited chapter in the history of the Armoured Corps, 5th Reconnaissance Regiment was formed as a reinforcement unit to be deployed initially in the Infantry role. The Regiment was officially raised on 6th January 1994. Today, the 5th Reconnaissance Regiment serves with pride of Sri Lanka Armoured Corps with a sense of dedication and commitment towards achieving any assigned tasks with high standards.

During the Premiership of Sir John Kotelawala, a decision was taken to begin the creation of an Armoured Squadron within the erstwhile Ceylon Army. As a result of this National policy decision, the raising of the initial Squadron of the 1st Reconnaissance Regiment was officially published as an Army Order, on the 6th Anniversary of the Ceylon Army on 10th October 1955. The deep honour and extreme privilege of raising the Squadron was bestowed upon Major Don Sepala Attygalle MVO psc. Consequently, the 3rd Reconnaissance Regiment was raised on 16th November 1988, and 4th Armoured Regiment on 24th September 1991 according to the intense Battlefield requirements of the Army.



Source: Regimental Headquarters Sri Lanka Armoured Corps

Major D S Attygalle MVO psc
‘Father of SLAC’.

In late 1993, due to the necessity of having more AFVs (Armoured Fighting Vehicles) on the Battlefield, a decision was taken by the Commander of the Army, Lieutenant General L D C E Waidyaratne VSV ndc psc to raise the 5th Regiment of Sri Lanka Armoured Corps (5 SLAC). 5 SLAC was formed as a reinforcement unit to be deployed initially in the infantry role.

The Commander of the Army had then chosen Lieutenant Colonel N A Ranasinghe RSP USP psc who had just returned from the Malaysian Armed Forces Staff College to be the first Commanding Officer of this new unit, on the recommendation of Brigadier T N De Silva USP, the then Regimental Commander of Sri Lanka Armoured Corps at that time.



Source: Regimental Headquarters 5th Reconnaissance Regiment Sri Lanka Armoured Corps

Lieutenant Colonel N A Ranasinghe RSP USP psc,
The First CO Hoisted the Flag of the New Unit.

The Regiment was officially raised at the auspicious time of 0640 hour on Thursday 6th January 1994 at Rock House Camp Colombo 15, by Lieutenant Colonel N A Ranasinghe RSP USP psc. During the initial stage of the 5th Regiment, the Second in Command was Major U A B Medawela and the Adjutant was Captain W A D D Wijesooriya.

The total strength of the Regiment on its raising day was 18 Officers and 227 Other Ranks. Within a fortnight another 11 Officers and 515 newly passed out recruits from the Infantry Training Centre, Minneriya joined the Regiment. By the third week of January 1994, when the entire unit was deployed in the Trincomalee District, 5th Regiment had a total strength of 29 Officers and 742 Other Ranks. 5th Regiment changed its role from reinforcement to classic in August 1994, with the arrival of BMPs (MK I, MK II and ARV) to Sri Lanka from Ukraine. Consequently, 5 SLAC was redeployed in September 1994 as two Squadrons were required for Security duties in Colombo. This was to provide security to Her Excellency the President of Sri Lanka at the Temple Trees, whilst the balance two Squadrons undertook conversion training on BMPs in Trincomalee. With the arrival of T63-11 AFVs in the Port of Colombo on 29th September 1995, 5 SLAC got its full complement of 48 AFVs.

Later, the 'A' Squadron was taken off duties in Colombo and all three full Squadrons took part in the next operation. Up to that time, 'Operation Riviresa' which was fought from 17th October 1995 to the end of May 1996, was the largest operation at that time to liberate the City of Jaffna initially, and subsequently the entire Jaffna peninsula from the LTTE. The Sri Lankan Armed Forces conducted a series of operations in Jaffna theatre by involving Armour.



Source: Captain A L R Silva (Rtd)-5 SLAC

Seated from L to R:- Capt W A D D Wijesooriya (Adjutant), Capt K G Senevirathne (OC C Sqn), Maj U A B Medawela (Second in Command), Lt Col N A Ranasinghe RSP USP psc (Commanding Officer), Brig T N De Silva (Regimental Commander), Brig P A Karunatilleka (Brigade Commander), Maj (QM) R M Punchibanda (OC HQ Sqn), Capt K S Perera (OC D Sqn), Lt (QM) N S Jayawardena.

Standing from L to R:- 2/Lt T A M K De Silva, 2/Lt W K C Perera, 2/Lt D M A B Pussella, 2/Lt A K H Ekanayake, 2/Lt M W S Marapana, 2/Lt B K A P Dareeju, 2/Lt A Ameer, 2/Lt W M S B Wewegama, 2/Lt ISC Karunarathne, 2/Lt M G R Bandara, 2/Lt A L R Silva.

Photograph with the Regimental Commander of SLAC Brigadier T N De Silva, The Commander of the Armoured Brigade, Brigadier P A Karunatilleke, CO 5 SLAC Lieutenant Colonel Neranjan Ranasinghe with the original 18 Officers of 5 SLAC.

Key appointment holders at the inception of 5 SLAC;

CO	- Lt Col N A Ranasinghe RSP USP psc
2IC	- Maj U A B Medawela
Adjt	- Capt W A D D Wijesuriya
OC HQ	- Maj (QM) R M Punchibanda
OC A	- Maj P P G C Siriwardana
OC B	- Capt L B K Pussadeniya
OC C	- Capt K S Perera
OC D	- Capt K G Senevirathna
Tech Adjt	- Maj (QM) M E D Perera
QM	- Lt (QM) N S Jayawardana
RSM	- WO II Hemachandra S H S
TSM	- S/Sgt Mendis T W



5 ශ්‍රී ලංකා/සා/22 (01)

රෙජිමේන්තු ආඥාපති - ශ්‍රී ලංකා

5 වන රෙජිමේන්තුව
ශ්‍රී ලංකා සන්නාහ සන්නද්ධ බලකාය
රොක්කවුස් ඇවුර
මෝදර - නොලඹ 15

1994 ජනවාරි මස 06 දින

5 වන රෙජිමේන්තුව ස්ථාපනය කිරීම

තොප්පි:

අ. අංක 33/93 හා 1993 සැප්තැම්බර් මස 03 දින දරණ ප්‍රදාන
විධිමත් නියෝගය සැලකිල්ලට.

1. තොප්පි නියෝගයන්ට අනුකූලව ශ්‍රී ලංකා සන්නාහ සන්නද්ධ බලකායේ
5 වන රෙජිමේන්තුව 1994 ජනවාරි මස 06 දින 0624 පැයට පැවැත් සුභ
මොහොතේ රොක්කවුස් ඇවුරේදී ස්ථාපනය කර බැව් තහවුරු වෙමින් දන්වා
සිටිමි.

එන් ඒ රත්නසිංහ
ලුක්කන් තර්නල්
අනුදෙන නිලධාරී

පිටපත:
සන්නද්ධ බලකොටුවකි

Source: Major General N A Ranasinghe (Rtd) RSP VSV USP ndc psc Isc

Letter signed by Lieutenant Colonel N A Ranasinghe RSP USP psc,
during on raising of the Regiment.



Source: Regimental Headquarters 5th Reconnaissance Regiment Sri Lanka Armoured Corps

Photograph of CO 5 SLAC Lieutenant Colonel N A Ranasinghe RSP USP psc,
Officers, Warrant Officers and Senior Non-Commissioned
Officers on the day of Raising 5 SLAC on 6th January 1994.

5 SLAC made a very significant and an immense contribution in Operations such as 'Lighting Strike', Operation 'Shake Hand I, II, III', 'Akunun Pahara', 'Riviresa I, II, III', 'Sathjaya I, II, III', 'Jayasikurui', 'Lagoon Thunder', 'Whirl Wind', 'Ralapahara', 'Kinihira', 'Rivikirana', 'Agnikeela' and provided impact on deterrence to the LTTE who had launched Operation 'Unceasing Waves' (Army, Operation *Kinihira I-IX*, 2000).

ROLE AS A REINFORCEMENT UNIT

This chapter is devoted to comprehensive descriptions of initial deployment, role as reinforcement unit and its transformation from reinforcement to classic role. Most specific and significant details are discussed during this chapter to highlight the RFT role of 5th Reconnaissance Regiment.

INITIAL DEPLOYMENT

Raising of 5 SLAC was an unprecedented step in the history of the Sri Lanka Armoured Corps, as it was the first time that the SLAC was required to form and deploy a Regiment in the Infantry role.

The first deployment of the new Regiment was in the Trincomalee District. Four Sabre Squadrons were located at the 'Monkey Bridge Camp' in Trincomalee District on 25th January 1994. The RHQ and all four Sabre Squadrons left for Monkey Bridge on 25th January 1994 whilst the 'HQ' Squadron under Major (QM) R M Punchi Banda was moved to, and established itself at Batalanda Army Camp in Makola South. By the end of January 1994, the entire Regiment was placed under Command to 22 Brigade and deployed on Operational duties as follows;

'Tactical HQ'	-	Nilaveli.
'A' Squadron	-	Gomarankadawala Sector.
'B' Squadron	-	Thiriyaya-Kallarawa Sector.
'C' Squadron	-	Irakkandi-Kumburupiddi Sector.
'D' Squadron	-	Kuchchaveli-Salapearu Sector.

On 8th April 1994, the unit suffered its first casualty in S/101498 Trooper Wijekoon Banda A M. He was Killed in Action (KIA) whilst performing duties at a Forward Observation Post in Kumburupiddi. He was the first Soldier of 5th Regiment of SLAC who sacrificed his life to safeguard the sovereignty and the territorial integrity of the Nation.

A few days earlier, Rec/86082 Wijetunga P G had died in an unfortunate incident on 1st April 1994, due to an attack by a wild elephant whilst engaged in picketing duties at Pangurugaswewa in the Gomarankadawala Sector. 5 SLAC troops were mainly involved in pacification operations in the East which was the highest priority of the Government Military Strategy at that time.

Second Lieutenant U K Wickramarachchi, Second Lieutenant I D N S Ilangakoon, Second Lieutenant L S D N Pathirathne, Second Lieutenant I M S S Ilangkoon and Second Lieutenant A K Peiris were the first batch of new Officers to join 5 SLAC, in April 1994.

5 SLAC DEPLOYMENT IN BATTICALOA DISTRICT

In mid-April 1994, the Unit was transferred to Batticaloa District and placed under Command to 4 Brigade. The Commanding Officer of 5 SLAC was appointed as the Sector Commander for Chenkaladi on 14th April 1994. The Unit was deployed as follows:

'Tactical HQ'	-	Chenkaladi.
'A' Squadron	-	Karadiyanaru and Marapalam Sector.
'B' Squadron	-	Mylambavely, Thamparaveli and Sathurukondan Sector.
'C' Squadron	-	Sithandy and Kaluvankerny Sector.
'D' Squadron	-	Iluppadichenai and Punkunaveli Sector.

SECURITY DUTIES AT TEMPLE TREES

In September 1994, 5 SLAC RHQ was deployed at Batalanda Camp and 'C' Squadron was deployed in Temple Trees for VVIP security duties. 'C' Squadron was shifted to Colombo and entrusted with the security of the "Temple Trees" with effect from 21st September 1994, thus becoming the Pioneers of the Presidential Security Unit, which was officially established later, on 14th February 1996.

Later 'A' Squadron then deployed at Mollipathana was relieved and they joined with the 'C' Squadron on VIP duties at 'Temple Trees' on 11th April 1995. Colonel D V S Y Kulatunga psc who was the Center Commandant of SLAC was appointed as the Security Coordinating Officer of President Security Unit (PSU) and all troops belonging to 'A' and 'C' Squadrons came under his command. He appointed Captain A L P S Tillekerathne as the Officer Commanding 'A' Squadron. All troops attached to the PSU were initially housed within the premises of 'Temple Trees', then at 'Ackland House' and finally at Union Place, Colombo 2. Due to the threat that existed at that time, Anti-Aircraft weapons positions were established by SLAC troops. This was the first time in Sri Lanka that such weapons were deployed against a possible threat from the air, after World War II era.

The unit was tasked to provide security for General Elections on 16th August 1994 and Presidential Elections that followed on 9th November in the same year. Receipt of AFVs by the Regiment initiated wider deployment. While 'B' Squadron converted to the classic role, other three Squadrons were deployed to provide security to the Honorable Prime Minister who later became Her Excellency the President of Sri Lanka.

FROM REINFORCEMENT TO CLASSIC ROLE

5 SLAC changed its role from reinforcement to classic in August 1994 with the arrival of BMPs (MK I, MK II and ARV) from Ukraine. Consequently, 5 SLAC was re-located in September 1994 with two Squadrons on security duties in Colombo providing security to Her Excellency the President at the Temple Trees, whilst the balance two Squadrons undertook conversion training on BMPs in Trincomalee. With the arrival of T63-II AFVs in the Port of Colombo on 29th September 1995, 5 SLAC got its full complement of 48 AFVs.

5 SLAC got its first stock of Armoured Fighting Vehicles from Ukraine on 2nd and 3rd August 1994, through two Antonov-124 direct flights from Kiev to Colombo. These Aircrafts which were the biggest aircrafts of that category then in the world, air lifted 16 BMP vehicles as indicated below:

04 x BMP MK I	-	UHA 90257, UHA 90258, UHA 90259, UHA 90260.
04 x BMP MK II	-	UHA 90267, UHA 90268, UHA 90269, UHA 90270.
07 x BMP (MVLT)	-	UHA 90256, UHA 90261, UHA 90262, UHA 90263, UHA 90264, UHA 90265, UHA 90266.
01 x BMP ARV	-	UHA 90271.



Source:- Major General M P Peiris (Rtd) RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil

Major Milinda Peiris was the chief of a technical military delegation to Ukraine and had been a member of technical military delegations to Russia, Ukraine and the Czech Republic, Major General Ashoka Jayawardene (Head of Inspection team), Colonel Palitha Fernando-EME Rep, Colonel Saradha Abeyrathna-ORD Rep, Major Milinda Peiris-ARMR Rep. Above pictures shows Loading of First stock of BMPs to an AN-124 Aircraft at Kiev Airport in Ukraine.

In early August 1994, the newly received BMPs were transported from Colombo to China Bay Railway Station in Trincomalee by train and subsequently driven to Clappenburg Camp. Second Lieutenant Dhanika Pathirathne was the Convoy Commander of this movement, afterwards basic training was commenced with the help of local BMP Instructors who were trained in Ukraine. At the end of 1994, the deployment of 5 SLAC was as follows:

- 'RHQ' - Batalanda Camp.
- 'A' Squadron - Colombo (for VVIP Security duties).
- 'B' Squadron - Clappenburg, Trincomalee (equipped with BMPs).
- 'C' Squadron - Colombo (for VVIP Security duties).
- 'D' Squadron - Mollipathana, Trincomalee (for Infantry duties).



Source: Regimental Headquarters 5th Reconnaissance Regiment Sri Lanka Armoured Corps

Newly arrived BMPs being transported by railway to Clappenburg Camp.

Having completed only the basic AFV conversion training, 'B' Squadron sailed to Kankasanturai in the Jaffna Peninsula and deployed there on 7th June 1995. 'A' Squadron was taken off duties in Colombo and thereafter all three Squadrons took part in operations in the North. 'C' Squadron which was at Temple Trees was absorbed to the President Security Unit and 'D' Squadron was thereafter designated as 'C' Squadron of the 5 SLAC.



Training on BMPs at the Tankodrome in Clappenburg, Trincomalee.



BMP MK II in an Amphibious demonstration in the Jaffna Peninsula.

ARRIVAL OF T63-II AFVs

2 x T63-II vehicles had been delivered earlier on 14th August 1995, for training purposes. These were handed over to 'A' and 'D' Squadrons and transported to Armoured Corps Training Centre (ACTC) at Anuradhapura by the rail on 14th August 1995 and training commenced on 22nd August 1995. This was the first occasion in the History of SLAC that training on a new type of AFV was carried out without any assistance of foreign instructors or local instructors who were trained on them. A few dedicated Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers with the help of AFV manuals, carried out training at the ACTC. With definite signs of more operations in the future, Tactical HQ was established in Kankasanturai on 1st September 1995.

The Chinese ship that brought in the new AFVs docked at the Queen Elizabeth II Quay in the Colombo Port with, 27 x T63-II AFVs and 5 x T81 Command Vehicles from China on 29th September 1995. All AFVs were unloaded and stacked on rail wagons, moved by rail to China Bay railway station, unloaded there and driven to Clappenburg Camp. Within a week they set sail from Trincomalee, accompanied by the largest flotilla of Naval Ships ever assembled by the Sri Lanka Navy up to that time, bound for the Madagal coast in the North of Jaffna Peninsula.



Source: Regimental Headquarters 5TH Reconnaissance Regiment Sri Lanka Armoured Corps

Arrival of T63-II AFVs and T81 Command Vehicles in the Port of Colombo on 29th September 1995.

5 SLAC became a fully-fledged Armoured Regiment with the acquisition of these AFV's. Following vehicle numbers were given to those AFVs:

5 x T81 Command Vehicles - UHA 90251, UHA 90252, UHA 90253, UHA 90254, UHA 90255.

27 x T 63-II AFVs - UHA 90224, UHA 90225, UHA 90226, UHA 90227, UHA 90228, UHA 90229, UHA 90230, UHA 90231, UHA 90232, UHA 90233, UHA 90234, UHA 90235, UHA 90236, UHA 90237, UHA 90238, UHA 90239, UHA 90240, UHA 90241, UHA 90242, UHA 90243, UHA 90244, UHA 90245, UHA 90246, UHA 90247, UHA 90248, UHA 90249, UHA 90250.

16 x BMPs (Nos of those BMPs' have been enumerated earlier, in this chapter).



Source: Regimental Headquarters 5th Reconnaissance Regiment Sri Lanka Armoured Corps

A rail convoy of T63-II on its way to Clappenburg Camp, Trincomalee.

5 SLAC thereafter provided immense contribution in Operation such as 'Riviresa I, II, III', 'Sathjaya I, II, III', 'Jayasikurui', 'Lagoon Thunder', 'Whirl Wind', 'Ralapahara, Kinihira', 'Rivikirana', 'Agnikeela' to provide impact on deterrence to the LTTE launched Operation 'Unceasing Waves'.

INDUCTION OF THE REGIMENT INTO THE BATTLEFIELD

This chapter describes regarding on how the 5th Reconnaissance Regiment was inducted to the battlefield as a Recce Regiment since 1995. With the receipt of new AFVs the 5th Regiment changed its role from reinforcement to classic. 'B' Squadron of 5th Reconnaissance Regiment was initially involved in battle in year 1995 and thereafter the Regiment was fully committed with almost all operations conducted by the Sri Lanka Army, until the end of 30 years of War in May 2009.



Source: Regimental Headquarters 5th Reconnaissance Regiment Sri Lanka Armoured Corps

5 SLAC AFV's in action during Operations in the North.

'B' Squadron was inducted into the battlefield with the Operation 'Lightning Strike' on 16th June 1995. It was the first time that a Squadron of 5 SLAC performed the classic role in a battle. This was a limited operation launched from Palaly towards Achchuveli with the aim of expanding the area of control around the Palaly Airport. Captain L B K Pussadeniya, Officer Commanding of 'B' Squadron, became the first Squadron Commander to get the taste of battle with AFVs in 5 SLAC. 'B' Squadron emerged with high praise from both Armour and Infantry counterparts, for their splendid performance. It was initially located at the Cement Factory premises in Kankasanturai, attached to 9 Brigade at Vasavilan on 9th July 1995 and took part in 'Operation Leap Forward'. History was made when a mechanized column consisting of Armour and APC mounted Infantry (6 SLLI) made a dash from Palaly to Arali independently. 'B' Squadron took part in many limited operations too, including 'Operation Shake Hand I and II', 'Operation Hard Knock', and also 'Operation Thunder Strike' in which the Army captured Achchuveli and expanded the Forward Defensive Line (FDL) Eastwards.

'A' and 'D' Squadrons left for Clappenberg Camp, Trincomalee by railway on 29th September 1995 and then transported by LCMs to Kankasanturai on 6th October 1995. According to the naval sources, it was the largest convoy they had ever undertaken to escort up to that time. There was a total of 11 naval vessels involved in the journey.

OVERVIEW-OPERATION RIVIRESA

The keenness and enthusiasm shown by all ranks earned the Regiment, wide praise in the Army. Without much time to orientate, the entire Regiment commanded by the CO, Lieutenant Colonel Neranjan Ranasinghe took part in the 'Deception Operation', conducted West of Madagal on 15th October 1995. 'B' Squadron by now had an AFV casualty when their ARV was blown off due to an Anti-Tank mine at Allaveddi, causing injuries to three SLEME personnel. It suffered a second casualty when a BMP was damaged due to an Anti-Tank mine off Madagal, during this 'Deception Operation'.

On 17th October 1995 with all other Armour and Infantry counterparts, the 'A', 'B' and 'C' Squadrons of 5 SLAC took part in Operation Riviresa I. The Commanding Officer of the 5th Regiment, Lieutenant Colonel Neranjan Ranasinghe was the Battle Group Commander. 5 SLAC was placed under command to the 51 Division with one Squadron of T 55 MBTs of the 4th Armoured Regiment joining the Battle Group. 51 Division was on the Eastern Flank and 52 Division was on the Western Flank during the offensive from Palaly to capture the Jaffna City. However, the battles were fought hard and on the first day, 5 SLAC lost Captain Arjuna Ekanayake due to an RPG (Rocket Propelled Grenade) attack and Corporal Jayathilaka P when UHA-90227 T63-II APC was destroyed due to an Anti-Tank mine during the Breakout Battle. Lieutenant Chaminda Herath succumbed to his injuries received from an Anti-Personal mine off Uuralu. Major Lalaka Fernando too was killed in a plane crash en route to Palaly from Ratmalana. 'Riviresa II' started on 19th April 1996 and all Sabre Squadrons took part in it. This operation was aimed at wresting control of the Thenmarachchi sector of the Jaffna Peninsula. Operation 'Riviresa III' started on 15th May 1996 and terminated with the capturing of Vadamarachchi and Point Pedro by the next day. 5th Regiment SLAC Battle Group created history by launching an offensive operation independently without marrying up with Infantry and capturing Vadamarachchi and Point Pedro. Apart from these operations, Squadrons participated in many limited Operations 'Shake Hand' and Operation 'Royal Flush'. All three Squadrons participated in 'Operation Link Up' to link Kilali and Elephant Pass.



Source: Major General N A Ranasinghe (Rtd) RSP VSV USP ndc psc Isc

Large scale BMPs and T-55 Tanks maneuvering during Operation Riviresa.

CONDUCT OF BATTLE - OPERATION RIVIRESA

Preparations for the offensive Operation Riviresa began in April 1995 with the resumption of hostilities after peace talks failed following the LTTE attack on the Trincomalee Naval Base. Her Excellency the President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga ordered active military operations against the LTTE following this attack. Planning and preparation for the operation were conducted by Major General (later General) R De S Daluwatte who was Overall Operations Commander (OOC), under the guidance of General Anuruddha Ratwatte who was the Deputy Minister of Defense.

The LTTE High Command, knowing that plans were afoot to capture the City of Jaffna, launched a pre-emptive strike on Sri Lanka Army and Navy positions in the Kilali area. Sri Lankan Military dominated the Palaly, Elephant Pass and Kayts areas, leaving the rest of the area in the Jaffna Peninsula to the Tigers. Since the main staging area for the attack was in Palaly, a limited operation, code named Operation 'Leap Forward' was launched to expand the perimeter of the Air Base prior to Operation 'Riviresa', thereby expanding the holding area west of Palaly.

In April 1995, the Government began planning and preparing for its offensive campaign against the LTTE. With the resumption of hostilities on 19th April 1995, the Defense policy changed and the Government decided to conduct an all-out offensive against the LTTE. The Overall Operation Commander position was created by the Ministry of Defense, and his primary responsibility was to undertake single-service or joint services operations at the operational level of command to achieve strategic military objectives.

One of the most significant decisions was taken in May 1995. This was to bring the entire Jaffna Peninsula, inclusive of Jaffna City, under Government control. It was decided that this would be done by very large formations of the Army, along with the appropriate assistance from the Navy and Air Force, moving towards Jaffna City and capturing it and later capturing the other regions of the Peninsula.

While the supplies and equipment for the large operation were being purchased and shipped to Sri Lanka, fuel, oil and other supplies were being stockpiled in Palaly. The Army launched a series of small-scale operations with limited aims beginning in late April 1995. In the Jaffna Peninsula these operations were meant primarily to get troops psychologically prepared for the large operations which were to come in the subsequent months. Other operations were 'search and destroy' raids into LTTE-controlled areas just outside the perimeters of Palaly-Kankasanturai Base. As noted by the Official Army History: "A detailed assessment of the situation was done and it was realized that a few preliminary operations were required to be conducted; firstly, to expand the perimeters of Palaly so that there would be a wider bridgehead with more options to breakout and secondly, to give confidence to troops who had not taken part in a major operation in Jaffna for two years. It was realized that both these objectives could be achieved by conducting limited operations."

The T-55 MBTs of 4 SLAC along with the BMPs and T 63-IIs of 5 SLAC participated in all of the following one-day operations. The first was the Operation 'Kick Off' on 24th April 1995, and the second was the Operation 'Wake-Up' on 28th April 1995. Then the Operation 'Safe Passage' was conducted on 17th May 1995 on the Eastern border of the same Palaly-Kankasanturai Base.



A well camouflaged T63-II AFV during Operation Riviresa.

After these limited operations the Army launched Operation 'Leap Forward' on 9th July 1995 from the Western side of the Palaly-Kankasanturai base towards Aralay point. Two Brigades with large SLAC contingents took part in this operation. The number of Armoured Vehicles: Tanks, IFVs (Infantry Fighting Vehicles) APCs used for the operation up to that time, was the largest use of Armour in a single operation. These amounted to a total of 50 Armoured Vehicles. The AFVs were from 3 SLAC's 'B' Squadron and 'C' Squadron (20 x T86s), 4 SLAC 'A' Squadron (10 x T-55s), 'B' Squadron (10 x T55s) and 5 SLAC's 'B' Squadron (10 x BMPs) which was commanded by Captain L B K Pussadeniya.

There were two Brigades each composed of Armour and Infantry. These two Brigades advanced deep into the Valikamam area of the Jaffna peninsula and faced heavy resistance by the LTTE and relatively high casualties.

Consequently, the OOC Major General R De S Daluwatte and his staff made a prudent decision to withdraw all troops back to Palaly-Kankasanturai main base. This operation revealed many areas in which the Army needed improvement when involved with large battles with the LTTE. These included Infantry-Armour coordination and communication, inter- battalion communication, and the need for flank protection of advancing Brigades.

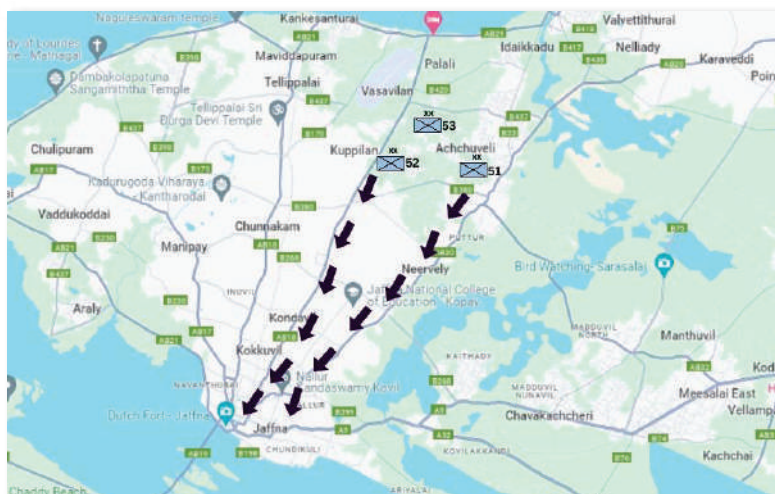
From May 1995 onwards the Armed Forces were transporting and accumulating in Palaly-Kankasanturai Base the logistic supplies, arms and ammunition and personnel needed for Operation 'Riviresa'. A total of 54,000 tons of material, equipment, arms and ammunition were transported to the Jaffna Peninsula by mid-October 1995.

OPERATION RIVIRESA-I

Operation Riviresa commenced on 17th October 1995 in three stages. The operation began with 513 and 512 Brigades moving out from Avarankal, Navakkeni line, 512 Brigade moving to Chiruppidi and 513 Brigade moving to the general area Chiruppidi East. In the meantime, the 511 Brigade moved from the Avarankal line westward and captured Sirripiddi. 512 and 513 Brigades crossed Kuppilan and Neerveli line westward and captured Sirripiddi. 512 and 513 Brigades crossed the Kuppilan and Neerveli line at the end which code named as ZULU Line.

Then in phase two, starting from the 'Zulu line', the 522 Brigade advanced capturing Uurallu and moved up to Urumpirai named 'Alpha line'. While the 521 and 523 Brigade advanced through the Zulu line to Urumpirai. 511 and 513 Brigades on the Eastern flank captured Kopai North and 512 moved along the Eastern flank closer to Uppuaru lagoon and captured the area east of Kopai North. Finally, phase 3 and 4 were conducted together. On the western flank 522, 533 and 511 Brigades moved and captured Kondavil and Kopai South to Urumpirai. The first stage of Operation Riviresa was terminated on 14th November 1995.

The second stage consisted of four phases. In the first phase, 531 Air Mobile Brigade captured the area up to Nallur, and in phase two 531 Brigade captured up to Ariyalai East. During phase three 533 Brigade captured up to Clombuthurai and finally, the Armoured Brigade captured the Ariyalai area in phase four. The Special Forces out flanked the enemy positions by adopting exclusive night moves bewildering the LTTE completely. 531, 532 and 533 Brigades achieved their objectives by entering Nallur.



Map of Operation Riviresa I, from 17th October to 2nd December 1995.

Stage three was conducted in four phases. The Independent Brigade broke out from Ariyalai and advanced up to Nallur Kovil in phase one. During phase two the Airmobile Brigade captured areas on the Palaly-Jaffna main road. In phase three the Independent Brigade advanced through Colombuthurai and reached the Gurunagar jetty. During phase four Air Mobile Brigade broke out from the Thirunaveli area and entered Jaffna City. The much-awaited operation to liberate the Jaffna City from the clutches of the LTTE was launched on 17th October 1995 under the overall command of Major General R De S Daluwatte with 51 Division, 52 Division and 53 Division, These divisions captured the entire Valikamam area and finally the Jaffna City was captured on 2nd December 1995. The Armoured Brigade was commanded by Colonel Gamini Balasuriya whilst the three Regiments that fought were commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Neranjan Ranasinghe (5 SLAC under 51 Division), Major Aruna Perera (4 SLAC under 52 Division) and Lieutenant Colonel Janaka Ratnayake (3 SLAC under 53 Division). 5 SLAC troops of 'A', 'B' and 'C' Squadrons were heavily involved in this operation. In fact, it was Armour that made the initial break out from the 52 Divisional front. Early morning on 17th October 1995, Lieutenant Arjuna Ekanayaka of 5 SLAC was killed when his AFV was hit by an LTTE RPG. Later in the day a T63-II got caught in an anti-tank mine explosion and Sergeant Jayathilaka P was Killed In Action.



Hoisting the National Flag on 5th December 1995, after Operation Riviresa I at Jaffna City. Chief Guest was Hon Anuruddha Ratwatte, the Deputy Minister of Defence. Behind him are the three Service Commanders and the IGP. Parade is reported by Maj Gen R De S Daluwatte ndc psc the Overall Operation Commander.

Armour troops fought gallantly despite many restrictions imposed by the terrain on the movement of AFVs and provided much needed fire support for the Infantry throughout the operation. The Armour contribution was significant during the battles to be capture Achchuveli, Uurelu, Urupeddi, Neerveli, Kopai South and Kondavil where the LTTE resistance was intense. Troops of 4 SLAC and 5 SLAC conducted an assault on the LTTE last line of Defence at Neerveli. During the battle many SLAC troop leaders proved their mettle by actively leading their troops to provide the best possible support for the Infantry under trying conditions. As a result of an attack on an aircraft on 22nd November 1995, Captain Lalaka Fernando of 5 SLAC was Killed In Action. Second Lieutenant Chaminda Herath of 5 SLAC who accidentally stepped on an anti-personal mine at Ariyalai, succumbed to his injuries on 27th November 1995.

SOME SIGNIFICANT EVENTS THAT TOOK PLACE

Major U A B Medawela, the first Second in Command of the Unit relinquished his appointment to take over the duties as the Officiating Commanding Officer of 1 SLAC in January 1995 and Major S D T Liyanage RWP was appointed as the new 2IC. Captain W A D D Wijesooriya the first Adjutant of the Unit, handed over duties to Captain D B S N Bothota on 10th August 1994. The unit Volleyball Team won the Volleyball Tournament organised by 12 Brigade and came up to the quarter-finals in the Soccer tournament held in 3 Division TAOR. Captain (QM) M E D Perera won the over 35 Army Badminton Championship and Army Masters Event (over 35 Years) at Squash Championship.

At the dawn of 1996, the Tactical HQ along with the 'A', 'B' and 'D' Squadrons were established at Vasavilan with the 'C' Squadron in Colombo and the 'HQ' Squadron at Batalanda Camp. The Unit celebrated its 2nd Anniversary on 6th January 1996 having its first ever mounted parade at Iddaikkaddu, whilst the Officers Mess function was at Vasavilan.



First ever Mounted Parade of 5 SLAC held on its 2nd Anniversary on 6th January 1996, at Iddaikkaddu, East of Palaly Camp in the Jaffna Peninsula. The photograph shows the CO Lt Col N A Ranasinghe taking the Salute and the Drive Past by all 48 AFVs of the Unit.

In June 1995, amidst limited Operations being carried out in the Jaffna Peninsula, the CO of 5 SLAC, Lt Col Neranjan Ranasinghe conducted a detail recce to establish a camp in the Kurunegala District. At that time, 6 Soldiers had been occupying a solitary temporary building at Pangolla in the Ibbagamuwa area. After completion of the reconnaissance of that area, he submitted a detailed report to justify establishing a camp for 5 SLAC at Pangolla, to the Commander of the Armoured Brigade, Brigadier (Later Major General) P A Karunatilleke. He, with the concurrence of the Regimental Commander of SLAC, then submitted this request to the Commander of the Army. Accordingly, the Regiment was given a 50-acres block of a land at Pangolla in Ibbagamuwa by the Army in early 1996. This was the final result of the CO's report, following the detailed reconnaissance and justification in the report on the feasibility of establishing an Army Camp. This proposal justified the suitability and space to accommodate an entire SLAC Regiment at Pangolla Ibbagamuwa, and therefore it was accepted by the Commander of the Army.

The first Commanding Officer of 5 SLAC, Lieutenant Colonel Neranja Ranasinghe handed over the reins of the Regiment to Lieutenant Colonel M P Peiris RWP psc on 14th February 1996 and was appointed as General Staff Officer 1, at the Directorate of Training (AHQ). Prior to that, the outgoing Commanding Officer presented a Trophy to be awarded annually to the Best All-Round Squadron of 5 SLAC, to be named as the 'Commanding Officer's Trophy'.



The 'Commanding Officer's Trophy'.

The operational situation that prevailed at that time did not allow 5 SLAC to present a fitting farewell he deserved so much, for raising the unit. Nevertheless, the Officers bid farewell to him in such a manner that he said “If anybody ask me of the best 100 meters I have ever travelled, I would say it was the distance from the Officers Mess to my Chalet at Vasavilan after my farewell dinner with 5 SLAC”. At the conclusion of the farewell dinner, all Officers present that night spontaneously engaged in crowd surfing, lifting the CO overhead and thereafter the CO travelled on the Commander's seat of a BMP, with all other Officers mounted on the BMP. A tradition was born in 5 SLAC that night. Thereafter any outgoing Commanding Officer should depart on an AFV, similar to the cavalry riding into the sunset.

It could be said of the formative years of 5 SLAC “Born out of necessity, bred on the battlefield and trained and geared to be second to none”.

THE ROLE AND IMPACT OF THE 5TH RECONNAISSANCE REGIMENT IN HUMANITARIAN OPERATIONS IN THE NORTHERN AND EASTERN PROVINCES

*Lieutenant Colonel M P Peiris RWP psc-The Second Commanding Officer, 5 SLAC
(from 16th February 1996 to 9th January 1997).*

The first Commanding Officer of the Unit, Lieutenant Colonel N A Ranasinghe RSP psc handed over the reins of the Regiment to Lieutenant Colonel M P Peiris RWP psc on 15th February 1996. Lieutenant Colonel Milinda Peiris was the second Commanding Officer of the Regiment and he became the first Commanding Officer of the 5th Reconnaissance Regiment after the Regiment became a Reconnaissance Regiment, with effect from 8th March 1996 by the extraordinary Gazette notification No: 939/24 of 4th September 1996. The Second in Command was Major S D T Liyanage RWP and the Adjutant was Captain D B S N Bothota.

Key appointment holders during this period;

CO	Lt Col M P Peiris RWP psc
2IC	Maj S D T Liyanage RWP
	Maj H M R De Silva
Adjt	Capt D B S N Bothota
	Capt T H Burah
	Capt M M I P M Bandara
OC HQ	Capt K G Senavirathna
OC A	Maj A L P S Thilekerathne
	Capt D B S N Bothota
OC B	Capt L B K Pussadeniya
OC C	Capt M M I P M Bandara
OC D	Capt N P Samarakoon
	Capt H M S J K Hennayaka
Tech Adjt	Maj (QM) M E D Perera
	Lt (QM) M G Douglas
QM	Lt (QM) N S Jayawardana
MTO	2/Lt K P Amarathunga

When he took over the Regiment, the deployment was as follows;

'RHQ'	- Batalanda
'HQ' Squadron	- Batalanda
'A' Squadron	- Vasavillan
'B' Squadron	- Kankasanturai
'C' Squadron	- Colombo (PSU)
'D' Squadron	- Vasavilan

Regimental Headquarters, which was first shifted to Vasavilan in February 1996, was taken back to Batalanda in May 1996 and again shifted to Vasavillan at the end of the year. Major S D T Liyanage RWP relinquished the duty to proceed to Staff College in Bangladesh and Major H M R De Silva took over as the Second in Command on 23rd June 1996. Without offering much time to the new Commanding Officer to acclimatize with the Regiment, 'Operation Riviresa II' started on 19th April 1996 and all Sabre Squadrons took part in it.

Operation Riviresa-II

'Operation Riviresa II' which was aimed at wresting control of the Tennamarachchi area of the Jaffna Peninsula, was launched on 19th April 1996. It was led by the Overall Operations Commander Major General R De S Daluwatte. 51 and 52 Divisions were operating in two axes along with Infantry. 51 Division moving East-originated from Jaffna along the A-9 road and the 52 Division, towards South-originated from Puttur East. CO 5 SLAC was leading the Armour column of the 51 Division which was commanded by Brig P A Karunatileke. The target was to first capture the Navakkuli bridge which was a difficult task to capture in tag, and then to move down to Chavakachcheri and Kodikamam. After a fierce battle, troops managed to capture the Navakkuli bridge which was ready for demolition in the event of the forces crossing the bridge. Armour Battle group established a fire base and effectively engaged and destroyed and neutralized bunker positions which were on the far bank across the lagoon. Sri Lanka Air Force fighter air craft and helicopter gunships engaged known LTTE hideouts and bases in Tennamarachchi and Vadamarachchi divisions. The Sri Lanka Navy gun boats engaged LTTE bases on shore in the coastal area from the sea (*Navy, 2013*).

The effective and accurate firing of 30 mm Canons of the BMPs saved the day as it could effectively engage and destroy the wires connected with detonators of prepared charges and also those who were to operate demolition charges. Under heavy direct covering fire and indirect Arty fire, Infantry crossed the lagoon and established a bridgehead. Whilst doing so GOC 51 Div wanted a troop of Armour also to get across the bridge. A few hours later we found thousands of civilians coming along the A9 road towards Jaffna carrying their children and stuff, they managed to escape from the control of LTTE as terrorist were on the run. But could not proceed as planned due to the arrival of floods of civilians for a couple of days. Thereafter we moved without much resistance other than in certain delaying positions and sporadic fire to show their presence. We captured Chavakachcheri and thereafter Kodikamam successfully. The operation ended with the successful capture of Ariyali, Navakkuli, Chavakachcheri, Kodikamam and Mirusuvil.

Apart from these operations, Troops of 5 SLAC have participated in many limited operations, such as 'Operation Shake Hand' and 'Operation Royal Flush'. All three squadrons had participated in 'Operation Link Up' to link Kilaly and Elephant Pass. 'C' Squadron, which was employed on President's security throughout the year, was finally detached out from 5 SLAC in order to form the President Security Unit as a formal organization. All Officers and men belong to 'C' Squadron was attached to President Security Unit with effect from 06th July 1996. With that development, 'C' Squadron was re-named as the 'C' Squadron and former 'C' Squadron was ceased to exist (*Senaratne, 2015*).

OVERVIEW OF OPERATION SATHJAYA

The next three large military operations were 'Sathjaya Operations' which had the goal of capturing Paranthan town and then Kilinnochi town and subsequently capturing Chavakachcheri. They began in late July 1996. After the end of 'Riviresa-III', except for some routine limited operations the Army paused its operations for approximately five weeks. During these weeks essential vehicle maintenance was done, depleted Infantry battalions were brought up to strength and training and re-training of all the different arms of the Army- Infantry, Armour, Artillery, Engineers, Special Forces, Commandos and Logistics Regiments took place. 'Operation Sathjaya I' was launched on 26th July 1996. The three Sathjaya Operations took 67 days to capture the 15 km segment of the road from Elephant Pass to Kilinnochi. Sometimes the fighting with the LTTE was very intense with the use of RPGs, mortars and Artillery. The Army was severely tested by the LTTE, by the time the Army entered Kilinnochi town its entire civilian population had (wisely) moved away. Then OOC, Major General Srilal Weerasooriya was in charge of the Sathjaya Operations (*Senaratne, 2015*).

CONDUCT OF BATTLE - OPERATION SATHJAYA

Operation Sathjaya-I

Operation Sathjaya under the command of the Overall Operations Commander (OOC) Major General Srilal Weerasooriya this operation was launched in two phases; i.e. Sathjaya-I, and Sathjaya-II. The aim of the operation was to capture Paranthan and Kilinnochi towns, and throughout these operations, the Armour played a crucial role.

Sathjaya-I commenced on 26th July 1996 with a five-weeks break after the completion of Riviresa III, and Lt Col Milinda Peiris CO 5 SLAC was destined to lead the Armour troops in this operation. The aim of this operation, was to capture the Paranthan junction, which was vital as it links Mullaitivu in the East which LTTE captured the Army 25 Brigade complex which was a well-defended locality, surprisingly fallen into LTTE without much of a struggle by 20th July 1996 (*Army, Sri Lanka Army 50 years on, 1949-1999, 1999*) and area Pooneryn in the in the West, Kilinnochi in the South. Important road hub for enhancing the defence of the areas under Security Forces control and for expanding further South. However, after the Mullaitivu set back affected the morale of the troops. Hence the higher command decided to capture Paranthan and move further towards Kilinnochi.

As per planning of Phase 1, 5 SLAC BG was to move Southwards from Elephant Pass. Armour was leading the column, and Commandos were mounted on our BMPs/ T 63-II. Armour column was to move from the Eastern flank of the A9 on a totally cross-country manoeuvre and 4 VIR was going towards Paranthan along the main axis alongside the A9 as a part of the newly raised 54 Division under the command of Brig Wasantha Perera. 4 VIR was stuck on a certain line and they were unable to move an inch. We too came under heavy resistance not even 500 meters from the FDL. The LTTE was in well dug trenches, along with manmade large bunds to impede the movement of tanks and other AFVs. The trench system was inter-connected with their main defences. Fortunately, with the speed of momentum concentration of fire power and shock action, we managed to negotiate three such lines in close proximity.

Some of our AFVs got disoriented as our tank crews found some LTTE cadres behind our advancing troops or in-between them. Some tank crews had to come out of their cupolas and to engage them with and at times, effectively employing machine guns. Commandos provided close protection and eliminated them when they got close to tanks. T63-II played an important role by reinforcing the main echelon by replenishing ammunition and transporting troops in difficult terrain. Commandos were dismounted just short of Paranthan Junction and they cleared and consolidated in and around Paranthan. There was no resistance at the junction. By the last light successfully captured Paranthan and LTTE were on the run withdrawing towards Kilinnochchi. The terrorists who were fighting against the Infantry column advancing astride A9 road knew that they could not resist any further as their position was untenable as Armour had reached them from the rear; they had to withdraw hastily. This was another classic Armour-Infantry mounted cross-country maneuver over a distance of 6 km and reached Paranthan, on the A9 road. This was a historic achievement of the Armour troops. During the operation 5 SLAC AFV Squadrons were effectively led by Major Swarna Bothota, Major Jagath Hennayaka and Capt Lal Pussadeniya (*Senaratne, 2015*).

Operation Sathjaya II

Operation 'Sathjaya II' was conducted by the 53 Division which had under its command the Air Mobile Brigade, the Independent Brigade (minus some troops) and the 542 Infantry Brigade. The Armoured Brigade (minus some Armoured vehicles) was under the command of 53 Division for the operation. The Air Mobile Brigade was to advance astride the A-9 road while the 542 Infantry Brigade conducted a diversionary operation. Kilinnochchi town was to be re-captured by the Independent Brigade, with the assistance of the Armour and the operation began on 4th August 1996

The SLAC's force was composed of an impressive 58 Armoured vehicles: namely all 3 Squadrons of 4 SLAC (30 x T-55s) with the 3 Squadrons. 5 SLAC was commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Milinda Peiris. Its 'A' Squadron (9 x T63-IIs) was commanded by Major Swarna Bothota and 'B' Squadron (9 x BMPs) was commanded by Major Lal Pussadeniya. In addition, there was one Squadron of 3 SLAC (6 x T-85s) and one troop of 1 SLAC (composed of 1 Saladin, 2 Saracens and 1 Ferret).

The operation began on the night of 3rd August 1996. On 4th August 1996, 4 SLAC and 5 SLAC advanced on a broad frontage, flanking each other. Two companies (6 x platoons, approximately 200 troops) of 3 GR were mounted on the Armoured vehicles. 4 SLAC and 5 SLAC broke-out from Paranthan at around 0830 hour. This was after an Artillery Barrage. After the SLAC vehicles proceeded about 800 meters troops faced very heavy LTTE resistance. They had to face by intensive mortar and Artillery shelling, heavy machine gun fire and anti-tank minefields.

The LTTE had anticipated such a break-out and had prepared strong defensive positions which included inter-connected trenches and strong points. There were many dedicated tank-hunting LTTE RPG teams. The LTTE was lying in a broad frontage in well-dug bunkers. The tanks had to cross an open area before Karadipokku, a small stream which crosses the A-9 road from East to West. The LTTE used this natural barrier to its advantage and attacked the tanks and BMPs which had to slow down at this point.

Troops continued to attack despite heavy resistance. When troops crossed a small road around 1110 hr the LTTE's resistance increased even further. The rearmost Squadrons of 4 SLAC and 5 SLAC attempted flanking movements but could not break through the LTTE's defence line or the flanks. The LTTE used some wire-guided anti-tank missiles. This was the first time that the LTTE used this weapon. At about 1130 hour 2 x BMPs were hit by anti-tank weapons (some of which could have been RPGs) and were totally destroyed. The crew and the assault element of one BMP escaped. But Lieutenant Sujeewa Karunaratne, and his entire crew in UHA 90259 BMP MK II and the assault team were Killed In Action (1 X 6 of 3 GR).

By approximately around 1330 hour another BMP and 6 x T-55 Tanks too had become disabled. Approximately over 15 crew members of about 10 different AFVs were KIA or WIA thus rendering these vehicles to non-operational status. The leading tank Squadrons had exhausted ammunition for both their main guns and their machine guns.

Consequently, the commanders decided to withdraw 4 SLAC and 5 SLAC to Ella-Aru area which was 1.5 km North East of Paranthan to take stock and re-organize themselves before re-commencing the attack. After re-organization 4 SLAC had 5 SLAC troops (15 tanks) of T-55s operational out of the original 9 troops (27 tanks) 5 SLAC had 2 troops (6 Vehicles) of BMP still operational from the original 3 troops (9 Vehicles). Some of the T63-IIs too were damaged and non-operational. All these were due to vehicle and crew casualties. The Army then resumed the advance. Around 1900 hours 02 x T-55s were hit by LTTE anti-tank weapons, and one of them caught fire and was destroyed while the other was disabled. The vehicle crew of one T-55 were seriously burnt and were evacuated. In the other T-55 the tank commander was Killed In Action. 2 x BMP troops were sent as a reinforcement. The Air Mobile Brigade decided to pause for the night. The troops rested and re-organized themselves during the night. All SLAC AFVs withdrew to night harbours while one troop was sent to protect a 122 mm gun position.

Fighting continued over the subsequent days. Then on 11th August 1996 at a conference held at Tactical HQ Joint Operations Headquarters (JOH) in Vavuniya it was decided to cancel the offensive planned for 12th August 1996. A fresh operation was launched to capture Kilinochchi was to be launched in the future once the troop level increased to the equivalent of two divisions.

Operation Sathjaya III

After the failure of Operation 'Sathjaya II', 'Sathjaya III' was launched on 22nd September 1996. After the failure of Operation 'Sathjaya II', 5 SLAC started training at an area called 'Aba-waththa' with the 4 SLSR Battalion. The plan of 'Sathjaya III' included a clever deception operation conducted by the SLAC along with Infantry units. As planned in phase one of Operation 'Sathjaya III' a deception operation was conducted towards Mullaitivu direction off to Paranthan on 22nd September 1996. A Significant number of Armoured vehicles and Infantry moved Eastward from Paranthan, along the Paranthan-Mullaitivu road, towards Murasumuddai. The operation commenced with the first light, the entire day, troops were coming under heavy Artillery and mortar fire.

Heavy columns of troops were moving towards Murasumuddai and terrorist were clearly convinced that troops were going towards the Mullaitivu side as a large amount of troop movement was demonstrated. Interception of terrorist transmission that their cadres were moving Eastward to defend Mullaitivu. Also, this was one of the cleverest deception operations of the Sri Lanka Army, where they were able to comprehensively deceive the enemy.

When Battle group was approaching the final objective Murasumuddai, Infantry front line troops came under heavy resistance and their movement was impeded and came to a standstill. 4 SLAC 'A' Squadron flanked by 5 SLAC Squadron occupied almost the front line a few meters behind them. Armour assault Squadron and 9 GW sections mounted on APCs conducted a couple of assaults to overrun strong positions in between the final objective. As advance came to a standstill, CO 5 SLAC was trying to marry up with the Battalion Commander to plan the final phase of the day. Coy Comd, 9 GW who was leading the Infantry, a few Squadron commanders and a couple of others along with the CO were planning the final attack on Murasumuddai, However, during the planning and while issuing orders for the final phase, troops came under a heavy mortar attack, Unfortunately, CO 5 SLAC Lt Col Milinda Peiris and a few others including leading Coy Comd were critically injured and few others were KIA. They were sent through ADS Paranthan to Elephant Pass mobile theatre from Palali to Colombo. By last light final objective was achieved and 4 and 5 SLAC troops returned to the tank harbour. Second in Command of 5 SLAC Major H M R De Silva commanded the Regiment due to the absence of the Commanding Officer. Later, Major A M Perera who was the Commandant ACTC reported and led the Unit during rest of the operation.

The main attack on Kilinnochchi, however, was on the Western side of the A-9 road approaching Kilinnochchi from the West. Further this included a silent move across Nalanawakulam to the Western outskirts of Kilinnochchi by Infantry and Special Forces.

'A' and 'B' squadrons (20 x T-55 tanks) of 4 SLAC and 'A' and 'B' squadrons (10 x BMPs and 10 x T63-II) of 5 SLAC moved through a narrow passage screened by Infantry and managed to significantly weaken the LTTE. For two days the raging fighting was led by the T-55s and other, AFVs backed by the T-55s with their rapid fire and cannon, machine guns carrying valuable mounted Infantry, played a crucial role in spotting LTTE tank-hunting teams and also by giving protective fire to the Armoured vehicles. The terrain on the Western side of Kilinnochchi facilitated the fast movement of Armoured vehicles but the area near Karadipokku became a bottle neck for Armour troops. Due to that 5 SLAC dismounted 4 SLSR Battalion troops near the 'Karadipokku' area amidst heavy resistance from LTTE.

The Army's attacking Infantry forces reached a coconut cultivated area to the West of Kilinnochchi. All the time the LTTE resisted heavily with mortars and anti-tank fire. Dismounted Infantry troops suffered heavy casualties due to mortar splinters. 1 x Platoon of Infantry heavily got injured due to the heavy resistance of LTTE. During the night 4 SLSR and 3 GR Battalions consolidated but on the same day night LTTE moved through the Karadi canal and attacked both the Battalions by causing heavy casualties to the Infantry troops. After hard days of fighting, Kilinnochchi was captured and came under Sri Lanka Army control by ending Operation Sathjaya on 29th September 1996 (*Senaratne, 2015*).



Riviresa II



Riviresa III

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS THAT TOOK PLACE DURING AND THE END OF THE BATTLE

Sri Lanka Army was finally able to capture Kilinochchi on 29th September 1996 by launching Operation 'Sathjaya III'. Exploiting the avenue opened in the right flank (West) from Paranthan to Lalanawala Kulam and consequent to the operation conducted by Special Force under 53 Division, Armour unleashed a swift flanking attack to capture the town on 29th September 1996. Having taken part in liberating Jaffna Peninsula and Kilinochchi from the clutches of 'Tamil Tigers', the deployment of the Regiment at the end of 1996 was as follows:

'RHQ'	- Vasavillan
Tactical 'HQ'	- Vasavillan
'HQ' Squadron	- Batalanda
'A' Squadron	- Elephant Pass, Pranthan, Kilinochchi, Sankaththarawali
'B' Squadron	- Kankasanturai Pier and Thondamanaru
'C' Squadron	- Vasavillan, Chavakachcheri and Kankasanturai

On 9th January 1997 Lieutenant Colonel M P Peiris RWP RSP psc handed over the reins to Major N Udawatta psc SLAC and he was appointed as the Staff Officer 1, Regimental Centre



Lt Colonel M P Peiris taking over the duties as CO 5 SLAC.



Major General C S Weersooriya RWP RSP VSV USP appointed as OOC to carry out combined offensive operation in 'Operation Riviresa III'.



Source: Regimental Headquarters 5TH Reconnaissance Regiment Sri Lanka Armoured Corps

Parade presented to Maj Gen R De S Daluwatta WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc
by 5 SLAC Tps on relinquishing duties on 15th December 1995.



Source: Regimental Headquarters 5TH Reconnaissance Regiment Sri Lanka Armoured Corps

Lieutenant Sujeewa Karunaratne, his entire crew in
UHA 90259 BMP MK II were Killed In Action.



Sathjaya III

***Major N Udawatta psc - The Fourth Commanding Officer, 5 SLAC
(from 10th January 1997 to 31st August 1998).***

Major N Udawatta psc taking over the duties as Commanding Officer of 5 SLAC from Lt Col M P Peiris RWP psc.

Key appointment holders at this period

CO	Maj N Udawatta psc
2IC	Maj H M R De Silva Maj A S Wijewickrama
Adjt	Capt T H Burah Capt K D S K Dharmasena
OC HQ	Maj L B K Pussadeniya
OC A	Capt D B S N Bothota Maj H M S J K Hennayaka
OC B	Maj W A Ariyaratne Capt M M I P M Bandara Maj N P Samarakoon

OC C	Maj H M S J K Hennayaka
	Capt D B S N Bothota
Tech Adjt	Capt T H Burah
	Capt K D S K Dharmasena
	Lt L S D N Pathirathna
QM	Lt (QM) N S Jayawardana
MTO	2/Lt K P Amarathunga
	Capt (QM) N S Jayawardana

CONTRIBUTION TO THE JAYASIKURUI

The new Commanding Officer was actively engaged in preparing the contingency plan for the Jaffna Peninsula, given that the 5 SLAC served as the primary strike force for the Security Forces Commander of Jaffna. In addition to this responsibility and the regular search and clear operations, 5 SLAC was tasked with providing security and conducting the daily Elephant Pass–Palaly convoy. Meanwhile, on 7th February Major H M R De Silva handed over the duties of Second in Command to Major A S Wijewickrama and proceeded to attend a Staff Course in Pakistan.

‘B’ Squadron was relocated to Vavuniya on 14th April to participate in “Operation Jayasikurui”, an initiative aimed at opening a land route towards the Jaffna Peninsula. Subsequently, the Tactical Headquarters was moved from Vasavilan to Vavuniya in May 1997 and placed under the direct command of the Armoured Brigade. The troops involved in “Operation Jayasikurui” launched their breakout from Kokkeliya at 0600 hr on 13th May 1997. Despite the phased approach of the operation, they encountered stiff resistance from the LTTE, resulting in considerable casualties and prolonging the campaign. On 10th June 1997, during a counter-attack by the LTTE at Thaandikulam, the unit suffered significant losses in personnel, weapons and equipment. Among the fallen was Captain (QM) M G Douglas the Regiment's ALO, marking him as the first ALO in the Sri Lanka Armoured Corps SLAC to be Killed In Action (*Senaratne, 2015*).

On 10th May, RHQ and 'HQ' Squadron were shifted from Vasavillan and Batalanda respectively and taken to Kosgama-Salawa military camp complex and remained there till end of the year. Tactical HQ was re-deployed in Elephant Pass at the end of July 1997.

At the sunset of 1997 the deployment of the unit was as follows;

'RHQ'	- Salawa-Kosgama
'Tactical HQ'	- Elephant Pass
'HQ' Squadron	- Salawa-Kosgama
'A' Squadron	- Elephant Pass
'B' Squadron	- Thaandikulam
'C' Squadron	- Vasavilan

Government initially planned to celebrate the 50th Independence Anniversary in Kandy. However, due to an attempted bombing of the sacred Dalada Maligawa by the LTTE, which resulted in partial damage to the outer wall, the venue was changed to Sri Jayawardenepura. Despite of this, 50th Independence Anniversary celebration proceeded on a grand scale at the parliament esplanade on 4th February 1998. The parade featured an Armoured vehicle column led by Commanding Officer Lt Col Nandana Udawatta with troop of T 63-II tanks representing the unit.

The Squadron competitions for the CO's Trophy were held for the first time, with the trophy being presented by the first Commanding Officer, Lt Col Neranjan Ranasinghe to the Best Squadron. 'A' Squadron won the trophy for the year 1997, and it was presented on 16th March 1997. On 2nd March 1997, Maj A S Wijewickrama handed over the duties of Second in Command to Maj A L P S Tillekerathne. The Commanding Officer of the 5 SLAC was appointed as the Armour Coordinator of SF HQ Jaffna on 11th April 1997. Additionally, the foundation stone for the much anticipated RHQ building and ORs billet at Pangolla was laid on 6th August 1998 (*Corps, 2015*).

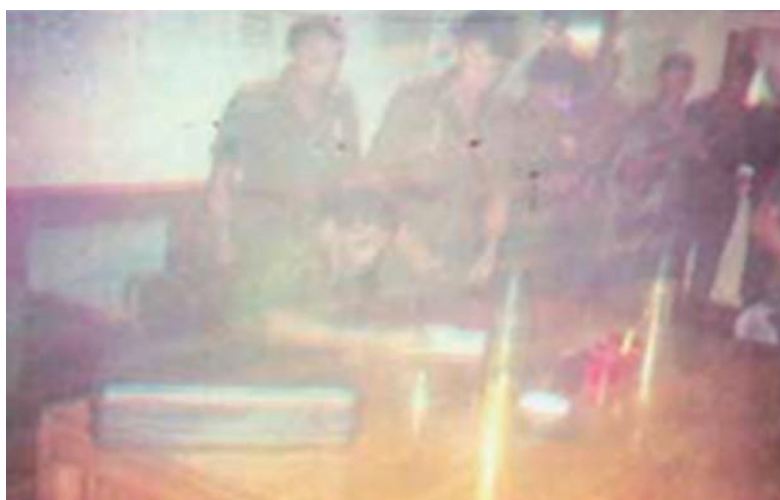
'Operation Jayasikurui' continued until the end of the year, culminating in the capture of Maankulam. The concept of the operation was to advance on a narrow front, eliminating terrorists to secure a Main Supply Route to Jaffna. However, after over a year and a half of fighting, this strategy proved costly in terms of both manpower and resources. During the operation on 19th August, UHA 90257 BMP MK I of 'B' Squadron was lost and had to be abandoned at Nedunkerni, as its retrieval would have required additional personnel and AFV's.

On 27th September, the LTTE launched an attack on Kilinochchi that continued for three days forcing the Army to withdraw to Paranthan. During this attack, UHA 90244 T 63-II was destroyed on 28th September and UHA 90256 BMP was lost to an anti-tank landmine on 29th September during 'Operation Jayasikurui'. Despite these setbacks, 'B' Squadron, moved strategically from Nochchimuttai to Puliyanikulam, played a leading role in the Sri Lanka Army's re-capture of Maankulam town.

Lieutenant Colonel N Udawatta psc relinquished the appointment of Commanding Officer of 5th Regiment SLAC on 31st August 1998 and was appointed as the Officiating Centre Commandant of SLAC. As Lieutenant Colonel Gotabhaya Piyatunga was following an overseas course at that time, Second in Command Major A L P S Tillekerathne was appointed as the acting Commanding Officer.



Maj N Udawatta psc



Maj N Udawatta psc taking over duties as CO 5 SLAC.



5 SLAC at Jaffna peninsula.



Source: "WHEELS TO TRACKS" History of Sri Lanka Armoured Corps 1955-2015

50th Independence Anniversary celebration CO 5 SLAC led the Armour vehicle column.

***Lieutenant Colonel G J S Piyatunga RSP-The Fifth Commanding Officer, 5 SLAC
(from 1st September 1998 to 14th January 2000),.***

Lieutenant Colonel Ghotabaya Piyatunga was a product of St. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia and joined the Army on 27th April 1983 and was posted to 1st Reconnaissance Regiment on 7th November 1984. He held the various appointments of the Regiment such as Troop Leader, Assistant Adjutant, Technical Adjutant, Squadron Commander, Regimental Technical Adjutant, Second in Command and was the first Commanding Officer of 6 SLAC Reinforcement Regiment.

Key appointment holders at this period;

CO	Lt Col G J S Piyatunga RSP
2IC	Maj A L P S Tillekerathne
Adjt	Capt K G M N Senavirathna
OC HQ	Lt N S Ilankoon RSP
	Maj L B K Pussadeniya
	Maj H M S J K Hennayaka
OC A	Maj H M S J K Hennayaka
	Capt K A D S K Dharmasena
	Maj N P Samarakoon USP
OC B	Maj N P Samarakoon USP
	Maj D K N De Silva RSP
OC C	Maj D K N De Silva RSP
	Capt K A D S K Dharmasena
Tech Adjt	Lt L S D N Pathirathne RSP
	Lt WA I S Mendis
QM	Capt (QM) N S Jayawardana
	Capt (QM) D M Jayathilaka

The unit with the new Commanding Officer was involved in strengthening the defence structure, mainly in Paranthan and Elephant Pass sectors. 'A' and 'C' Squadrons actively participated in limited operations in Paranthan, Elephant Pass Iyakachchi and Sankatharavali areas. 'B' Squadron, which was located at Thaandikulam and tasked to carrying out search and clear operations and route picketing of A-9 road at the termination of Operation 'Jayasikurui', was again involved in 'Operation Edibala' in capturing Oddusudan. It was launched on 3rd December 1998 with 53, 55 and 56 Divisions. That operation is considered as a classic example of surprise and deception. Although the terrain factor delayed the link up of troops in certain instances, 53 Division achieved maximum surprise and 55 Division advanced mounted on Armour.

At the dawn of 1999, the deployment of 5 SLAC was as follows;

'RHQ'	-	Salawa-Kosgama
'Tactical HQ'	-	Elephant Pass
'HQ' Squadron	-	Salawa-Kosgama
'A' Squadron	-	Elephant Pass
'B' Squadron	-	Thaandikulam
'C' Squadron	-	Elephant Pass

'A' and 'C' Squadrons took part in Operation 'Lagoon Thunder' commenced in January and in Operation 'Whirl Wind' and Operation 'Ralaphara' in September. 'Tactical HQ' continued with the task of convoy protection of Elephant Pass-Palaly. Meanwhile, 'HQ' Squadron was instructed to manned a road block at Kosgama, engaged in cordon and search operations and election security duties as directed by 112 Brigade.

On 29th June 1999 Tactical HQ was shifted to 'Ironside Camp' built by troops of 5 SLAC at Iyyakachchi, which resemble a fortress. It was declared open by the Commander of the Army Lieutenant General C S Weerasooriya RWP RSP VSV USP along with Security Force Commander and General Officer Commanding of 54 Division.

Construction work of RHQ building at Pangolla also was completed by end of the year. The Unit had organised the 'Sannaddha Gee Miyasiya' a musical show, on 25th August 1999 at the esplanade of Hanwella Central College, Hanwella in view to build a fund to assist disables soldiers and families and it became a great success.

The unit with the new Commanding Officer was involved in strengthening the defence structure, mainly in Paranthan and Elephant Pass sectors. 'A' and 'C' Squadrons actively participated in limited operations in Paranthan, Elephant Pass, Iyakachchi and Sankatharavali areas. 'B' Squadron, which was located at Thaandikulam and tasked to carrying out search and clear Squadron, which was located at Thaandikulam and tasked to carrying out search and clear.

Operations and route picketing of A-9 road at the termination of Operation 'Jayasikurui', was again involved in 'Operation Edibala' in capturing Oddusudan. It was launched on 3rd December 1998 with 53, 55 and 56 Divisions. That operation is considered as a classic example of surprise and deception. Although the terrain factor delayed the link up of troops in certain instances, 53 Division achieved maximum surprise and 55 Division advanced mounted on Armour.

At the beginning of 1999, the deployment of 5 SLAC was as follows;

'RHQ'	-	Salawa-Kosgama
'Tactical HQ'	-	Elephant Pass
'HQ' Squadron	-	Salawa-Kosgama
'A' Squadron	-	Elephant Pass
'B' Squadron	-	Thaandikulam
'C' Squadron	-	Elephant Pass

'A' and 'C' Squadrons took part in Operation 'Lagoon Thunder' commenced in January and in Operation 'Whirl Wind' and Operation 'Ralaphara' in September. Tactical HQ continued with the task of convoy protection of Elephant Pass-Palaly. Meanwhile, 'HQ' Squadron was instructed to man a road block at Kosgama, engaged in cordon and search operations and election security duties as directed by 112 Brigade.

On 29th June 1999 Tactical HQ was shifted to 'Ironside Camp' built by troops of 5 SLAC at Iyakachchi, which resemble a fortress. It was declared open by the Commander of the Army Lieutenant General C S Weerasooriya RWP RSP VSV USP along with Security Force Commander and General Officer Commanding of 54 Division.

Construction work of RHQ building at Pangolla also was completed by end of the year. The Unit had organised the 'Sannaddha Gee Miyasiya' a musical show, on 25th August 1999 at the esplanade of Hanwella Central College, Hanwella in view to build a fund to assist disabled soldiers and families and it became a great success.

At the sunset of 1999, 5 SLAC was deployed as follows;

'RHQ'	-	Salawa-Kosgama
'Tactical HQ'	-	Iyakachchi
'HQ' Squadron	-	Salawa-Kosgama
'A' Squadron	-	Iyakachchi
'B' Squadron	-	Thaandikulam
'C' Squadron	-	Paranthan

Lieutenant Colonel G J S Piyatunga RSP handed over the command to Major R G U Rajapakshe RSP psc on 14th January 2000. Major N P Samarakoon USP took over as the Second in Command from Major A L P S Tillekerathne who proceeded on staff course.



Source: Regimental Headquarters 5th Reconnaissance Regiment Sri Lanka Armoured Corps

Lt Col G J S Piyathunga RSP taking over duties as CO 5 SLAC.



Source: Regimental Headquarters 5th Reconnaissance Regiment Sri Lanka Armoured Corps

Ironside Camp-Iyyakachchi was declared opened by the Commander of Army
Lt Gen C S Weerasooriya RWP RSP VSV USP.

***Major R G U Rajapakshe RSP psc- The Fifth Commanding Officer, 5 SLAC
(from 15th January 2000 to 22nd June 2002).***

Lieutenant Colonel G J S Piyatunga RSP handed over the command of 5 SLAC to Major R G U Rajapakshe RSP psc on 14th January 2000. Major N P Samarakoon USP took over duties as the Second in Command from Major A L P S Tillekerathne who had to proceed on a staff course. During his tenure, Adjutants were Captain I D N S Illangakoon RSP, Lt L S D N Pathirathne RSP and Captain W A I S Mendis..

5 SLAC whilst heavily involved in tense operations in the peninsula, was concentrating on bringing the RHQ which had been temporarily located since its inception in 1995 at Salawa camp, Kosgama since its establishment in 1995 to a permanent place. As a result, the RHQ building and an OR billet were declared open at Pangolla on 23rd March 2000 by Major General N R Marambe RSP USP psc the Colonel Commandant of SLAC and Brig N A Ranasinghe RSP USP psc (first Commanding Officer of the Regiment). Under the guidance of Capt P A M Peiris a building for an armoury was constructed under the HQ Squadron and it was declared opened by the Commanding Officer on 12th June 2002. Since then, Pangolla Camp has become the 'Home' for 5 SLAC with RHQ and 'HQ' Squadron were shifted. WO I R S Mamaduwa RWP RSP handed over the duties of Regimental Sergeant Major to WO I R A Wijesinghe on 15th February 2000.

'A' and 'C' Squadrons withstood the LTTE attacks on FDLs at Elephant Pass on 27th March 2000 and later succeeded in supporting Infantry to stop the 'Unceasing Waves' of LTTE at Pallai, Ittavil box, Iyakachchi, Elephant Pass and Nagarkovil. Captain Sanath Wewegama, the Squadron Commander of the 'B' Squadron deployed at Vavuniya was brought to Jaffna as the 'A' Squadron Commander. Major Dhammika Wijesooriya was suffered with injuries during the LTTE attacks on Vathirayan box. OC 'C' Squadron Captain Sisira Dharmasena got injured (lost his both eyes) on 02nd April 2000. Capt Sanath Wewegama was KIA at Pallai on 10th April 2000 subsequent to a successful offensive operation conducted with Infantry to re-capture a stretch of A9 road.

5 SLAC played a decisive role in Elephant pass withdrawal on 22nd April 2000. The Regiment was tasked to create a passage through the LTTE sieged lines for 54 Division troops to tactfully withdraw from Elephant Pass towards Kilaly along the Southern edge of the Kilaly lagoon. With the least number of survived troops and AFVs after heavy fighting at Iyakachchi and Soranpattu, the TAC HQ 5 SLAC penetrated with concentrated fire through the LTTE defences and created and maintained a passage for the troops to withdraw under heavy LTTE resistance on the same day. The driver, S/102366 Cpl Nawarathne H M of the Commanding Officer's vehicle was KIA due to an Artillery attack on the vehicle on the same day.

Subsequently, both 'A' and 'C' Squadrons participated in a series of operations, designated 'Kinihira,' which was aimed at recapturing areas lost to the LTTE, including Sarasalai, Chawakachcheri, Nunavil, Kaithadi, Thanankilappu, and Ariyalai. These operations were conducted intermittently and were numbered from 1 to 10, with the 5 SLAC playing an offensive role in each. The bravery, commitment, and dedication of the Regiment are evidenced by the critical injuries sustained by many Troop Leaders and one Squadron Commander was KIA and another critically injured between January and April 2000.

As operational tension and tempo escalated, the 5 SLAC was attached to the 53 Division (Reserve Strike Force) and 55 Division in Jaffna. The Commanding Officer of 5 SLAC was appointed as the Armour Coordinator (North), placing all troops, including Main Battle Tanks (MBTs), Wheeled Armoured Vehicles, Armoured fighting vehicles (AFVs), and Armoured personnel Carriers (APCs) from other Regiments in the peninsula under his command for operations. Due to the limited number of MBTs available in the peninsula and the need for heavy fire against LTTE positions, 5 SLAC coordinated with use of a single MBT, transported on a low bed trailer, to fire on LTTE defences from various locations along our (FDLs). 5 SLAC 'A' & 'C' Squadrons were engaged with Kinihira IX which was Intended to regain the ground and capture LTTE first line. Operation was conducted in four Phases. Phase-1 Capture LTTE first line in two Rods with left and right to attack LTTE targets and make shoulders to expand while doing bunker Blasting. Phase-2 to capture LTTE second line along with 4 SLAC & 5 SLAC, 4 SLAC maneuvered from Left and right shoulders and deployed the Fire bases and allow Infantry Rods to capture bunkers. 5 SLAC was tasked to take Infantry troops to frontlines to form Rods, CASEVAC, Ammo Replenishment, debussing fresh troops. Phase 3 and 4 was to secure the further possible areas to capture and maneuver.

Second Lieutenant Jayampathi Ponweera, serving as the 'B' Troop Leader of 'A' Squadron, alongside Lieutenant Upul Wickramanayaka, who commanded 'A' Troop of the same Squadron, were tasked with advancing alongside the 68 Gemunu Watch under the command of Major Chula Abeynayaka. During the operation, 'B' Troop engaged in continuous movement while also assisting in the recovery of 68 casualties. As the operation progressed, their position came under attack from a RPG (Rocket-Propelled Grenade) section, which targeted their T-63 II tank. The assault occurred as friendly forces engaged the enemy with assault rifles.

At approximately 1000 hours, between Ellaththumadduwal and Kilaly, Second Lieutenant Jayampathi Ponweera was exposed to an RPG attack, which struck the hatch of his vehicle. The round ricocheted, resulting in injuries to him. Despite his injuries, Second Lieutenant Jayampathi Ponweera continued to press forward with the operation.

Recognizing the severity of the situation, the Commanding Officer, Major Upali Rajapakshe, ordered his immediate evacuation. Second Lieutenant Jayampathi Ponweera was initially transported to the Advanced Dressing Station (ADS) in Kilaly, followed by the Main Dressing Station (MDS) in Mirusuvil. From there, he was airlifted to Palaly and subsequently transferred to Colombo, where he was admitted to the General Hospital for further treatment.

During the limited operation at the Jaffna 5-way Junction, an assault was conducted on the LTTE forward defence line (FDL) to rescue our Forward Observation Officer (FOO), Capt Marapana and Capt Ubesekekarabanda during the operation were involved with 17 Armoured Tanks and 2 Coys of the 1st Sri Lanka Sinha Regiment (1 SLSR), under the command of SF (J) Commander Major General Sarath Fonseka. During the assault, the driver (S/100384 Cpl Perera PGAUKG) of T 63-II tank was shot in the head. Despite his injury, he managed to maneuver his tank to the LTTE FDL but later succumbed to his injuries at the driver's hatch upon reaching the LTTE FDL. Afterwards Second Lieutenant Jayampathi Ponweera managed to get the APC safely to the Admin area by himself while Cpl Perera was Injured in a bravery action during the attack.

Due to high tempo in operational situation then, 'A' and 'C' Squadrons have been deployed and re-deployed in many places in the peninsula both for offensive and defensive operations. 'A' Squadron was instructed to deploy at Oddupeli and 'C' Squadron at Eluthumadduwal and Manathkadu by July 2000. By August 2000, 'C' Squadron too was deployed at Varani and 1 x Troop was sent to Rock House to be deployed later under Headquarters Security Force Wanni.

By mid of 2000, the deployment of the Regiment was as follows;

'RHQ'	-	Pangolla
'HQ' Squadron	-	Pangolla
'Tactical HQ'	-	Varani
'A' Squadron	-	Oddupeli
'B' Squadron	-	Varani
'C' Squadron	-	Varani

However, the 'C' Squadron was again shifted to Koddedai, Nagarkovil on 10th February 2001. Regimental Headquarters was taken to Kankasanturai on 11th March 2001. The main task of the 'C' Squadron was to prevent any sea landings by LTTE along the Manalkadu, Koddedai and Nagarkovil beachfront and to conduct defensive operations along the Nagarkovil FDLs. In the meantime, 'A' and 'C' Squadrons had taken part in Operation 'Kinihira IX' and 'Kinihira X' which were conducted to expand the FDLs at Muhammalai.

They have participated in Operation 'Agnikeela' on 25th April 2001 which was launched to capture LTTE FDLs at Pallai. All Squadrons were deployed frequently in close proximity to the FDLs and assisted Infantry in thwarting many LTTE attacks. In the Wanni theatre too, the Army was involved in strengthening the defences. 'I' troop of 'A' Squadron was sent to be deployed under Headquarters Security Force Wanni, but it was deployed at Mannar for a short duration. Troop was again shifted to Jaffna and was deployed at Kudattanai-Jaffna under the Headquarters Security Force Jaffna on 25th April 2001. 'I' Troop of 'B' Squadron was deployed at Vellankulam was shifted to Kokkeliya on 28th May 2001 and then it was shifted to Rock House Camp on 27th September 2001 prior to the deployment at Kankasanturai under the Armoured Brigade.

Major A M L De Soyza RSP over looked the duties of 2IC from 15th March to 7th June 2001 until Major Nihal Samarakoon returned after an overseas course. The venue of the annual pilgrimage was changed from Kataragama to Anuradhapura-Dambulla-Polonnaruwa this year and took place from 30th August 2001 to 1st September 2001 with the attendance of family members of KIA Officers and ORs. Major Asanga Nanayakkara took over as the Second in Command on 3rd February 2002 and at the beginning of 2002, the Regiment was deployed as follows;

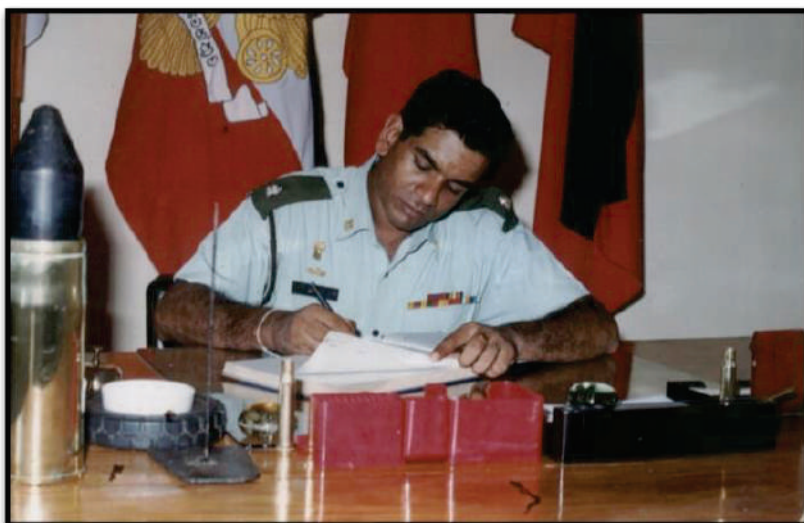
'RHQ'	-	Kankasanturai
'Tactical HQ'	-	Varani
'HQ' Squadron	-	Pangolla
'A' Squadron	-	Oddupeli
'B' Squadron	-	Varani
'C' Squadron	-	Nagarkovil

With the elected new government came into power on December 2001, there was speculation about potential peace talks with the LTTE. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed on 22nd February 2002 between the Government and the LTTE, establishing a relatively peaceful environment throughout the country. The Army utilized this period for the training and recuperation of its troops.

The Regiment also took advantage of the non-aggressive nature of the battlefield to focus on the long-delayed construction projects at Pangolla Camp. As a result, a building for the 'HQ' Squadron, an armoury, and 100 x 20 feet OR billet were constructed using Regimental funds and manpower, without any allocations from Army funds. These buildings were officially opened on 16th March, 6th June, 23rd August, and 24th August 2002.

With the induction of new BMPs to the 6 SLAC, the deployment of Armoured units changed, and the 5 SLAC was instructed to re-locate from Jaffna to the Wanni theatre, specifically deployment in Mannar. As a result, the 'A' Squadron was moved to ATS-Maduru Oya in March. After participating in Infantry Battalion training, afterwards it was deployed at the 212 Brigade complex as a reserve for Security Force Headquarter-Wanni on 12th June 2002.

'B' Squadron re-located from Varani to Pangolla on 21st April 2002 and was subsequently deployed in Mannar on 18th July 2002. 'C' Squadron left the Jaffna Peninsula after handing over their duties at Nagarkovil to the 6 SLAC, reporting first to Rock House and later to ATS-Maduru Oya on 11th August 2002. 'I' Troop remained there for Battalion training, while the Squadron HQ and 'II' Troop were deployed in Mannar. 'III' Troop stayed at Pangolla Camp due to their AFVs being 'off-road'. Major R G U Rajapakshe RSP psc handed over the command of the Regiment to Major A L P S Tillekerathne psc on 22nd June 2002 and was posted to SLMA as a Senior Instructor.



Major R G U Rajapakshe RSP psc taking over the command of the Regiment.



RHQ building was declared open at Pangolla on 23rd March 2000 by Maj Gen N R Marambe RSP USP psc.



CO 5 SLAC deliver orders prior to limited Operation.



Briefing by the Commander Armoured Brigade Col R M Jayasinghe USP psc before Operation 'Agnikeela'.



CO 5 SLAC Maj R G U Rajapakshe declared open the Other Rank's billet at Pangolla.

***Major A L P S Tillekerathne psc-The Sixth Commanding Officer, 5 SLAC
(from 27th June 2002 to 14th January 2005)***

Major R G U Rajapakshe RSP psc handed over the command of the Regiment to Major A L P S Tillekerathne psc on 22nd June 2002 and was posted to SLMA as the Senior Instructor. Major A L P S Tillekerathne psc took over duties as the fifth Commanding Officer of 5 SLAC on 27th June 2002.

With the deployment of all Sabre Squadrons under Security Force Headquarters, Wanni, Tactical HQ too was shifted from Varani on 19th June and was deployed at Thallady Camp, Mannar on 23rd July. There were 2 x troops of 3 SLAC and 1 x troop of 1 SLAC deployed in Mannar and with 3 x troops of 5 SLAC, Tactical HQ took over duties of Armour Coordinating HQ from 3 SLAC. Apart from the classic Armour role, the Armour Coordinating HQ was responsible for providing protection to the Mannar-Anuradhapura convoy too. 'B' Squadron received a new BMP Command Vehicle (UHA 9039) in May 2003.

The end of 2002, the deployment of 5 SLAC was as follows;

'RHQ'	-	Pangolla
'Tactical HQ'	-	Thallady-Mannar
'HQ' Squadron	-	Pangolla
'A' Squadron	-	Vavuniya
'B' Squadron	-	Illaiady
'C' Squadron	-	Thallady-Mannar, ATC-Maduru Oya

'A' Squadron was awarded the 'Commanding Officer's Trophy' by the Commanding Officer at the 9th Anniversary ceremony at the Pangolla Camp on 6th January 2003 as the 'Best Squadron of 2002'. 25th January 2003 was a special day for 5 SLAC. Almost all former Commanding Officers were invited to Pangolla Camp and they declared open the following buildings;

Brig N A Ranasinghe RSP USP psc	-	'B' Squadron Office and Flag Post
Col M P Peiris RWP RSP psc	-	'A' Squadron Office
Lt Col G J S Piyatunga RSP	-	'B' Guard Room

The constructions were carried out only through the unit funds and by the men of 5 SLAC. With the opening of the Regiment Flag Post, Pangolla Camp was re-named as the 'Ironside Camp'.

Having landed at Mannar for the first time, troops carried out initial reconnaissance in the area and conducted rehearsals with Infantry counterparts. They started training with Infantry platoons developing Infantry-Armour cooperation as well. Headquarters with the 'II' Troop of 'C' Squadron was shifted from Illaiady to Manthai and the 'II' Troop of 'B' Squadron was deployed in Illaiady on 17th May 2003.

Bringing an immense relief to Warrant Officers and Sergeants of 5 SLAC who had been staying in a thatched house since the establishment of the unit in Pangolla Camp, new Warrant Officer's and Sergeant's quarters were declared open by Colonel U A B Medawela psc (the first Second in Command) of the Regiment, on 19th September 2003. This building was constructed by the effort men of the unit using unit funds and contributions from the members of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess.

The Regiment organised and conducted the Inter-Unit Practical Rifle Shooting Competition of SLAC on 15th-18th June 2003 at Illaiady Range, Mannar and Brigadier K S Fernando RWP RSP hdmc, the area Commander, Mannar was the Chief Guest of the final day ceremony of this event. At the same time, 5 SLAC won the Inter-Unit Drill Competition in year 2003. Captain Priyantha Kariyawasam, who commanded the unit drill squad, was selected to command the drill platoon of the SLAC for the Army Inter-Regiment Drill Competition, in which SLAC emerged Second Runner-up.

The renovated and modified dining building of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, along with the newly constructed building for the same was declared opened by the Commanding Officer on 2nd December 2003. Funds for these constructions were also raised by the 5 SLAC. At the beginning of 2004, the deployment of 5 SLAC was follows;

'RHQ'	-	Iron Side Camp-Pangolla
'Tactical HQ'	-	Thallady-Mannar
'HQ' Squadron	-	Iron Side Camp-Pangolla
'A' Squadron	-	Vavuniya
'B' Squadron	-	Thallady-Mannar
'C' Squadron	-	Mantai-Mannar, ATC-Maduru Oya

Major M H A D Hettiarachchi, the Second in Command handed over his duties to Major N P Samarakoon USP on 6th April 2004. At the beginning of the year 2004 Regimental Headquarters was located at Ironside Camp, Pangolla along with the 'HQ' Squadron. Further, Tactical Headquarters was located at Thallady, Mannar along with the 'B' Squadron, the 'A' Squadron was located in Vavuniya and the 'C' Squadron was at Manthei, Mannar.



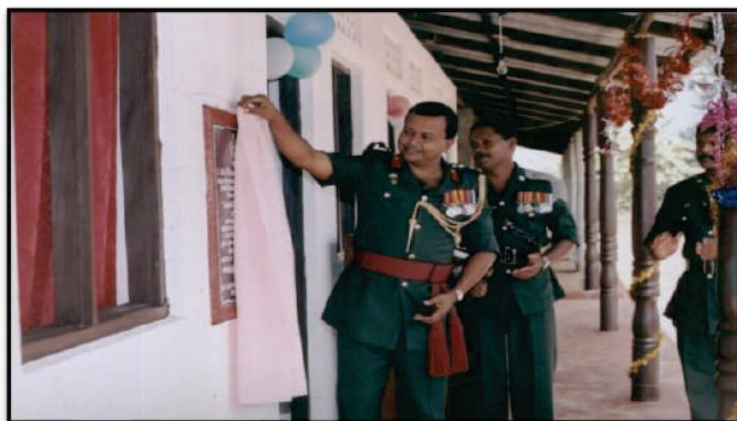
Major A L P S Tillekerathne psc taking over the duties as CO 5 SLAC.



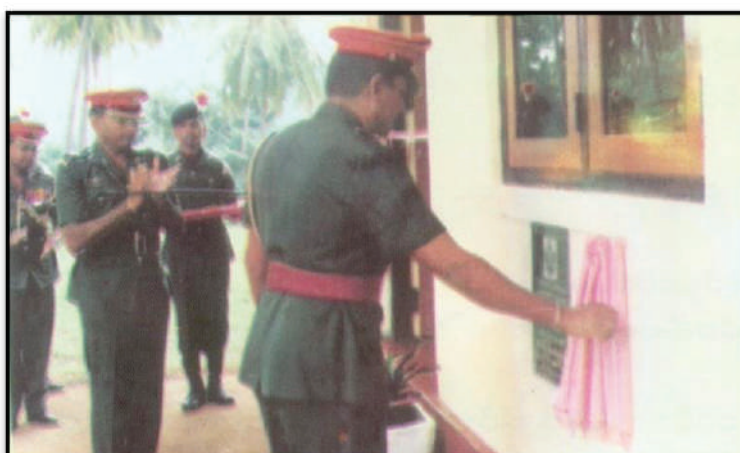
Brigadier N A Ranasinghe RSP USP psc declared opening of the flag post on 25th January 2003.



A new building for WOs' & Sgt's Mess was declared opened by the CO 5 SLAC, Maj A L P S Tillekerathne psc on 02nd December 2003.



Wos' & Sgts' Quarters was declared open by Col U A B Medawela psc.



Office Complex of 'A' Squadron was declared open by Colonel M P Peiris RWP RSP psc.



‘B’ Guard Room was declared open by Lieutenant Colonel G J S Piyatunga RSP.

***Major S A U Nanayakkara-The Seventh Commanding Officer, 5 SLAC
(from 15th January 2005 to 30th January 2006).***

Major A L P S Tillekerathne psc, the Commanding Officer handed over duties to Major S A U Nanayakkara on 14th January 2005. Tragically, his promising career was cut short when he passed away on 21st March 2007.



Maj S A U Nanayakkara taking over the duties as CO 5 SLAC.

*Major N P Samarakoon USP-The Eighth Commanding Officer, 5 SLAC
(from 13th January 2006 to 15th July 2010).*

Major S A U Nanayakkara handed over Commanding Officer duties to Major N P Samarakoon USP on 31st January 2006.

Major Nalinda Niyangoda was the Second in Command during the year. During the period from 2006 to 2009, Regiment was deployed in temporally bases in operational areas as a result of maintaining momentum of Wanni Humanitarian Operation.

Due to the volatile security situation that prevailed during the year 2006, the unit troops were employed in various tasks such as escort duties for vehicle convoys, protection of Key Points and Vulnerable Points. Later, in the year the, 'II' Troop of 'C' Squadron was deployed in Vakarai and Thoppigala incorporated with 1 SLSR and 6 & 7 GW as part of the Humanitarian Operation conducted in the Eastern Province in order to liberate Eastern Theatre.

Moreover, security coordination duties of welfare bus convoy of Area Headquarters, Mannar was conducted by the Armour Coordination Headquarters-Wanni. During initial stages of year 2007 Tactical Headquarters, 'B' and 'C' Squadrons were deployed at Mannar while 'A' Squadron was deployed under 211 Brigade at Vavuniya. On 21st February 2007 the RHQ and 'HQ' Squadron were re-deployed at Thalladi camp at Mannar as per the instructions of Army Headquarters. Later, on 29th May 2007, the 'HQ' Squadron was taken back to the Ironside Camp, Pangolla.

From the beginning of year 2008, Second in Command was Maj I M S S Illankoon RWP detached from the Regiment for the ERE. Then Major M W A R C Wijesuriya assumed duties as Second in Command for a limited period.

5 SLAC actively engaged in since the beginning of Eelam War IV (Humanitarian Operation) till the end under the leadership of then Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Nihal Samarakoon Initially the Unit rendered its valuable support to the Eastern Humanitarian. The 'I' Troop of 'C' Squadron actively engaged with the efforts of the Infantry troops and valiantly supported the liberation of the Eastern Province from the clutches of the LTTE at Thoppigala, Batticaloa.

In the years 2008 and 2009, the Regiment was fully involved in the world's largest Humanitarian Operation conducted in the Northern Province to liberate the people under the jackboot of the LTTE. The 'A' Squadron spearheaded the operations under 59 Division whilst 'B' and 'C' Squadrons rolled over the LTTE strongholds in the Wanni Theatre under the dynamic 58 Division. The Regiment was extensively involved in the Humanitarian Operation from the beginning until the historic defeat of the LTTE on 19th May 2009. The Regiment as a part of the 58 Division has covered a total of 237 km from Giant Tank Mannar to Mullivaikkal in Mullaitivu and has given all its might in defeating the ruthless LTTE. In the process the Regiment also lost a brave son of Mother Lanka, Then Captain R A K Ranawaka, the Officer Commanding of the 'C' Squadron on 10th March 2008. He was injured due to a land mine and later he succumbed to his injuries at the Military Hospital, Colombo.



Lt Col R A K Ranawaka WWV.



Source: Sri Lanka Armoured Corps 60 Years of History (1955-2015)

Commanding Officer with 5 SLAC troops links up with Sri Lanka Light Infantry troops during the final stage of Humanitarian Operation at Vellamullivaikkal, Mullaitivu.



POST-OPERATION ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE 5th RECONNAISSANCE REGIMENT IN HUMANITARIAN CONTEXTS

*Lieutenant Colonel S D Meepagala-The Ninth Commanding Officer, 5 SLAC
(from 15th July 2010 to 5th November 2012).*

2010 was a year of great significance for the unit as all the Squadrons of the unit along with RHQ was able to deploy in Iranamadu under Headquarters, Security Forces Kilinnochchi for the first time in its 16 years of history. Lieutenant Colonel Nihal Samarakoon, the Commanding Officer handed over duties to Lieutenant Colonel S D Meepagala on 15th July 2010.

Lieutenant Colonel Sumith Meepagala took over the helm and year made a beginning of a new fangled era after the lengthened conflict. Commanding Officer acted as the Armour Coordinator for Headquarters Security Force, Kilinnochchi and the unit was retaining under command to Headquarters Security Force, Kilinnochchi. During this period, extend of 42.7 hectares of land at Murunkandi was acquired from the District Forest Office, Mullaitivu. As a result, this important piece of land paved a way to deploy 'B' Squadron of 5 SLAC at Murunkandi-Kilinnochchi and shifted Trade Training School from Trincomalee to Kilinnochchi.

Further, Cavalry Supercross, the significant experience took place for the first time in Armour History with the purpose of fund raising for the welfare activities of Officers and Soldiers of the Corps. This event was a coordinated effort with the Sri Lanka Association of Racing Drivers and Riders (SLARDAR) and the first racing experience was graced by Lieutenant General J Jayasuriya RWP VSV USP ndu psc, then Commander of the Army as the Chief Guest.

Lieutenant Colonel Sumith Meepagala attended for the Peace Keeping Mission in Lebanon on 9th June 2011 and Major Thushara Harasgama, the Second in Command handed over duties on 5th June 2011. After going off of Major Thushara Harasgama for ERE duties Major Y H P Rangajeewa was appointed as both Second in Command as well as the Overlooking Commanding Officer on 6th June 2011.

Subsequently, the RHQ was re-deployed in Pangolla along with 'HQ' Squadron and 'B' Squadron. The 'A' and 'C' Squadrons remained under Headquarters Security Force, Kilinnochchi. On 27th July 2012, a grand ceremony was held on the premises of Ironside Camp Pangolla to award "Uttama Pooja" medal to 4500 family members of deceased Soldiers. Then Secretary of Defence Mr. Gotabhaya Rajapaksa graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Lieutenant Colonel Sumith Meepagala handed over Commanding Officer appointment to Lieutenant Colonel Thushara Harasgama on 6th November 2012.



Lt Col S D Meepagala taking over duties as CO 5 SLAC

***Lieutenant Colonel T C Harasgama RSP-The Tenth Commanding Officer, 5 SLAC
(from 6th November 2012 to 13th August 2015).***

Lieutenant Colonel T C Harasgama RSP took over duties as the 10th Commanding Officer on 6th November 2012. In year 2013, 5 SLAC celebrated its 19th Anniversary and one troop of 'B' Squadron was deployed along with Armoured Brigade and Composite Armoured Squadron consisted with three AFVs was placed at Maduru Oya for the security of Maduru Oya dam and with the intension of conducting practical firing for Armour Young Officers course. Further, RHQ, 'HQ' and 'B' Squadrons located at Pangolla Ironside Camp while Tac HQ with the Commanding Officer and 'A' Squadron located at Kokavil and 'C' Squadron located at Wattappalei, Mullaitivu under Headquarters, Security Force-Mullaitivu. During the period CO 5 SLAC was Armour Coord and operated at Armour Coord HQ at Kokavil.

This year was a remarkable year for the Ironside Camp in that opening of the Portal of the Ironside Camp and newly constructed Officers' Mess in the fascinating land bordered with Deduru Oya by Lieutenant General J Jayasuriya RWP VSV USP ndu psc, then Commander of the Army on 19th July 2013.

The construction of pre-fabricated buildings for the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess and the Corporals' Club commenced in 2013. In addition, the third edition of the Cavalry Supercross was held on a grand scale that year, featuring a wide array of participants and drawing significant attention. The event showcased exceptional skill and competition, further enhancing its reputation and solidifying its place as a premier event in the annual calendar. On 10th January 2014, the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess was completed with a TV room, was formally inaugurated by Lieutenant Colonel T C Harasgama RSP who was serving as the Commanding Officer at the time.

The Corporals' Club was officially inaugurated in a ceremonial event on 30st August 2015. This new facility aims to provide a dedicated space for corporals to gather, fostering camaraderie and enhancing morale within the unit. The opening ceremony was attended by key personnel and highlighted the organization's commitment to the well-being and professional development of its Non-Commissioned Officers.

The grandstand for the Cavalry Supercross was officially opened in a ceremonious event. The new grandstand which was designed to accommodate a larger audience, provides spectators with an enhanced viewing experience of the high-adrenaline races. This addition reflects the growing popularity of the Cavalry Supercross and underscores the commitment to improving facilities for both participants and fans. The opening event was attended by dignitaries, participants, and enthusiasts, marking a significant milestone in the evolution of the event.

Under the directive of Army Headquarters, fifty military personnel were enlisted to undertake agricultural duties, utilizing 50 acres of land within the camp for agricultural purposes. The Recruit Training Centre of the 5 SLAC commenced the training with its 107 newly enlisted recruits. This initiative marks a significant step in the training and development of new personnel, aimed at enhancing the operational capabilities of the unit.

As part of an initiative to strengthen relations with the civilian community, a project was launched to provide a workforce for the construction and renovation of local schools. This effort aims to improve educational infrastructure in the area, demonstrating a commitment to supporting and uplifting the surrounding communities. The inauguration of a new library equipped with a diverse collection of books with a computer was held in a formal ceremony. A facility complex was constructed within the premises of the 5 SLAC, representing a significant infrastructure development initiative. This complex was designed to meet a variety of needs fulfilment of Officers and Soldiers. The construction project underscores the commitment to enhancing the capabilities and efficiency of the unit, ensuring it is well-equipped to fulfil its mission effectively. The completion of this facility complex stands as a testament to ongoing efforts to modernize and optimize resources within the military establishment.

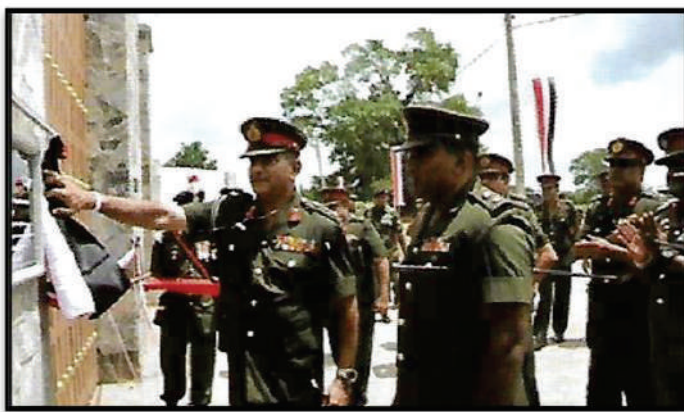
Opening of a new Guardroom were ceremonially opened by the Commander of the Army, Lieutenant General J Jayasuriya RWP VSV USP ndu psc on 19th July 2013. The year 2015 brought a period of tranquility and stability to the unit. On 16th April 2015 Major P A R Wijerathne RWP RSP assumed the role of Second in Command, succeeding Major S J Samarasinghe psc.

During the end of year 2015 the deployment of the Regiment was as follows;

'RHQ', 'HQ' and 'B' Squadron	-	Ironside Camp, Pangolla
'A' and 'C' Squadron	-	Kokavil Camp



Lieutenant Colonel T C Harasgama RSP taking over duties as CO 5 SLAC.



Lt Gen J Jayasuriya RWP VSV USP ndu psc unveiling the plaque to declare open the Main Gate of 5 SLAC at Ironside camp in Pangolla.

Lt Col T A M K De Silva RSP USP psc-The Eleventh Commanding Officer, 5 SLAC (from 13th August 2015 to 20th September 2017).

Lt Col T A M K De Silva RSP USP psc took over duties as the eleventh Commanding Officer from Lt Col T C Harasgama RSP. In 2016, initial steps were taken for several infrastructure projects, notably the commencement of the construction of a new "Dageba." Additionally, the 6th Cavalry Super Cross event was held on a grand scale, featuring both local and international competitors, marking its return after a two-year break.

The Commanding Officer was stationed at Kokavil, acting as the Armour Coordinator, as two Squadrons were deployed there in the absence of Armour units in the North. Squadron collective training was conducted from 1st August 2015, to 31st August 2015 to enhance the operational readiness of the Soldiers. Due to the Regiment's dispersed deployment, this training took place at multiple locations.

'HQ' & 'A' Squadrons	-	Ironside Camp, Pangolla
'B' Squadron	-	Kokavil Camp, Kilinnochchi
'C' Squadron	-	Wattappalei Camp, Mullaitivu

During this period, a significant event was the ceremonial placement of sacred items in the newly constructed Dageba “ASOLA SEYA” which took place at 0832 hour on 3rd January 2017. The placing of the Sacred Kotha was carried out by Lt Col Manoj De Silva at 0746 hour on 10th September 2017 with the participation of families of KIA, WIA and Soldiers of active service.

The construction of the water supply system was completed and officially declared open by the Commanding Officer on 14th February 2017 resolving a long-standing water shortage at the camp. Additionally, a new accommodation building, constructed through the dedication and commitment of the ORs of ‘A’ Squadron was officially opened by the Commanding Officer on 12th September 2017.

The newly constructed generator room, a necessity for the Regiment, has been successfully completed, providing a long-term solution to a longstanding issue of power failure. The facility complex was reconstructed including the addition of a parking shed for soldiers. Cavalry Supercross Grandstand together with Officer's Mess upstairs pavilion was also constructed and officially declared opened by Maj General M P Peiris RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc on 11th June 2016. During the tenure, the development of the Regiment's farm was accomplished by expanding livestock and increasing crop production, effectively meeting the unit's daily food requirements.

Under the leadership of Commanding Officer Lt Col Manoj De Silva, the Regiment embraced a motto that encapsulated its ethos and mission. With careful consideration and profound insight, he crafted the Regimental motto as "We lead where it matters." This succinct yet powerful phrase resonated deeply within the ranks, symbolizing not just a declaration of duty, but a commitment to excellence and significance in every endeavour undertaken. It epitomized the Regiment's dedication to being at the forefront, guiding and influencing where it truly made a difference. This motto became more than just words; it became a guiding principle, instilling a sense of purpose and direction in the hearts of every member of the Regiment. As they marched forward, they did so much with the unwavering belief that they were leading not just in action, but in the very essence of what it meant to serve with distinction and honour. Among the notable achievements during the tenure, our Regiment secured victory in the Football finals, emerging as Regimental champions in the year 2017. This success was not merely a triumph on the field but a testament to the dedication, teamwork, and skill of our athletes.

Through rigorous training, unwavering determination, and a spirit of camaraderie, our team rose to the occasion, demonstrating excellence in sportsmanship and performance. This victory not only brought pride to our Regiment but also served as a reminder of the importance of discipline, perseverance, and unity in achieving success, both on and off the field.

On 2nd July 2017, the highly anticipated Cavalry Super Cross event took place, drawing participants and spectators alike to witness a thrilling display of equestrian skill and athleticism. Notable among the attendees was the esteemed presence of the Sports Minister, Mr. Dayasiri Jayasekara, adding prestige and significance to the occasion. The event attracted a diverse array of competitors, both local and foreign, who converged to showcase their talents and compete in various challenging categories. Furthermore, the Recruit Training Centre of the 5th Reconnaissance Regiment successfully conducted and completed three recruit courses within the specified year, the chief guest for those occasions were Lt Col Manoj De Silva.

The Colonel Commandant Major General S D T Liyanage WWV RWP VSV USP ndc psc, made an official visit to the Ironside camp on 12th July 2017, following assuming duties as the Colonel Commandant of the Sri Lanka Armoured Corps.



Lt Col T A M K De Silva RSP USP psc taking over duties as CO 5 SLAC.



“Asola Saya”- at 5 SLAC.

Lieutenant Colonel W A I S Mendis RSP USP-The Twelfth Commanding Officer, 5 SLAC (from 22nd September 2017 to 29th December 2019).

On 20th September 2017, Lieutenant Colonel T A M K De Silva RSP USP psc handed over the duties as the Commanding Officer of 5 SLAC and Lieutenant Colonel W A I S Mendis RSP USP took over duties as the 12th Commanding Officer of 5 SLAC on 22nd September 2017. The Commanding Officer who was stationed at Kokavil camp aftermath of the Humanitarian Operations, then shifted to the Ironside camp, Pangolla since year 2017.

Year 2017 marked another significant milestone that the unit became the Best Sports unit in the Armoured Corps. The Unit celebrated its 24th Anniversary on 6th January 2018 and a Tombola night was held with participation of all ranks, which added more colour to the anniversary celebrations.

The foundation stone was laid by the Commanding Officer for the proposed Other Ranks accommodation block on 29th January 2018. The following year, with the tireless efforts of all Ranks and troops of the Engineer Services Regiment, the newly constructed Other-Ranks Accommodation Complex was declared open.

The Commander, Armoured Brigade, Colonel M K S Silva RWP RSP visited the Ironside camp, Pangolla on 29th March 2018. A colossal tree planting campaign was inaugurated with an initiative of Major General Sathayapriya Liyanage, the Colonel Commandant of SLAC, to plant 2000 saplings of economically valued trees. The initial step was held on 15th July 2018 with participation of renowned profiles in the area.

A new engagement was commenced this year by establishing the Outward Bound Training (OBT) and leadership training centre at Ironside camp with the approval of Directorate of Training. The 5 SLAC gained a wide recognition within the Army as a Leadership training institute for civilian sector through its efficient and creative training modules. Following training programmes were successfully concluded during the year.

- Training programme for 40 numbers of newly elected Government Agents of Western Province from 14th to 18th May 2018.
- Training programme for 37 students of Lindsey Girl's School of Colombo 3 on 9th June 2018.
- Training programme for 101 numbers newly joined staff of Bank of Ceylon from 3rd to 9th September 2018.
- Training programme for 73 postgraduate students of MBA intake XVII of the Faculty of Management Studies of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka on 15th and 16th September 2018.
- Training programme for 114 students of year 2018 Prefects Board of Ibbagamuwa Central College on 10th and 11th October 2018.

15th December 2018 marked a historical day for the 5 SLAC by becoming the most outstanding unit and the Best Unit in training while obtaining the highest marks on the administrative inspection conducted by the Regimental Centre SLAC. With that triumphant status quo, this adolescent Regiment celebrated its Silver Jubilee on 6th January 2019 which followed with a string of celebrations. This was the first ever achievement of this calibre since the establishment of 5 SLAC and will be remembered forever whilst giving an unparalleled motivation to the members of 5 SLAC to thrive for excellence.

Deployment of the Regiment on the dawn of 2019 was as follows;

‘RHQ’, ‘HQ’ and ‘A’ Squadrons	-	Ironside Camp, Pangolla
‘B’ Squadron	-	Kokavil Camp, Kilinnochchi
‘C’ Squadron	-	Wattappalei, Mullaitivu

With the glory of 25 years, Lieutenant Colonel Indika Mendis, the Commanding Officer, 5 SLAC proudly marched along the Galle Face Drive on a Saladin Armoured Car leading the Armoured Vehicle Column on the 71st Independence Day parade on 4th February 2019.

Latter stages of the first half of the year 2019 experienced a tragedy to the Motherland with the Easter Sunday bombings Attack by Islamic extremist group caused loss of hundreds of innocent civilians. Consequently, 5 SLAC actively took part in Internal Security duties and specially providing security for schools of the area in liaison with the Infantry Battalions under the instructions of 523 Brigade, Kurunegala. The Commander Armoured Brigade, Colonel S W M Fernando WWV RWP RSP USP psc officially visited the Regiment on 29th September 2019.

The “War Horse Mural” and Guard Turnout base constructed by troops of 5 SLAC including S/106570 Sgt Rajawansa K D D with his profound architectural skills and they were declared open by the Commanding Officer on 20th September 2019. A washroom complex to facilitate Soldiers who are on guard duties was constructed at the 'B' guard room and declared open by the Commanding Officer on the same day.

“Media Tower”, to provide best media coverage, and VIP washroom complex were constructed to facilitate Cavalry Supercross on 20th October 2019, the 7th edition of Cavalry Supercross and the event was successfully held. Further, a new entry point to the camp, named as “C” Gate was constructed in order to have separate entry for low bed trailers and vehicle carriers to the Paddock hill area.

On 6th November 2019, the Centre Commandant, Brigadier M G T D Rathnasekara USP officially visited the unit and he declared open the newly constructed Main Kitchen of the unit which was a longstanding requirement for the Soldiers. Administration Inspection conducted by the Regimental Centre held on 15th November 2019 and the unit secured the Best Training Unit trophy for second consecutive year. The Commander Armoured Brigade, Brigadier S W M Fernando WWV RWP RSP USP psc officially visited the Regiment on 23rd December 2019.



Lieutenant Colonel W A I S Mendis RSP USP taking over duties as CO 5 SLAC.



OR Accommodation.



Newly constructed Main Kitchen.



The “War Horse Mural” and Guard Turnout base of 5 SLAC.



Media Hut.



VIP Washroom Complex.



Newly constructed 'C' gate.

***Lieutenant Colonel D K S M Kariyawasam USP-The Thirteenth Commanding Officer,
5 SLAC (from 30th December 2019 to 20th August 2021).***

In the heart of the 5th Reconnaissance Regiment, a significant transition occurred on the 29th of December 2019. Lieutenant Colonel W A I S Mendis RSP USP handed over the command of 5th Reconnaissance Regiment to Lieutenant Colonel D K S M Kariyawasam USP, who assumed the role as the 13th Commanding Officer on 30th December 2019. This marked the beginning of a new chapter for the unit, one that would be defined by resilience, dedication and excellence.

As the year turned to 2020, 5 SLAC celebrated its 26th Anniversary on 6th January 2020. The occasion was marked with a series of joyous events. However, the celebrations were soon overshadowed by the onset of a global pandemic, an unprecedented challenge in recent history, the COVID 19. In response, the 5th Reconnaissance Regiment launched proactive measures to ensure the safety and security of its Officers and Soldiers. All the unit members were educated on the COVID 19 disease by lectures conducted by Officers providing an understanding and necessary protective measure to be adopted by all. Unlike many surrounding camps that were forced to lock down, 5 SLAC remained operational, maintaining routine tasks and supporting higher Headquarters. The Regiment's effective management of the crisis earned high praise from Major General S D T Liyanage WWV RWP VSV USP ndc psc, then Colonel Commandant of SLAC during his visit, a testament to unwavering commitment of all Officers and Other Ranks.

10th February in 2020, Brigadier M G T D Rathnasekara USP, the Commander of the Armoured Brigade, officially visited the unit. On 13th March 2020, at the Armoured Corps Training Centre in Anuradhapura, unit emerged as the champions of the Inter-unit Drill Competition, a title they reclaimed after 17 years, showcasing their discipline and precision.

Demonstrating the commitment to Leadership and development, the unit conducted a comprehensive programme for 100 graduates preparing for their professional careers sponsored by the government. This initiative highlighted the high standards and capabilities of both the Officers and Other Ranks. The programme included physical training, diverse lectures conducted by both Officers and outside resource personnel, leadership development and team-building activities, hikes, community service projects and even campfires. The participants and government officials alike highly commended the programme, reflecting the unit's dedication to excellence and the commitment to the duty.

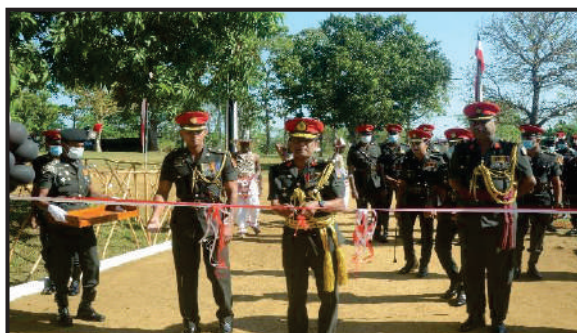
The unit continued to make strides under the Leadership of Lieutenant Colonel Sujith Kariyawasam. 20th March 2021, the Colonel Commandant Major General D B S N Bothota RWP RSP USP psc officially visited the unit, inaugurating newly constructed Technical Stores and a Tech Office Complex at Pangolla camp premises. Later, on 30th June 2021, the newly appointed Commander of the Armoured Brigade, Brigadier P A M Peiris RSP USP psc, visited the unit and opened the renovated and upgraded Commanding Officer's Chalet at the eye-catching location of Deduru Oya riverside.

Throughout this period, several significant improvements and projects were undertaken. The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess and the Corporal's Club bar facilities were extended and upgraded. A new Sri Lanka Army Service Corps Supply Depot Service complex was constructed near the 'B' gate area and a well-structured comprehensive compost manufacturing project was launched to support the National need for fertilizers as per the instructions of the government. The construction of a new vehicle and motorcycle parking facility, made possible by the contributions of all Officers and Ranks, ensured the safety and security of personal vehicles. Additionally, Squadrons in Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu engaged in numerous activities to enhance troop welfare, including a vital and a much-needed Water Supply Project for 'C' Squadron in Vattapallei, Mullaitivu.

Lieutenant Colonel Sujith Kariyawasam concluded his commendable tenure on 20th August 2021, handing over command to Lieutenant Colonel W A W T Sujith RWP psc, the 14th Commanding Officer. Lieutenant Colonel Sujith Kariyawasam's Leadership over one and a half years left a lasting legacy of resilience, novelty and excellence within the 5th Reconnaissance Regiment, setting a high standard for future Leaders to follow.



Lieutenant Colonel D K S M Kariyawasam USP taking over duties as CO 5 SLAC.



Newly constructed Technical Stores was declared open by Colonel Commandant Major General D B S N Bothota RWP RSP USP psc on 20th March 2021 at Ironside camp Pangolla.



Renovated and upgraded Commanding Officers' Chalet was declared opened by Commander Armoured Brigade Brigadier P A M Peiris RSP USP psc at Ironside camp Pangolla on 30th June 2021.

***Lieutenant Colonel W A W T Sujith RWP psc-The Fourteenth Commanding Officer,
5 SLAC (from 20th August 2021 to 2nd March 2023).***

Lieutenant Colonel D K S M Kariyawasam USP handed over his duties to the Lieutenant Colonel W A W T Sujith RWP psc on 20th August 2021. Major W D S P Wickramasinghe RSP USP took over duties as the Second in Command. Major R K K Paragathantree psc proceeded for an Overseas Mission.

Due to spread of Covid-19 pandemic situation, unit had to take strict pandemic prevention measures for Officers and Other Ranks. During this pandemic situation limited troops engaged in routine duties. Therefore, 28th Anniversary celebration was celebrated with having Covid-19 prevention guideline with strict medical precaution that only included all Ranks lunch: presided by the Commanding Officer.

Moreover, newly appointed Commander Armoured Brigade, Brigadier M W A R C Wijesuriya RSP USP officially visited the unit on 7th June 2022. Same day Inter-Unit Kabaddi competition was held at unit playground at Pangolla and became Runner-up. Brigadier M A Izadeen RSP participated as the chief guest along with Commander Armoured Brigade.

On 12th September 2022, 5th Reconnaissance Regiment was detached from Armoured Brigade and under commanded to 143 Brigade in operational duties as directions were given by the Directorate of Operations, Army Headquarters. Since then, troops have been employed for Infantry duties and only 'HQ' and 'A' Squadron were attached to 143 Brigade to assist in special Internal Security duties. Covid 19 pandemic situation and economic crisis of 2022, created a volatile security situation in the country. Therefore, troops had to be deployed on various Internal Security tasks within Kurunegala District.

During this period, eight permanent guard points were constructed, civil servants' accommodation building was further renovated and upgraded. The front appearance of the RHQ building was upgraded to a mint condition and a new washroom and bathing complex for civil servants was constructed.

Deployment of the Regiment in 2022 was as follows;

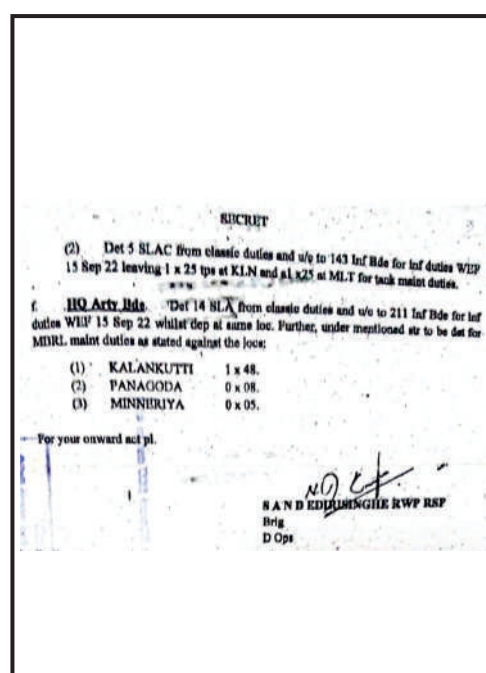
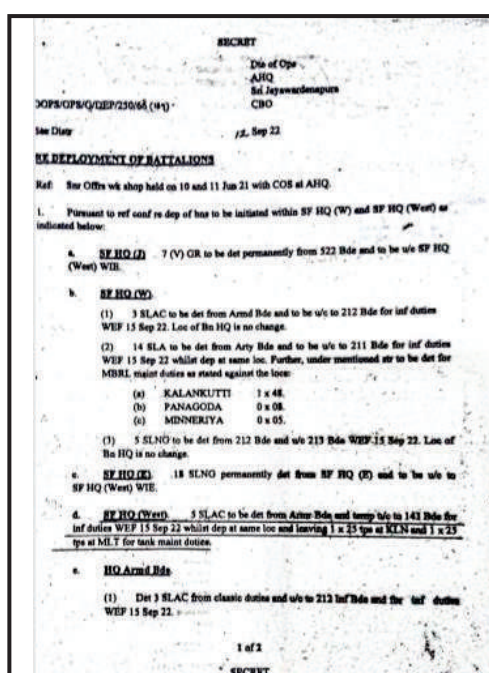
'RHQ', 'HQ' and 'A' Squadrons	-	Ironside Camp, Pangolla
'B' Squadron	-	Kokavil Camp, Kilinnochchi
'C' Squadron	-	Wattappalei, Mullaitivu

Due to the uprising of the citizens of the country against the President and the Prime Minister, we were asked to send troops for Internal Security duties for the safe guard of the country. The details of the troops deployed are as follows:

SER	DESCRIPTION	TROOPS	DATE REPORTED FOR DUTIES	DATE RETURNED BACK TO THE UNIT
1.	IS duties at Kuragala Temple for the National Vesak festival.	2 X 80	14.5.2022	23.5.2022
2.	IS duties performed at Unit AOR.	2 X 66	24.5.2022	15.7.2022
3.	Duties assigned from SF HQ (West) for the protection of AOR .	2 X 75	8.7.2022	26.7.2022
4.	Protection duties for the Esala Perahara in Kandy.	3 X 100	31.7.2022	12.8.2022



Lieutenant Colonel W A W T Sujith RWP psc taking over duties as CO 5 SLAC.



Letter placing 5 SLAC Troops under command to the 143 Infantry Brigade.



CO 5 SLAC declared opened the civil servants' accommodation building at 5 SLAC in the year 2022.

Lieutenant Colonel A K Gamage psc-The Fifteenth Commanding Officer, 5 SLAC
(from 2nd March 2023 to present)

Lieutenant Colonel A K Gamage psc, currently serves as the Fifteenth Commanding Officer of 5 SLAC, since 2nd March 2023. Under his dynamic leadership, the unit has witnessed significant improvements and achievements in various fields.

Key appointment holders of this period were as follows;

CO	Lt Col A K Gamage psc
2IC	Maj K D S Nandiyasena USP psc Maj H M S S Bandara USP psc Maj K G J O Kariyawasam RSP psc
Adjt	Capt T C H Galappaththige Capt D A G S N Karunarathne
OC HQ	Maj W M A M B Weerakoon psc
OC A	Maj D B Arambage Maj T D Kaludewa Capt T C H Galappaththige
OC B	Maj G K M H Amaranayaka
OC C	Maj D M U D Dissanayaka Maj H M T I Herath Maj D M U D Dissanayaka
Tech Adjt	Capt T G D R L D S Vidyathilaka Capt M E K N Enderage
QM	Capt W M A B Wijekoon Lt (QM) W M R U B Wijesooriya LT (QM) D B N Premathunga RSP USP
MTO	Capt M E K N Enderage Lt S M S J B Thalagahawaththa Capt W M A B Wijekoon

Maj K D S Nandiyasena USP psc handed over duties to Maj H M S S Bandara USP psc on 12th June 2023 and he became the 25th Second in Command of the Regiment. Capt T C H Galappaththige was the Adjutant of the Regiment and he took over the duties on 7th January 2023. Among the noteworthy infrastructure projects initiated and completed during his tenure is the upgrading of the Other Rankers' washroom complex. This enhancement was pivotal in ensuring better living conditions for the personnel. Moreover, on 27th April 2023 a water purification filter system was installed, significantly improving the quality of water available to the Soldiers. The Gymnasium of 5 SLAC was also inaugurated on 11th May 2023, providing state-of-the-art fitness facilities to the troops.

In line with environmental sustainability, the unit planted 125 trees to celebrate World Environment Day on 5th June 2023. The renovation of the Cafeteria was another major construction project successfully completed with the dedication and commitment of all rank of 'A' Squadron which was initiated under the guidance of the Commanding Officer, this project culminated in its official opening by the Commanding Officer on 29th September 2023.

The 5 SLAC, under Lieutenant Colonel Kelum Gamage's Command, has excelled in numerous Sports competitions, showcasing their versatility and prowess. On 7th March 2023, unit secured the Second Runner-up position in the Inter-Unit Basketball Tournament, followed by clinching the championship in the Inter-Unit Rugby Tournament. They also emerged victorious in the Inter-Unit Badminton Tournament. Later, in the Inter-Unit Kabaddi Tournament. The unit was the Runner-up in the Inter-Unit Football Tournament. Continuing the unit winning streak, It was crowned as the champions of the Inter-Unit Football Tournament in 2024, and the Inter-Unit Basketball Tournament. The unit also demonstrated strong performances in other sports, including becoming the Runner-up in the Inter-Unit Elle Tournament on 2023 and 2024, and in the Inter-Unit Swimming Tournament 2023. Unit achieved then Second Runner-up position in the Inter-Unit Rugby Tournament on 2024, and in the Inter-Unit Volleyball Tournament in the same year.

The unit's commendable performance extends beyond sports. 5 SLAC has been recognized for their excellence in training and presentation, winning accolades as the Best Regiment in these categories during the 68th Corps Day of the Sri Lanka Armoured Corps. This recognition is a testament to Lieutenant Colonel Kelum Gamage's vision and Leadership.

Significant events and visits have marked the tenure as visit of Major General D B S N Bothota RWP RSP VSV USP psc, the Colonel Commandant of SLAC, paid an official visit to Ironside Camp on 2nd May 2023. Subsequently, Major General S W M Fernando WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc made his first official visit as the Colonel Commandant on 29th July 2023. The unit also organized community and welfare activities, including the distribution of school books by the Armour Ladies Club on 22nd August 2023, and the refurbishment and reopening of the "Saddle Cafe" on 29th September 2023.

The 10th edition of the Cavalry Supercross, held as the "Nippon Paint Sri Lanka Super Series 2023" on 29th October 2023, was another highlight under his command. Additionally, the unit celebrated its 30th Anniversary on 6th January 2024, a milestone marked by reflection and pride. His Leadership is also evident in the initiation of the New House Project on 11th November 2024, and the Pirith Chanting Ceremony conducted on 17th December 2024. These initiatives reflect his commitment to the welfare and spiritual well-being of his troops.

Overall, Lieutenant Colonel Kelum Gamage's tenure as Commanding Officer has been characterized by significant infrastructure development, outstanding Sports achievements, and a commitment to the well-being and professional growth of his soldiers, driving the 5 SLAC to new heights of excellence.



Lieutenant Colonel A K Gamage psc assumed duties as the Commanding Officer on 2nd March 2023.



Emerged as the Champions of the Inter-unit Rugby Tournament on 11th April 2023.



Installation of a Water Purification Filter System for the use of Soldiers on 27th April 2023.



Major General D B S N Bothota RWP RSP VSV USP psc, the Colonel Commandant of SLAC paid an official visit to Ironside Camp on 2nd May 2023.



The Gymnasium of 5 SLAC was declared open on 11th May 2023.



125 trees were planted on par with World Environment Day Celebrations on 05th June 2023.



Emerged as the Champions of the Inter-unit Badminton Tournament on 6th July 2023.



Refurbished “Saddle Café” was re-opened for the Soldiers and public by the Commanding Officer on 29th September 2023.



Major General S W M Fernando WWV RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc paid his first official visit to Ironside Camp as the Colonel Commandant of 5 SLAC on 29th July 2023.



Emerged as the Runner-up Team of the Inter-unit Football Tournament on 25th July 2023.



Distribution of School books by Armour Ladies Club on 22nd August 2023.



Emerged as the Second Runner-up Team at the Inter-unit Rugby Tournament on 23rd January 2024.



10th edition of Cavalry Supercross was held as “Nippon Paint Sri Lanka Super Series 2023” on 29th October 2023.



Pirith Chanting Ceremony was held on 17th December 2024.



New House Project commenced on 11th November 2024.



Emergred as the Second Runner-up Team at the Inter-unit Elle Tournament on 25th April 2024.

With the new vision of the Regiment showed a gigantic improvement in every field. By demonstrating outstanding performance in every aspect, the unit earned the following trophies during the 68th Corps Day of Sri Lanka Armoured Corps.

- a. Best Regiment in Sports.
- b. Best Regiment in Training.
- c. Best Regiment in Research Presentation.



30th Anniversary was Celebrated on 06th January 2024.



Emerged as the Runner-up of the Inter-Unit Swimming Tournament on 3rd November 2023.



Conducted a Vesak Dancesel on 22nd May 2024.



Emerged as the Champions of the Inter-unit Basketball Tournament on 26th March 2024.



Emerged as the Champions of the Inter-unit Football Tournament on 20th February 2024.



Emerged as the Second Runner-up Team at the Inter-Unit Elle Tournament on 25th April 2024.



Emerged as the Second Runner-up Team at the Inter-unit Volleyball Tournament on 30th May 2024.



Newly Constructed 'Honour Board' to clinch the achievements of 5 SLAC was declared opened by Lt Col A K Gamage psc on 3rd August 2024.



Newly Constructed Conference hall declared opened by Lt Col A K Gamage psc on 2024.



ACHIEVEMENTS OF 5TH RECONNAISSANCE REGIMENT IN THE FIELD OF SPORTS

Sports and Games are an integral part of Soldiers' lives apart from routine duties. Sports make them mentally alert, physically fit and promote good health. Games improve integrity and comradeship. Taking Sports as a serious endeavour, the 5th Reconnaissance Regiment has produced some of the finest Sportsmen in Sri Lanka in a variety of disciplines. The details of those Officers and Other Ranks who have represented the Sri Lanka Armoured Corps in various sports are given in this chapter. In 1994, the Unit Volleyball team won the Volleyball Tournament organized by 12 Brigade and came up to the Quarter-finals in the Soccer Tournament held in 3rd Division TAOR. Capt (QM) M E D Perera won the over 35th Army Badminton Championship and Army Masters Event (Over 35). In the year 1997 unit just after huge operational commitments performed well in the sports field and the achievements were as follows;

- | | | |
|--------------|---|---------------------------------|
| • Volleyball | - | Champions in Task Force 1 |
| • Cricket | - | First Runner-up in Task Force 1 |
| • Swimming | - | Second Runner-up in SLAC |

1998 can be highlighted as a golden year in the sports field after a few years. This year unit performed well in the sports field. 5 SLAC participated in SLAC Inter-unit competitions and their achievements were as follows;

- | | | |
|----------------------------|---|------------------|
| • Cricket | - | First Runner-up |
| • Practical Rifle Shooting | - | First Runner-up |
| • Table Tennis | - | First Runner-up |
| • Volleyball | - | Second Runner-up |
| • Swimming | - | Second Runner-up |
| • Rugby | - | Second Runner-up |
| • Soccer | - | Second Runner-up |
| • Combat Rifle Shooting | - | Second Runner-up |

1999 was a year when the unit had some relief after huge involvement in the battlefield. Hence, 5 SLAC participated in SLAC Inter-unit competitions and their performances were as follows;

- | | | |
|----------------|---|------------------|
| • Table Tennis | - | Champions |
| • Soccer | - | Second Runner-up |
| • Basketball | - | Second Runner-up |
| • Athletics | - | Second Runner-up |

In the year 2000, the Regiment secured the following place in SLAC Inter-Unit Sports competitions;

- | | | |
|----------------|---|------------------|
| • Volleyball | - | First Runner-up |
| • Table Tennis | - | First Runner-up |
| • Cricket | - | Second Runner-up |
| • Rugby | - | Second Runner-up |
| • Soccer | - | Second Runner-up |
| • Soccer | - | Second Runner-up |

Further, L/Cpl Vijitha Kusum R M became the Best Shooter at the Inter-Regiment Firing Competition and L/Cpl Rohitha Peiris P G also won the Gold Medal in Inter-Regiment Weight Lifting (52 Kg) on 17th September 1999 at the University of Peradeniya. The Regiment organized the SLAC Inter-Regiment Athletic Meet for the first time in SLAC history at Ibbagamuwa Central College from 23rd to 25th August 2002 on a grand scale and was praised for its proper organizing capability from all quarters. The Regiment emerged Runner-up at the Inter-Regiment Basketball Tournament.

In 2003, was the year that the Regiment won the Inter-Regiment Drill Competition of SLAC and obtained the following places in SLAC Inter-Unit Sports competitions;

- Cricket - Champions
- Table Tennis - Champions
- Swimming - First Runner-up
- Combat Shoot - Second Runner-up

In 2004, the unit was getting ready for a huge upcoming event but the unit could only become Champions in the Badminton Tournament.

In 2012, the Regiment participated in every sports event that took place in SLAC and the results were as follows;

- Basketball - Champions
- Cricket - Runner-up

During 2013, the Unit was able to achieve the following sports achievements;

- Karate - Runner-up
- Table Tennis - Second Runner-up
- Judo - Second Runner-up

In 2015, the unit acquired the following sports achievements;

- Basketball - Runner-up
- Karate - Runner-up

The Regiment became the champions in the Inter-unit Basketball Tournament and grabbed the Runner-up Trophy in the Inter-unit Cricket Tournament during the year.

In 2016, the unit participated in every sport event and was able to become Second Runner-up in football;

- Football - Second Runner-up

Continuing with the successful achievements up to the Silver Jubilee, the Regiment became the Champions at the Inter-unit Basketball Tournament held at the 4th Armoured Regiment on 23rd to 25th January 2019, which was the very first competitive event of the SLAC sports calendar of the year. In 2017, the unit embarked on a path of excellence and achieved the following championships;

- Rugby - Champions
- Football - Champions

The year 2018 was remarkable for the Regiment. 5 SLAC was able to achieve excellence in all the areas of the Regiment. With the glamorous results of the year the unit was able to become the best Regiment in SLAC at Sports, with the following achievements:

- Rugby - Champions
- Football - Second Runner-up
- Cricket - Second Runner-up
- Swimming - Second Runner-up
- Kabbadi - Second Runner-up

In 2019, the following achievements were made in the fields of sports:

- Basketball - Champions
- Kabbadi - Champions
- Rugby - Second Runner-up

In 2020 the unit was able to win the following tournaments with the sheer commitment of Officers and Other Ranks of the Regiment;

- Basketball - Runner-up
- Football - Second Runner-up
- Badminton - Second Runner-up
- Elle - Second Runner-up
-

In the year 2021 also the unit was highlighted in sports events such as;

- Badminton - Champions
- Football - Second Runner-up
- Volleyball - Second Runner-up
- Rugby - Second Runner-up

In 2022, the Unit became successful in several sports events;

- Football - Runner-up
- Elle - Runner-up
- Kabbadi - Runner-up
- Basketball - Runner-up
- Athletic Meet - Second Runner-up
- Rugby - Second Runner-up
- Badminton - Second Runner-up

Achievements of 5 SLAC in Year 2023 as follows;

- Rugby - Champions
- Badminton - Champions
- Kabaddi - Champions
- Swimming - Runner-up
- Football - Runner-up
- Elle - Runner-up
- Basketball - Second Runner-up

Achievements of 5 SLAC in Year 2024 as follows;

- | | | |
|--------------|---|------------------|
| • Football | - | Champions |
| • Basketball | - | Champions |
| • Rugger | - | Second Runner-up |
| • Elle | - | Second Runner-up |
| • Swimming | - | Second Runner-up |
| • Volleyball | - | Second Runner-up |



GALLANTRY AWARDS & DISTINGUISHED MEDALS

WEERA WICKREMA VIBHUSHANAYA

1.	O/64328	Capt	R A K Ranawaka	5 SLAC	WWV	2013.07.11
2.	O/62414	Maj	W M S B Wewegama RWP	5 SLAC	WWV	2016.10.13

RANA WICKREMA PADAKKAMA

1.	S/98220	S/Sgt	Premathilaka K T S	5 SLAC	RWP	1998.09.10
2.	S/98882	Sgt	Bandara H M L R	5 SLAC	RWP	1998.09.10
3.	S/101452	L/Cpl	Ajith Kumara R M P	5 SLAC	RWP	2000.12.30
4.	S/205555	Tpr	Wijewickrama M	5 SLAC	RWP	2000.12.30
5.	O/62551	Capt	N S Illangakoon RSP	5 SLAC	RWP	2006.08.23
6.	O/62414	Capt	W M S B Wewegama	5 SLAC	RWP	2006.08.23
7.	O/63520	Maj	P A R Wijerathne	5 SLAC	RWP	2013.07.11
8.	O/64286	Maj	K C J Kotalawala	5 SLAC	RWP	2013.07.11
9.	S/101606	Cpl	Jeewantha L W S	5 SLAC	RWP	2013.07.11
10.	O/61952	Lt Col	K A D S K Dharmasena	5 SLAC	RWP	2016.10.13

RANA SURA PADAKKAMA

1.	O/62338	Lt	A K H Ekanayake	5 SLAC	RSP	1998.09.10
2.	O/62551	Lt	N S Illangakoon	5 SLAC	RSP	1998.09.10
3.	O/62584	2/Lt	P D C Punchihewa	5 SLAC	RSP	1998.09.10
4.	O/62559	2/Lt	L S D N Pathirathna	5 SLAC	RSP	1998.09.10
5.	O/62447	2/Lt	I S C Karunaratne	5 SLAC	RSP	1998.09.10
6.	O/61856	Capt	M B L A B Fernando	5 SLAC	RSP	1998.09.10
7.	S/100583	Cpl	Saman Pushpakumara P V	5 SLAC	RSP	1998.09.10
8.	S/100451	L/Cpl	Wijegunawardene W G A	5 SLAC	RSP	1998.09.10
9.	S/98662	L/Cpl	Premadasa M G	5 SLAC	RSP	1998.09.10
10.	S/100413	L/Cpl	Premadasa I G	5 SLAC	RSP	1998.09.10
11.	S/98659	Tpr	Indrarathna W U	5 SLAC	RSP	1998.09.10
12.	O/62551	Lt	N S Illangakoon RSP	5 SLAC	RSP	2000.12.30
13.	O/63878	2/Lt	S S Meegasthenna	5 SLAC	RSP	2000.12.30
14.	S/98543	Sgt	Karunarathne T B	5 SLAC	RSP	2000.12.30
15.	S/101344	Cpl	Bandara GAS	5 SLAC	RSP	2000.12.30
16.	S/98659	Cpl	Indrarathne W U	5 SLAC	RSP	2000.12.30
17.	S/103079	L/Cpl	Ekanayake P R	5 SLAC	RSP	2000.12.30
18.	O/60113	Lt Col	G J S Piyatunga	5 SLAC	RSP	2000.12.30
19.	O/60026	Lt Col	N Udawatta	5 SLAC	RSP	2000.12.30
20.	S/100384	Cpl	Perera G P A U K	5 SLAC	RSP	2006.08.03
21.	S/102366	L/Cpl	Nawarathne H M	5 SLAC	RSP	2006.08.03
22.	O/61600	Lt Col	N P Samarakoon USP	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
23.	O/63520	Maj	P A R Wijerathne	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11

24.	O/63924	Maj	S P R P Sudasinghe	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
25.	O/64286	Maj	K C J Kotalawala	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
26.	O/67374	Capt	B L R Ranaweera	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
27.	O/63883	Capt	R A S Jayasinghe	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
28.	O/64765	Capt	W D S P Wickramasinghe	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
29.	O/65358	Capt	W K S R Wijesiri	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
30.	O/66568	2/Lt	K A S Shantha	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
31.	O/67358	2/Lt	M WR Rangajeewa	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
32.	O/101405	PO	H B Pathirathne	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
33.	O/102605	PO	S D Prashad	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
34.	S/100774	S/Sgt	Thisera J A J N K	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
35.	S/98668	S/Sgt	Perera P A W	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
36.	S/100802	Sgt	Jayasinghe G U	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
37.	S/102409	Sgt	Manjula M P	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
38.	S/102650	Sgt	Dayarathna G G	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
39.	S/103066	Sgt	Niyathpala R D	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
40.	S/103095	Sgt	Senevirathna W M B	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
41.	S/103339	Sgt	Fernando H T M P L	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
42.	S/103434	Sgt	Nishantha K P	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
43.	S/104376	Sgt	Premathunga D B N	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
44.	S/105397	Sgt	Lakshman S L	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
45.	S/100985	Cpl	Ranmohotti R P L M	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
46.	S/102411	Cpl	Wasantha Kumara PH	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
47.	S/103068	Cpl	Hemachandra M A	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
48.	S/103338	Cpl	Saman Kumara D D	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
49.	S/103372	Cpl	Karunarathna H P	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
50.	S/103447	Cpl	Jayalath Sisira K G	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
51.	S/103649	Cpl	Rupasinghe M G B K	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
52.	S/103671	Cpl	Amarajeewa W P T	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
53.	S/103674	Cpl	Herath Banda H M	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
54.	S/103675	Cpl	Chinthaka Bandara R M C	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
55.	S/103368	Cpl	Yanthampola D M N B	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
56.	S/103975	Cpl	Jayalath B Y G G	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
57.	S/104955	Cpl	Praba Kumara G L R	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
58.	S/105403	Cpl	Chamil Kumara H M	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
59.	S/105414	Cpl	Weerasinghe M N	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
60.	S/105548	Cpl	Mangala Prasad T	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
61.	S/105552	Cpl	Dissanayaka S J H N	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
62.	S/105565	Cpl	Weerasinghe T K G T	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
63.	S/105684	Cpl	Abeyasinghe W G D K	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
64.	S/105917	Cpl	Rajapaksha S R L S	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
65.	S/106001	Cpl	Wipulasena H A	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
66.	S/106801	Sgt	Saman Kumara J R B	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
67.	S/100068	L/Cpl	Kumarapeli K A N S	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11

68.	S/100985	Cpl	Ranmohotti R P L N	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
69.	S/101402	L/Cpl	Shantha P W S	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
70.	S/102690	Cpl	Gunarathne R D P	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
71.	S/102869	L/Cpl	Sunil Shantha S	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
72.	S/103068	Cpl	Hemachandra M A	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
73.	S/103338	Cpl	Saman Kumara D D	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
74.	S/103372	Cpl	Karunarathna H P	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
75.	S/103434	Sgt	Nishantha K P	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
76.	S/103463	Tpr	Nimal Shantha M K	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
77.	S/103477	Cpl	Jayalath Sisira K G	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
78.	S/103649	Cpl	Rupasinghe M G B K	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
79.	S/103671	Cpl	Amarajeewa W P T	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
80.	S/103674	Cpl	Herath Banda H M	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
81.	S/103675	Cpl	Chinthaka Bandara R M C	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
82.	S/103688	Cpl	Yanthampola D M N B	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
83.	S/103975	Cpl	Jayalath B U G G	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
84.	S/104318	L/Cpl	Bandara W M W G S K	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
85.	S/104376	Sgt	Premathunga D B N	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
86.	S/104791	L/Cpl	Ajantha H L	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
87.	S/105397	Sgt	Lakshman S L	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
88.	S/105403	Cpl	Chamil Kumara H M	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
89.	S/105414	Cpl	Weerasinghe M N	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
90.	S/105548	Cpl	Mangala Prasad T	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
91.	S/105565	Cpl	Weerasinghe T K G T	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
92.	S/105684	Cpl	Abeyasinghe W G D K	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
93.	S/105701	L/Cpl	Chandrarathna P M	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
94.	S/105788	Cpl	Anura Chaminda L H A	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
95.	S/105789	Cpl	Wimalasena W N D	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
96.	S/105915	Cpl	Karunarathne K M N	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
97.	S/105917	CPL	Rajapaksha S R L S	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
98.	S/106024	L/Cpl	Ekanayake E M N A	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
99.	S/106027	L/Cpl	Dissanayake D M A	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
100.	S/106549	Tpr	Attanayake A M N N W	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
101.	S/106801	Cpl	Saman Kumara J R B	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
102.	S/106809	L/CPL	Amarasinghe A A P	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
103.	S/107065	L/Cpl	Thilak Kumara H M S	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
104.	S/107066	L/Cpl	Bandara Y P T	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
105.	S/107243	L/Cpl	Perera A L C	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11
106.	S/107386	L/Cpl	Rathnayake R M S B	5 SLAC	RSP	2013.07.11

**LIST OF NAMES OF ALL OFFICERS AND OTHER RANKS
WOUNDED IN ACTION**

SER	SVC NO	RANK	NAME	PLACE	DATE
1.	O/61600	LT COL	N P SAMARAKOON RSP USP	WELLAMULLEIWAICKAL	2008.10.06
2.	O/61355	MAJ	W A D D WIJESOORIYA	THALLADHY	2000.03.27
3.	O/62573	MAJ	I M S S ILLANKOON RWP	ELUTHUMADDUWAL	2001.01.16
4.	O/67357	CAPT	R M K RATHNAYAKA	PARANTHAN	1998.11.25
5.	O/62584	CAPT	P D C PUNCHIHEWA RSP	ACHCHUWELI	1995.10.01
6.	O/67360	CAPT	W G N FERNANDO	SOROMPATHTHU	1999.12.13
7.	O/67374	CAPT	B L R RANAWEERA RSP USP	PULIYANKULAM	1997.06.23
8.	O/62551	CAPT	N S ILANGAKOON RWP RSP	PULIYANKULAM	1997.08.19
9.	O/63878	CAPT	S S MEEGASTHANNA RSP	ELEPHANT PASS	1998.04.20
10.	O/67483	LT	H B PATHIRATHNA RSP	WELLAMULLEIWAICKAL	2009.05.07
11.	O/64637	2/LT	D J S L PONWEERA	ELUTHUMADDUWAL	2000.09.26
12.	S/106093	WOI	S A D C KUMARA	ELUTHUMADDUWAL	2006.10.05
13.	S/97328	WOI	W M R B WIJESOORIYA	MULLAITIVU	1992.06.07
14.	S497458	WOI	K A D H GUNASIRI USP	OMANTHEI	1997.04.13
15.	S/98785	WOII	RAJAKARUNARATHNA M	PALEI	2000.04.02
16.	S/98492	WOII	WIMALA DASA T R	PALEI	2000.04.02
17.	S/103434	WOII	NISHANTHA K P RSP	KIRIIBBAN WEVA	2008.08.05
18.	S/104753	WOII	RANATHUNGA R M D R K	IRANAPALEI	2009.03.28
19.	S/102409	S/SGT	MANJULA M P RSP	PUDUMATHALAN	2009.05.05
20.	S/104300	S/SGT	DARMARATHNA A R G L A P	ELUTHUMADDUWAL	2000.09.07
21.	S/108421	SGT	RASNAYAKA R M S B	AKKARAYANKULAM	2008.10.18
22.	S/103065	SGT	PIYATHILAKA P L	PALEI	2000.04.02
23.	S/103326	SGT	NUWAN KUMARA S A	PARANTHAN	1998.11.25
24.	S/103450	SGT	CHANDIKA V	PALEI	2000.04.30
25.	S/103347	SGT	MAHAKUMARA M	THAANDHIKULAM	1997.06.11
26.	S/101900	SGT	PERERA M I N	PALEI	2000.04.02
27.	S/103112	SGT	KUMARA G P M C S	KILINNOCHCHI	1998.06.04
28.	S/100985	SGT	RANMOHOTTI R G L N RSP	ADAPPANKUGAMA	2008.10.06
29.	S/105917	SGT	RAJAPAKSHA S R A L S RSP	PUTHUKUDUIRIPPU	2009.04.03
30.	S/108433	SGT	BAGYA PRASAD N W G RSP	AKKARAYANKULAM	2008.10.18
31.	S/100139	SGT	NARAYANA N M J N	PARANTHAN	1998.09.28
32.	S/106801	SGT	SAMAN KUMARA J R B RSP USP	MULLATIVU ALAMPIL	2008.12.23
33.	S/107693	SGT	JANANAYAKA D M RSP	AKKARAYANKULAM	2008.11.18
34.	S/106549	SGT	ATTANAYAKA A M N N W RSP	AKKARAYANKULAM	2008.11.23
35.	S/107134	SGT	RANGA D M	MUHALEI	2008.06.19
36.	S/101606	CPL	JEEWANATHA L W N RWP	VASAVILAN	2000.05.25
37.	S/98150	CPL	JAYATHISSA M S A	PARANTHAN	1996.09.29
38.	S/98078	CPL	SILVA Y N W G	KILINNOCHCHI	1988.12.24
39.	S/100932	CPL	JAYAMAHA J M S	NEDUNKERNI	1998.06.20

40.	S/100916	CPL	SHANTHA T S	MAANKULAM	1998.09.26
41.	S/102063	CPL	RATHNAYAKA R M J B	THALLADHY	2000.03.27
42.	S/101931	CPL	WIJESINGHE N M G	PULIYANDHIKULAM	1997.10.05
43.	S/101340	CPL	DISSNAYAKA K B A	THAANDIKULAM	1997.07.10
44.	S/106027	CPL	DISSNAYAKA D M A RSP	ADAPPAN	2008.06.26
45.	S/101410	CPL	BANDARA L J S	PALEI	2000.04.02
46.	S/102666	CPL	RANJITH LAL H K D	THAANDIKULAM	1997.06.11
47.	S/100437	CPL	MAHINDA L H M	KAMBURUPITIYA	1994.04.08
48.	S/106809	CPL	AMARASINGHE A A P RSP	PUTHUKUDUIRIPPU	2009.04.20
49.	S/100068	CPL	KUMARAPALI K A N S RSP	WALLIAMMAN	1995.11.19
50.	S/108136	CPL	JAYASINGHE H E R	VISHWAMADU	2009.03.07
51.	S/107271	CPL	WASALA W M S P RSP	AKKARAYANKULAM	2008.10.27
52.	S/107763	CPL	PRADEEP KUMARA K D P	IRANAMADU	2008.12.20
53.	S/98913	CPL	WIJERATHNA A D T	MANKULAM	1996.09.26
54.	S/107836	CPL	WIJESIRI BANDARA A G RSP	AKKARAYANKULAM	2008.12.10
55.	S/107261	CPL	MALWILA T M S B	AKKARAYANKULAM	2008.12.10
56.	S/106799	CPL	WIJESUNDARA P K C P RSP	AKKARAYANKULAM	2008.12.10
57.	S/104556	L/CPL	JAYANTHA KUMARA D M	AKKARAYANKULAM	2008.11.18
58.	S/98832	L/CPL	SENAVIRATHNA M A C	AKKARAYANKULAM	1997.05.16
59.	S/103061	L/CPL	DISSANAYKA D M A	PULIYANKULAM	1997.08.19
60.	S/100913	L/CPL	SENAVIRATHNA W A D P L	KANAGARAYANKULAM	1997.08.19
61.	S/103649	L/CPL	RUPASINGHE M G B K RSP	ADAPPAN	2008.06.26
62.	S/98393	L/CPL	DAYARATHNA S T	NALLUR	1995.10.27
63.	S/98501	L/CPL	WEERASURIYA BANDA A W M	ACHCHUWEELI	1995.10.20
64.	S/98960	L/CPL	MALLIKARACHCHI P	AKKARAYANKULAM	2008.11.26
65.	S/107387	L/CPL	SAMARAKOON A W D B	DHARMAPURAM	2009.01.20
66.	S/105546	L/CPL	WIJAYA KUMARA K G	MUHAMALEI	2008.04.16
67.	S/98408	TPR	KAPURUBANDA K A J C	THALLADHY	2000.03.27
68.	S/100615	TPR	SISIRA KUMARA T G P	PALEI	2000.04.02
69.	S/108142	TPR	PREMATHILAKA K R	AKKARAYANKULAM	2008.11.18
70.	S/108453	TPR	WILSON H A	AKKARAYANKULAM	2008.12.16

ROLL OF HONOUR OF THE 5TH RECONNAISSANCE REGIMENT

As a result of the high intensity of the war with the LTTE, 5th Reconnaissance Regiment lost some of its valour and bravery Officers and Other Ranks. In Order to respect the noble service of these cavalrymen to the Nation and to remember them on this 30th Anniversary celebration.

NOMINAL ROLE OF 5 SLAC OFFICERS AND OTHER RANKS KILLED IN ACTION

SER	SVC NO	RANK	NAME	DATE	PLACE	OPERATION
1.	O/64328	LT COL	RA K RANAWAKA WWV	2008.03.10	ADAPPAN	HUMANITARIAN OP
2.	O/61856	MAJ	M B L A B FERNANDO RSP	1995.11.22	KAREINAGAR	TERRORIST ATTACK
3.	O/62414	MAJ	W M S B WAWEGAMA WWV RSP	2000.04.10	PALEI	TERRORIST ATTACK
4.	O/62338	CAPT	A K H EKANAYAKE RSP	1995.10.17	ACHCHUWELI	RIVIRESA I
5.	O/62386	CAPT (QM)	M G DAUGLAS	1997.06.10	KANDIKULAM	JAYASIKURUI I
6.	O/62447	LT	I S C KARUNARATHNE RSP	1996.08.04	PARANTHAN	SATHJAYA I
7.	O/62854	LT	H M S C HERATH	1995.11.27	ARIYALEI	RIVIRESA I
8.	S/101269	L/CPL	BANDARA I P A	2000.09.26	ELUTHUMADDUWAL	KINIHIRA
9.	S/101486	L/CPL	GAMINI RAJAPAKSHA R M	2000.09.26	ELUTHUMADDUWAL	KINIHIRA II
10.	S/101933	L/CPL	ABERATHNE U P	2000.09.26	ELUTHUMADDUWAL	KINIHIRA III
11.	S/104779	L/CPL	BANDUSENA S	2000.09.26	ELUTHUMADDUWAL	KINIHIRA IV
12.	S/98543	S/SGT	KARUNARATHNE T B RSP	1997.08.19	NEDUNKERNI	JAYASIKURUI I
13.	S/100201	SGT	DHARMASENA M R R	1997.05.16	OMANTHAI	JAYASIKURUI I
14.	S/100583	SGT	SAMAN PUSHPAKUMARA P B RSP	1997.08.19	NEDUNKERNI	JAYASIKURUI I
15.	S/101394	SGT	RUPASINGHE P H	1997.08.19	NEDUNKERNI	JAYASIKURUI I
16.	S/101452	CPL	AJITH KUMARA R M P RWP	1997.08.19	NEDUNKERNI	JAYASIKURUI I
17.	S/103052	L/CPL	PATHMALAL R M	1997.08.19	NEDUNKERNI	JAYASIKURUI I
18.	S/103058	L/CPL	PATHIRANA W M N	1997.08.19	NEDUNKERNI	JAYASIKURUI I
19.	S/103337	L/CPL	UDAYAKUMARA H M S	1997.06.10	KANDIKULAM	JAYASIKURUI I
20.	S/103375	L/CPL	MAHANAMA BANDARA D M M W	1998.08.19	NEDUNKERNI	JAYASIKURUI I
21.	S/103403	L/CPL	HAL ELA A M W W U C	1998.08.19	NEDUNKERNI	JAYASIKURUI I
22.	S/124874	L/CPL	KRISHANTHA S R G R	1997.06.10	KANDIKULAM	JAYASIKURUI I
23.	S/124875	L/CPL	SANATHKUMARA H W C	1997.06.10	KANDIKULAM	JAYASIKURUI I
24.	S/124879	L/CPL	BANDARA K M M A	1997.06.10	KANDIKULAM	JAYASIKURUI I
25.	S/100010	S/SGT	RATHNAYAKE G S B	1997.10.06	KANAGARAYANKULAM	JAYASIKURUI I
26.	S/98156	S/SGT	SILVA D E C	1997.10.06	KANAGARAYANKULAM	JAYASIKURUI
27.	S/102094	L/CPL	DISSANAYAKE N S	1997.10.06	KANAGARAYANKULAM	JAYASIKURUI
28.	S/103387	L/CPL	SISIRA KUMARA P D	1998.08.19	NEDUNKERNI	JAYASIKURUI II
29.	S/100070	S/SGT	BANDULA A M	1998.06.20	MAANKULAM	JAYASIKURUI III
30.	S/100826	SGT	INDU K	1998.09.27	PARANTHAN	JAYASIKURUI III
31.	S/101334	SGT	BANDARA G A S RSP	1998.01.31	KILINNOCHCHI	JAYASIKURUI III
32.	S/101591	SGT	FERNANDO P D	1998.09.28	PARANTHAN	JAYASIKURUI III
33.	S/101784	SGT	KUMARA R P S	1998.09.29	MAANKULAM	JAYASIKURUI III
34.	S/101908	SGT	JAYAWARDENE B M	1998.09.27	PARANTHAN	JAYASIKURUI III
35.	S/101736	CPL	LAKSIRI H A T	1998.06.20	MAANKULAM	JAYASIKURUI III
36.	S/102425	CPL	SILVA W M N	1998.09.28	PARANTHAN	JAYASIKURUI III
37.	S/102075	L/CPL	SARATH KUMARA P T	1998.11.27	PARANTHAN	JAYASIKURUI III
38.	S/102664	L/CPL	SUSANTHA D A	1998.04.20	MAANKULAM	JAYASIKURUI III
39.	S/103060	L/CPL	BANDARA W M A L	1998.10.31	PARANTHAN	JAYASIKURUI III
40.	S/103079	L/CPL	EKANAYAKE P R RSP	1998.01.31	KILINNOCHCHI	JAYASIKURUI III
41.	S/103677	L/CPL	WIJERATHNE P G R	1998.06.04	KILINNOCHCHI	JAYASIKURUI III
42.	S/105552	CPL	DISSANAYAKE S J H M W RSP	2008.10.06	KILINNOCHCHI	HUMANITARIAN
43.	S/106036	L/CPL	BAMUNUARACHCHI B P N S	2007.07.06	THOPPIGALA	HUMANITARIAN
44.	S/105543	CPL	RATHNAYAKE M W K RWP	2009.05.03	VELAMULLIVAICAL	HUMANITARIAN OP
45.	S/100384	CPL	PERERA G P A U K G	2000.09.03	SARASALEI	RIVIKIRANA I
46.	S/101434	L/CPL	JAYARATHNE H P	2000.09.03	SARASALEI	RIVIKIRANA I
47.	S/102068	L/CPL	JANATH W P A	2000.09.03	SARASALEI	RIVIKIRANA I
48.	S/98220	S/SGT	PREMATHILAKE K T S RWP	1995.10.30	NIRWELI	RIVIKIRANA I
49.	S/100564	SGT	JAYATHILAKE P	1995.10.17	ACHCHUWELI	RIVIKIRANA I

50.	S/98882	SGT	BANDARA H M L R RWP	1995.10.30	NIRWELI	RIVIKIRANA I
51.	S/101717	L/CPL	SISIRA KUMARA M R	1995.10.21	VIRAPPIDI	RIVIKIRANA I
52.	S/102062	L/CPL	MENDIS L L	1995.10.22	VIRAPPIDI	RIVIKIRANA I
53.	S/98662	L/CPL	PREMADASA M G RSP	1995.11.10	KOPAI	RIVIKIRANA I
54.	S/100144	SGT	NANDASENA N K	1996.08.04	PARANTHAN	SATHJAYA II
55.	S/100451	SGT	WIJEGUNAWARDANA W G A RSP	1996.08.04	PARANTHAN	SATHJAYA II
56.	S/102062	L/CPL	SAMANTHA BANDARA Y M	1996.08.04	PARANTHAN	SATHJAYA II
57.	S/102643	L/CPL	CHANDRAKUMARA D A	1996.08.04	PARANTHAN	SATHJAYA II
58.	S/100351	S/SGT	NISHANTHA D D	2001.06.25	PUTHUR	TERRORIST ATTACK
59.	S/98547	S/SGT	SISIRARATHNE S M S	1996.09.22	PARANTHAN	TERRORIST ATTACK
60.	S/101612	CPL	RUPASINGHE H P	2000.04.20	PALEI	TERRORIST ATTACK
61.	S/102366	CPL	NAWARATHNE H M RSP	2000.04.22	PALEI	TERRORIST ATTACK
62.	S/103340	CPL	GUNAWARDANE D M M	2000.04.02	PALEI	TERRORIST ATTACK
63.	S/103665	CPL	KOLAMBAGE K K W	2004.05.29	BATTICOLOA	TERRORIST ATTACK
64.	S/106292	CPL	WEERASINGHE W W A T	2008.09.09	VAVUNIYA	TERRORIST ATTACK
65.	S/101328	L/CPL	PREMATHILAKE W G	1996.03.25	PULMUDAI	TERRORIST ATTACK
66.	S/101378	L/CPL	CHANDRARATHNE D H M N	1994.05.26	SITTANDI	TERRORIST ATTACK
67.	S/101401	L/CPL	RATHNAPALA T G R	1996.06.29	KILINNOCHCHI	TERRORIST ATTACK
68.	S/101465	L/CPL	GUNARATHNE G N	1995.09.12	PULMUDAI	TERRORIST ATTACK
69.	S/101469	L/CPL	WIJEKON BANDANA A M	1994.04.08	KUMBURUPITIYA	TERRORIST ATTACK
70.	S/101507	L/CPL	PUSHPAKUMARA J K U	2000.04.10	PALEI	TERRORIST ATTACK
71.	S/101508	L/CPL	NAWARATHNE R M A	1996.03.25	PULMUDAI	TERRORIST ATTACK
72.	S/101605	L/CPL	KARUNASENA A G	1994.07.06	MARAPALAM	TERRORIST ATTACK
73.	S/101777	L/CPL	WIJENAYAKE G S	1995.05.02	ICHCHANKULAM	TERRORIST ATTACK
74.	S/103059	L/CPL	SUMATHIPALA R M	1996.10.04	KODIKAMAM	TERRORIST ATTACK
75.	S/103349	L/CPL	JAYAWARDANE K P	2000.04.02	PALEI	TERRORIST ATTACK
76.	S/103390	L/CPL	HERATH M K C S B	2001.06.25	PUTHUR	TERRORIST ATTACK
77.	S/103651	L/CPL	DESHANTHA J A N	2000.03.27	PALEI	TERRORIST ATTACK
78.	S/103973	L/CPL	PRIYADARSHANA W D	2000.04.03	ELEPHANT PASS	TERRORIST ATTACK
79.	S/265565	L/CPL	RATHNAYAKE R M G	2000.04.02	PALEI	TERRORIST ATTACK





PAST AND PRESENT APPOINTMENT HOLDERS

5th Regiment of Sri Lanka Armoured Corps was officially raised on 6th January 1994, at Rock House Camp Colombo 15, by Lt Col N A Ranasinghe RSP USP psc. From 1994 onwards, the 5th Reconnaissance Regiment had been commanded by 14 Commanding Officers and currently the Regiment is commanded by the 15th Commanding Officer. This chapter is devoted to describe brief history of previous Commanding Officers, Second in Commands, and present key appointment holders.



Lt Col N A Ranasinghe RSP USP psc
06.01.1994 – 15.02.1996



Lt Col M P Peiris RWP psc
16.02.1996 – 09.01.1997



Maj N Udawatta psc
10.01.1997 – 31.08.1998



Lt Col G J S Piyatunga RSP
01.09.1998 – 14.01.2000



Maj R G U Rajapakshe RSP psc
15.01.2000 – 22.06.2002



Maj A L P S Tillekerathne psc
27.06.2002 – 14.01.2005



Major S A U Nanayakkara
15.01.2005 - 30.01.2006



Lt Col N P Samarakoon USP
13.01.2006 - 15.07.2010



Lt Col S D Meepagala
15.07.2010 - 05.11.2012



Lt Col T C Harasgama RSP
06.11.2012 - 13.08.2015



Lt Col T A M K De Silva RSP USP psc
13.08.2015 - 20.09.2017



Lt Col W A I S Mendis RSP USP
22.09.2017 - 29.12.2019



Lt Col D K S M Kariyawasam USP
30.12.2019 - 20.08.2021



Lt Col W A W T Sujith RWP psc
20.08.2021 - 02.03.2023

PAST SECOND IN COMMANDS



Maj U A B Medawela
06.01.1994 - 14.01.1995



Maj S D T Liyanage RWP
15.01.1995 - 22.03.1996



Maj H M R De Silva
23.03.1996 - 07.02.1997



Maj A S Wijewickrama
08.02.1997 - 02.03.1998



Maj A L P S Tillekeratne
03.03.1998 - 30.01.2000



Maj N P Samarakoon USP
31.01.2000 - 19.03.2001
04.06.2001 - 19.02.2002
07.04.2004 - 30.01.2006



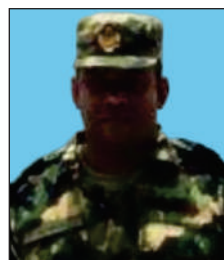
Maj S A U Nanayakkara
20.02.2002 - 13.01.2003



Maj M H A D Hettiarachchi
14.01.2003 - 06.04.2004



Maj N D K B Niyangoda RSP psc
31.01.2006 - 27.01.2008



Maj M W A R C Wijesooriya
28.01.2008 - 27.01.2010



Maj U K Wickramaarachchi
28.01.2010 - 21.05.2010



Maj T C Harasgama RSP
22.05.2010 - 05.06.2011



Maj Y H P Rangajeewa
06.06.2011 - 08.01.2012



Maj K P U A Kodippili RSP
09.01.2012 - 04.08.2013



Maj S J Samarasinghe psc
05.08.2013 - 16.04.2015



Maj P A R Wijerathna RWP RSP
16.04.2015 - 27.03.2017



Maj D P A S A Witharana psc
28.03.2017 - 15.11.2018



Maj M G S D Wijesooriya RSP
15.11.2018 - 28.11.2019



Maj R K K Paragahathanthree psc
28.11.2019 - 05.01.2021



Maj W E M C Ekanayaka psc
06.01.2021 - 08.09.2021



Maj W D S P Wickramasinghe RSP USP
09.09.2021 - 04.11.2021



Maj R P K G Ranasinghe
04.11.2021 - 12.05.2022



Maj K D S Nandiyasena USP psc
12.05.2022 - 23.05.2023



Maj H M S S Bandara USP psc
12.06.2023 - 10.02.2024

DETAILS OF PRESENT KEY APPOINTMENT HOLDERS



Commanding Officer
Lt Col A K Gamage psc



Second in Command
Maj K G J O Kariyawasam RSP USP psc



Adjutant
Capt D A G S N Karunaratne



Tech Adjutant
Capt M E K N Enderage



Officer Commanding HQ Sqn
Maj D B Arambage



Officer Commanding A Sqn
Capt T C H Galappaththige



Officer Commanding B Sqn
Maj D M U D Dissanayaka



Officer Commanding C Sqn
Maj H M T I Herath



Assistant Adjutant
Capt W M A B Wijekoon



ALO
Lt (QM) D B N Premathunga RSP USP



Second In Command B SQN
Lt S M S J B Thalagahwaththa



Troop Leader
Lt D M M L K Bandara



Troop Leader
2/Lt D J G R Jayawardhana



Troop Leader
2/Lt A G S M Jayasundara



Troop Leader
2/Lt M A Jayarathne



RSM
WO I U G S P Somarathna USP



TSM

WO I K G D K Weerakoon



RQMS

WO II Rangalla R A USP



ORQMS

WO II Bandara M G D I



SSM-HQ SQN

WO II Rathnayaka K D N K G



DI

S/SGT Thilak Kumara H M S RSP USP



SSM-A SQN

WO II Priyanatha M G R S S USP



SSM-B SQN

S/SGT Gunathilaka H A A B



SSM-C SQN

S/SGT Dissanayake G G G USP

GROUP PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE SQUADRONS OF THE REGIMENT



‘RHQ’



‘HQ’ SQUADRON



‘A’ SQUADRON



‘B’ SQUADRON



‘C’ SQUADRON

**PROFILES OF COMMANDING OFFICERS OF THE
5TH RECONNAISSANCE REGIMENT**



MAJOR GENERAL N A RANASINGHE (RTD) RSP VSV USP ndc psc Isc

Maj Gen Neranjan Asoka Ranasinghe (Rtd) RSP VSV USP ndc psc Isc was born on 15th Dec 1955. He had his primary education at St Thomas' Prep School, Bandarawela and secondary education at Trinity College, Kandy. He was a House Captain and Prefect of both School and College. He won the Trinity Rugby Lion award in 1975 and captained the Trinity Basketball Team in 1974. He enlisted in the Sri Lanka Army on 26th May 1976, with Intake 9. He followed the Officer Cadets Course at the Officer Cadets School (Ella Camp) at the Army Training Centre in Diyatalawa from May 1976 to Dec 1977. Having come 1st amongst all Officer Cadets, he was the only one of his batch to be Commissioned into the Sri Lanka Armoured Corps. He was Commissioned to the 1 SLAC on 22nd Dec 1977.

Having joined the Armoured Corps, he held all important appointments of an Armoured Regiment, and was handpicked to raise the 5 SLAC. He has held very important Command, Staff and Training appointments in the Army, commensurate with each rank in the fields of Operations, Training, Planning and Administration.

During his career he held many Staff and Command appointments such as: Troop Leader 1 Recce Regiment Sri Lanka Armoured Corps, Assistant Adjutant, Regimental Signals Officer, Adjutant of 1 SLAC, Staff Officer 3 (Operations) at Joint Service Special Operations Headquarters, Staff Officer 3, Administration Branch, Army Headquarters and Aide-De-Camp to General Officer Commanding Joint Operations Commander Gen S C Ranatunga. Later he commanded Squadrons in 1 SLAC and 3 SLAC. He was the Regimental Training Officer of 1 SLAC; Officer Commanding (Troops), Kelaniya Sector; Second in Command, 3 SLAC; Staff Officer 2, Administration Branch, Army Headquarters and the Military Assistant to the Commander of the Army Gen L D C E Waidyaratne.

After Raising and Commanding 5 SLAC with distinction, he served in several Command, Staff and Training appointments such as General Staff Officer 1, Directorate of Training, Army Headquarters; Deputy Commandant and Commanding Officer, Officer Cadets Wing, Sri Lanka Military Academy, Diyatalawa; Commander, 22, 545 and 561 Brigades; Commander, Armoured Brigade and Director of Armour; Commandant, Sri Lanka Military Academy, Diyatalawa; Area Commander, Uva and Sabaragamuwa Provinces; Secretary, Defence Review Committee 2002, Ministry of Defense; Director Operations and Plans, Joint Operations Headquarters and General Officer Commanding, 56 Division. He was the Commandant of the Army Command and Staff College and the first Commandant of Defense Services Command and Staff College.

Maj Gen Neranjan Ranasinghe commanded 5 SLAC during Operation Riviresa in 1995, the largest operation launched until then by the Sri Lanka Army. He commanded the Armoured Brigade during the last stages of Operation Jayasikurui and also during Operation Ranagosa in the Wanni.

Maj Gen Neranjan Ranasinghe followed many foreign and local courses and a few important among them are: Basic Armour Officers Course, India; Automotive Instructor Officers Course, India; Intelligence Staff Officers Course, India; Armour Officers Advance Course, Fort Knox, USA; Armed Forces Command and Staff College Course, Malaysia; Senior Command Course at the College of Combat, Mhow India; Executive Course, Asia Pacific Centre for Security Studies, Hawaii, USA; Executive Course, Near East South Asia Centre for Strategic Studies of the National Defense University in Washington DC, USA; National Defense Course, National Defense College, Dhaka, Bangladesh; Executive Course in Defense Decision Making at the Centre for Civil Military Relations at the Global Centre for Security Cooperation in Monterey, California, USA.

Maj Gen Neranjan Ranasinghe represented SLAC at Rugby Football, Basketball and Hockey. He was awarded Armoured Corps Colours for Rugby Football and Basketball. He represented the Sri Lanka Army at both, Rugby Football and Basketball.

Maj Gen Neranjan Ranasinghe has been awarded the Gallantry Medal Rana Sura Padakkama for his bravery and for his dedication. He is a recipient of the Vishishta Seva Vibhushanaya for his exceptional, distinguished and loyal service with an unblemished military career and Utthama Seva Padakkama for his exemplary service to the Army and the country. He has also been awarded with many operational and service medals such as East Humanitarian Operation Medal, North Humanitarian Operation Medal, Purna Bhumi Padakkama, North and East Operations Medal, Vadamarachchi Operation Medal, Riviresa Campaign Service Medal with clasp, 50th Independence Anniversary Medal, Sri Lanka Army 50th Anniversary Medal, Sri Lanka Armed Services Long Service Medal and President's Inauguration Medal. After an exemplary military career of over 34 years, he retired from the Army on 15th Dec 2010.

With a highly successful Military Career coming to an end in 2010, Maj Gen Ranasinghe chose Diplomacy as his second career. He then successfully followed the 1 year Course of Training on “Professional Diplomacy and World Affairs” conducted by the B I D T I (Bandaranaike International Diplomatic Training Institute), which is the training arm of the Sri Lanka's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He was appointed as Sri Lanka's Ambassador to the Republic of Iraq in August 2016 and functioned as our country's Envoy in Baghdad till December 2019.

He is married to Mala Mangalika Ranasinghe and is blessed with two daughters Imanee Ranasinghe and Nishadee Ranasinghe.



MAJOR GENERAL M P PEIRIS (RTD) RWP RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil

Major General Milinda Peiris joined the Sri Lanka Army as an Officer Cadet in 1980 and had his basic training at the Officers Training School in Madras, India and at Sri Lanka Military Academy, Diyatalawa. He was Commissioned into the 1st Reconnaissance Regiment Sri Lanka Armoured Corps as a Second Lieutenant on completion of his training. Since then, he held vital and important appointments in the Army commensurate with each rank held, and he reached the pinnacle of his military career in 2016 when he was appointed as the Chief of Staff of the Sri Lanka Army. Major General Milinda Peiris is a graduate of National Defense College, New Delhi, Command and Staff College, Bangladesh and Armour School, Fort Knox, Kentucky, USA.

As a pioneer squadron commander of 4 Armoured Regiment, he led tank squadrons to many crucial battles, and he commanded the 5th Reconnaissance Regiment of the Sri Lanka Armoured Corps with distinction. He was also the Commanding Officer of the Officer Cadet Wing at the Sri Lanka Military Academy. Subsequently, he commanded the 561 Infantry Brigade and 232 Infantry Brigade. Thereafter, he commanded the Armoured Brigade. He was the Director Operations at the Joint Operations Headquarters and had been appointed as the Defense, Military, Naval and Air Attaché for Sri Lanka in the USA.

Major General Milinda Peiris Commanded the 22 Division in Trincomalee as the General Officer Commanding during the period of liberation of the East by the Security Forces.

On return from National Defense College in India, he was appointed as the Vice Chancellor of General Sir John Kotelawala Defense University (KDU) on 28th December 2008. Under his patronage, the university expanded to be a fully-fledged university consisting of nine academic faculties, and he was instrumental in developing KDU to lead in the world of tertiary education, lighting the torch of wisdom in thousands of students both local and foreign.

Especially, during his first tenure as the Vice Chancellor, he took an untiring effort to establish the Medical Faculty of KDU, which became Nationally and internationally known for its unique ability to produce military medical graduates of the highest caliber to fulfill the healthcare requirements of the tri-services, state sector and society at large.

Further, he introduced the University Hospital concept for Sri Lanka by providing a tertiary care hospital for KDU and accomplished mammoth projects while serving in this capacity until 17th February 2016.

During his service as the Vice Chancellor of KDU he was contemporaneously appointed as the Director General of the Centre for Research and Development, Ministry of Defense (MOD), Military Secretary to the Army Headquarters and Colonel Commandant of the Mechanized Infantry Regiment and also served as the Colonel Commandant of the Sri Lanka Armoured Corps.

In recognition of his contribution to Sri Lanka's higher education sector, Major General Milinda Peiris was appointed as a Committee Member in the National Education Commission and in the University Grants Commission of Sri Lanka. He was a Member of the Board of Management of Defense Services Command & Staff College, the Committee of Vice Chancellors & Directors (CVCD), Sri Lanka, the Standing Committee on Quality Assurance and Accreditation of the University Grant Commission.

He served as a member of the Council, University of Moratuwa and also of the Board of Management of the Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute for International Relations and Strategic Studies (LKIIRSS).

Major General Milinda Peiris holds a Master of Philosophy (MPhil) degree awarded by the University of Madras, a Post Graduate Diploma in Management from the Open University of Sri Lanka (OUSL), and a Diploma in Senior Level Defense Management from the University of Indore, India.

During his military career, he valiantly fought in many battles launched to eradicate ruthless terrorism from the Motherland in different capacities ranging from a Troop Leader to a Divisional Commander. During his tour of duty, he was severely wounded in action in the operation “Sathjaya III”. He is a recipient of Rana Wickrama Padakkama (RWP) for his acts of bravery in the face of the enemy and Rana Sura Padakkama (RSP) awarded for distinguished conduct in the face of the enemy in battle.

He is also a recipient of Vishishta Seva Vibhushanaya (VSV) medal for exceptional, distinguished and loyal service in the Sri Lanka Army and Utthama Seva Padakkama (USP) for his unblemished military career in the Army.

He was awarded the Legion of Merit (LOM), which is a military decoration of the United States Armed Forces for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services and achievements.

In July 2014, Major General Milinda Peiris was conferred with the “Award for Outstanding Contribution to Education” by the World Chancellors and Vice Chancellors Congress in recognition of “the strategic and iconic position occupied by him in the fraternity of Vice Chancellors as an agent of change in global education. Further, he was conferred with the “Education Leadership Award” by the World Education Congress on 23rd July 2015.

Subsequent to a 7-year stint at KDU, he reached the pinnacle of his career when he was appointed as the Chief of Staff of the Sri Lanka Army. And after rendering his services as the Chief of Staff, Major General Milinda Peiris stepped into retirement in 2016.

In 2019 Major General Milinda Peiris was recalled to service by His Excellency the President and he was reappointed as the Vice Chancellor of the KDU and was also appointed as the Chief Commissioner of the Sri Lanka Scouts Association.

Further, he served as a member of the Advisory Council of the Institute of National Security Studies Sri Lanka (INSSSL), a member of the Board of Governors of the University of Vocational Technology, a Member of the Board of Management of Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute of International Relations & Strategic Studies (LKIIRSS).

As he ended nearly 11 years of dedicated service to KDU on 31st August 2023, he left this unique portal of higher education, having elevated it to be a very prominent university in South Asia with state-of-the-art facilities in 11 academic faculties offering over 50 internationally recognized high-quality degree programs at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

Major General Milinda Peiris is married to Nilani, a lawyer by profession and is blessed with two sons, Malik and Avinash.



MAJOR GENERAL N UDAWATTA (RTD) WWV RSP VSV USP ndc psc MPhil

Maj Gen Nandana Udawatta studied at Royal College, Colombo 7 and he joined the Sri Lanka Army as an Officer Cadet on 31st August 1981 at the age of 19 years. On completion of basic training at the Sri Lanka Military Academy, Diyatalawa, he was posted to 1 SLAC on 2nd December 1982 as a 2/Lt. He was promoted to the rank of Lt in 1985, Capt 1987, Maj in 1990, Lt Col in 1997, Col in 2002, Brig in 2007 and Maj Gen in 2009. Maj Gen Nandana Udawatta has followed many foreign and local courses and to name a few: the Armoured Corps Young Officers Course-Pakistan, Auto Instructors Course-India, Operational Trafficability Course-Pakistan and Senior Command Course- India. Further, he became a graduate of the Army Command and Staff College-Pakistan in 1995 and of the National Defense College-India in 2010 where he obtained a Master of Philosophy Degree with a 1st class. Apart from long courses mentioned Maj Gen Udawatta has attended many Military and Peace Keeping Courses, Seminars and Workshops in the USA, Japan, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Indonesia, the Czech Republic and Georgia. Also, he has participated in military visits to Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Turkey. During his 34-year unblemished career, Maj Gen Nandana Udawatta has held most of his appointments in command in high intensity operational areas, and a few such appointments are the Commanding Officer, 5 SLAC, Commander, 512 Infantry Brigade and Commander, Armoured Brigade.

During the 2006-2009 Campaign which concluded in May 2009, he started as the Commander, Armoured Brigade, Jaffna in 2006, became the Deputy General Officer Commanding-57 Infantry Division, Wanni in 2007 and was subsequently selected to raise and conduct operations of the 59 Infantry Division, Weli-o-ya from 2008 to 2009 as its General Officer Commanding. Thus, he was able to capture the strategically important town of Mullaitivu in January 2009.

After being promoted to the rank of Maj Gen in Feb 2009 he was selected to raise and command, Security Forces HQ (Mullaitivu) with 3 Infantry Divisions, an Area Headquarter and a Task Force. Having successfully completed the National Defence College Course in 2010 after his return he Commanded Security Forces (Kilinochchi) in 2011 and Security Forces (Wanni) also for a short period.

Notable staff appointments held are Aide-De- Camp to the General Officer Commanding - 2 Division, Adjutant - 3 SLAC, General Staff Officer 1 (Operations), Joint Operations Headquarters, Directing Staff, Army Command and Staff College and Centre Commandant, Sri Lanka Armoured Corps.

Maj Gen Nandana Udawatta was appointed as the Deputy Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the Russian Federation, Republic of Belarus, Republic of Armenia, Republic of Kazakhstan, Republic of Uzbekistan and Ukraine in 2012. During his tenure as the Deputy Ambassador, he authored the "Orientation Guidelines" for the use of the Staff of the Embassy, which covers all aspects and duties of an Embassy. It is the first ever "Orientation Guidelines" published by any of the overseas missions of Sri Lanka. Also, he is the author of the compendium "Presidential Visits" which exclusively explains in detail all subjects related to the arrangement of a visit by His Excellency the President of Sri Lanka to a friendly foreign country.

Maj Gen Nandana Udawatta has been awarded with the gallantry medals Weera Wikrema Vibushanaya and Rana Sura Padakkama for individual acts of gallantry and conspicuous bravery. He is a recipient of the Vishishta Seva Vibhushanaya for his unblemished military career of 34 years and Utthama Seva Padakkama for his continuous and uninterrupted exemplary moral and military conduct. He has been awarded with many service medals such as Sri Lanka Army 50th Anniversary Medal, Sri Lanka Armed Services Long Service Medal, 50th Independence Anniversary Commemoration Medal, North and East Operations Medals, Purna Bhumi Padakkama and Riviresa Campaign Service Medal.

He held the appointments of Commander Security Forces (Jaffna) and the Colonel Commandant of Sri Lanka Corps of Military Police before his retirement.

He is married to Shirani a Quantity Surveyor by profession and is blessed with a daughter, Chandula and son, Malindu.



LIEUTENANT COLONEL G J S PIYATUNGA (RTD) RSP

Lieutenant Colonel Ghotabaya Piyatunga was a product of St. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia and joined the Army on 27th April 1983 and was posted to 1st Reconnaissance Regiment on 7th November 1984. He held the appointments of Troop Leader, Assistant Adjutant, Technical Adjutant, Squadron Commander, Regimental Technical Adjutant, 2IC and was the first Commanding Officer of 6 SLAC Reinforcement Regiment.

Lieutenant Colonel Ghotabaya Piyatunga Commanded 5th Reconnaissance Regiment, Sri Lanka Armoured Corps from September 1998 to January 2000. He is married to Mrs. Nadeeka Piyatunga.



**BRIGADIER R G U RAJAPAKSHE (RTD) RSP psc,
BSc (DS) KDA, MSc (DS) KELANIYA, MASS (NDU) WASHINGTON DC**

Brigadier R G U Rajapakshe was enlisted on 2nd June 1986 to Kotelawala Defence Academy Intake IV. After successful completion of academic courses at KDA and military training at Sri Lanka Military Academy, Diyatalawa, he was Commissioned on 17th August 1988. During his career he had held all appointments at unit lines commensurate with his rank. He was unique to hold the appointment of Commanding Officer of two Regiments in Armored Corps during crucial combat periods. 5th Reconnaissance Regiment and 4th Armored Regiment from December 1999 to August 2002 and from January 2004 to April 2006 respectively.

He also was the Commandant of Armored Corps Training Centre from September 1997 to December 1999. He was privileged to hold Course Officer's and Senior Instructor's appointments at Sri Lanka Military Academy, Diyatalawa, in 1990-1992 and in year 2003 respectively.

He had held vital appointments at Army Headquarters such as Colonel Media-Directorate of Media, General Staff Officer I (Operations)-Directorate of Operations, Colonel Military Secretary and Assistant Military Secretary (additional) at Military Secretariat's Branch.

Brigadier Rajapakshe had commanded two infantry brigades; 662 and 234 Bdes in high intensity battles during humanitarian operations in years 2008 and 2009.

He was the Commander of Armoured Brigade for almost three years at the end which he was appointed as the Dean Faculty of Graduate Studies, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University.

Brigadier Rajapakshe is a professional small arms coach and a Paratrooper. He had also been injured in the field and had been awarded Desha Puthra Medal and had been awarded Rana Sura Padakkama for three times for his valor in the field.

During his over 37 years of military career, he had followed many courses in India, Bangladesh, USA, Ireland, Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam and Pakistan. He is an alumnus of National Defence University, Washington DC, USA. Brigadier Rajapakshe is a graduate of Defence Services Command and Staff College securing 1st in Order of Merit.

He is a graduate of KDU with BSc in Defence Studies and University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka with a MSc. Brigadier Rajapakshe obtained a Diploma in Counter Terrorism from College of International and Security Affairs, NDU, Washington DC, USA and a Masters on Strategic Security Studies (MASSS) from NDU, Washington DC, USA. He also had followed Joint Operations Planning Course under the guidance of Ministry of Defence, UK, in Bangladesh in year 2008.

Upon his retirement on 3rd Feb 2019, he was recalled in to active service on 4th Feb 2019 and was re- appointed as the Dean Faculty of Graduate Studies, KDU due to exigence of his valuable services in that appointment and served in the same appointment until June 2023 with five service extensions.



**MAJOR GENERAL (DR.) A L P S TILLEKERATHNE (RTD) RWP RSP USP
PhD MCPS PGDHRM psc**

Major General Prathap Tillekerathne (Retd) had served over 34 years in Sri Lanka Army from 1986 to 2020. He was born on 10th November 1965, had his education at St. John's College, Nugegoda where he excelled in boxing and athletics, and joined the Sri Lanka Army as an Officer Cadet on 2nd June 1986. Having had his basic military training at the Sri Lanka Military Academy and the Officers Training School in Pakistan where he was appointed as the Cadet Sergeant of Intake 24, he was Commissioned as a Second Lieutenant and posted to the 1st Reconnaissance Regiment of the Sri Lanka Armoured Corps in 1987.

Throughout his distinguished career, he held many key appointments within the Sri Lanka Armoured Corps, including Troop Leader - 1 SLAC, Adjutant - Armoured Corps Training Centre (ACTC), Squadron Commander in 4 SLAC and 5 SLAC, Regimental Adjutant of the Regimental Centre - SLAC and the Second In Command of 5 SLAC. He is one of the few officers who commanded three (03) Regiments in Sri Lanka Army, as the Commanding Officer of 1 SLAC, 5 SLAC and 8th (Rft) Regiment-SLAC. “Decade of Galloping”, the book contains first ten (10) years of History of the 5th Reconnaissance Regiment, probably the first Regiment in Sri Lanka Army to publish its first ten years of History, was published during his tenure of command of the unit.

Major General Prathap Tillekerathne had involved in training of Officers and Officer Cadets both. He was a Commanding Officer of the Officer Cadet Training Wing - General Sir Kotelawala Defence University (KDU), and also served as the Deputy Commandant of Sri Lanka Military Academy (SLMA). He was selected to head the Army delegation sent to Seychelles in 2013 by the MOD for evaluation of the Seychelles Defence Academy and to advise training of the Seychelles Defence Forces. He also served as the Brigadier Coordinating of the Defence Services Command & Staff College (DSCSC). His extensive Training includes courses in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Mongolia and the USA. He also held the appointments of SO I-DCOS Office and the Deputy Director of Directorate of Welfare (2013-2014).

He commanded the Armoured Brigade, 573 Infantry Brigade and 632 Infantry Brigades during the Humanitarian Operations in 2008-2009, and also the 515 Infantry Brigade. His exemplary service has been recognized with numerous decorations and awards, including the Rana Wickrama Padakkama, Rana Sura Padakkama, Uttama Sewa Padakkama, East and North Humanitarian Operation Medals, Purna Bhumi Padakkama, Riviresa Campaign Service Medal with Clasp, 50th Independence Anniversary Commemoration Medal, Sri Lanka Army 50th Anniversary Medal, Videsha Seva Padakkama, Sri Lanka Armed Services Long Service Medal, and the United Nations Service Medal for Western Sahara.

He experienced working in multinational environment when he served as a Military Observer in United Nations Peacekeeping Mission (MINURSO) in Western Sahara. He followed and successfully completed sixteen (16) training courses conducted by UN within his tour of duty. He was further selected by the UN Mission HQ as its 'Staff Officer-Operations' and then elevated him as the 'Deputy Chief of Operation & Planning Officer (DCOPO)', the first Asian to hold that appointment.

That experience, later, led him being appointed as the Director of Directorate of Overseas Operations of SLA (as a Major General), and was the Sri Lanka's focal point in UN peacekeeping matters; responsible for administration, logistics and maintaining of Sri Lankan contingents in all UN peacekeeping missions in liaison with international stockholders such as UNDPKO, OHCHR and UN missions etc. He represented Sri Lanka at the UNHQ in New York in 2011, 2019 and at the Regional Conference on UN peacekeeping in China, Kazakhstan and Nepal, and visited Sri Lankan contingents in UN Peacekeeping Missions in Sudan and Mali.

Major General Prathap Tillekerathne is a holder of Doctor of Philosophy in Defense and Security, Master in Conflict and Peace Studies (MCPS), PgD in Human Resources Management, and also a graduate of the Army Command & Staff College. His research for MCPS Degree was selected for the “Annual Symposium-2015” of the University of Colombo. He followed the Advanced Security Cooperation Diploma from the Asia-Pacific Centre for Security Studies-USA, and the recipient of the “APCSS Alumni Achievement Award-2014” for his project report.

Upon his retirement, he was appointed as the Director of Ranaviru Seva Authority and thereafter engaged in lecturing in International Relations, Defense and Security, and also conducting 'Personality Development and Grooming' workshops for universities, colleges and Government departments. He is married to Mrs. Piumali Tillekerathne and blessed with a son.



(LATE) MAJOR S A U NANAYAKKARA

Major Sapugahawattage Asanga Upul Nanayakkara was born on 27th March 1966, at De Soyza Hospital, Borella. He received his early education at Nalanda College, Colombo, where he was an active cricketer.

He embarked on his military career by joining the Sri Lanka Army on 4th August 1986, as an Officer Cadet with Intake 27 at the Sri Lanka Military Academy (SLMA). Following his successful training, he was Commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in 10th December 1988.

In recognition of his exemplary service, he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant on 1990. His dedication and leadership skills led to further promotions: he attained the rank of Captain in 1992 and was subsequently promoted to the rank of Major in 1996.

On 5th January 2005, Major Asanga Nanayakkara assumed command of the 5th Reconnaissance Regiment. Tragically, his promising career was cut short when he passed away on 21st March 2007.



LIEUTENANT COLONEL N P SAMARAKOON (RTD) RSP USP

Lieutenant Colonel N P Samarakoon RSP USP was a product of St. Anthony's College Wahakotte. He joined the Regular Force of the Sri Lanka Army on 12th December 1979 as a recruit and received his basic training at ATC, Diyatalawa. Subsequently, his exemplary conduct and well recognized performance earned enough credentials to be picked for Commissioning as a Lieutenant. During his Officer Career, he held many important appointments such as Troop Leader, Squadron Commander, Second in Command and Commanding Officer of the 5th Reconnaissance Regiment, and finally served as the Deputy Commandant of the Sri Lanka Civil Defence Force.

He successfully completed the Gunner/Operator Course, Junior Leadership Course, 'B' Vehicle Course, Drill Instructor Course, and Second in Command Course. Further, he successfully completed the Basic Armour Young Officers Course, Radio Instructor Course, Radio Technical Course and Combat Group Commander Course in India. He followed the 600 series Harness/Headset Course in the UK and the Mid-Career Course in Pakistan.

Lieutenant Colonel Nihal Samarakoon was an active participant in many Operations in the North and East. He is also a recipient of Rana Sura Padakkama, Utthama Seva Padakkama, Purna Bhumi Padakkama, North and East Operations Medal, Vadamarachchi Operation Medal, Riviresa Campaign Service Medal, 50th Independence Anniversary Medal, Sri Lanka Army 50th Anniversary Medal, East Humanitarian Operational Medal and North Humanitarian Operational Medal.

He retired from the Sri Lanka Army on 22nd May 2011 after completing 32 years of service.



Major General M S Devapriya USP ndc

Major General Sumith Devapriya assumed duties as the GOC-64 Inf Div on 1st September 2023. He was born on 13th June 1970 in Horana region. His father is Col (Retd) M B J Mahipala RWP USP and mother is Mrs. N Haputhanthree. He is a proud product of Ananda College-Colombo 10. During his school career, he excelled in many sports and extracurricular activities. Upon completion of his school education, He enlisted to the Sri Lanka Army Regular Force intake 33 in year 1990. After successful completion of officer cadet training at the Sri Lanka Military Academy in Diyatalawa he was commissioned to the rank of Second Lieutenant and was posted to Sri Lanka Armoured Corps on 15th June 1991.

During his illustrious and long military career, he has served in Command, Staff and Instructor appointments at various levels, which include all command appointments up to General Officer Commanding; his Command appointments included; Platoon Commander, Troop Leader, Tech Adjutant, Officer Commanding, Second in Command of 8th (Rft) Regiment of Sri Lanka Armoured Corps and 1st Recce Regiment Sri Lanka Armoured Corps, Commanding Officer of 8th (Rft) Regiment of Sri Lanka Armoured Corps and 5th Recce Regiment Sri Lanka Armoured Corps. He has also commanded several formations including 511 Infantry Brigade and as the Deputy GOC-HQ 22 Inf Div.

A career in which he shouldered key responsibilities, all of which he has fulfilled to perfection. Further, he has held many staff appointments in field formations and other military establishments, such as Snr Coord Media Centre-Under MOD, Colonel General Staff-SFHQ (WEST), Dy Cen Comdt-RHQ SLAC, Centre Commandant Regimental Centre Sri Lanka Armoured Corps, Director Operations-Office of the Chief of Defense Staff (OCDS) and Director General Operations-OCDS.

During his tenure as an instructor, he has served at the prestigious Sri Lanka Military Academy as an Officer Instructor for Intake 54 and as the Company Commander of both the Randeniwala and Gannoruwa companies.

In the capacity of UN Employment, he served as the contingent commander in United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). Presently, he has an appointment as the General Officer Commanding-64 Infantry Division.

He has undergone many local courses such as basic young officers course, Army Command and Staff College Course, Potential Unit Commanders Course, National Defense College Course. He had the opportunity to enhance his knowledge through number of overseas courses, such as Young Officers' Course-Pakistan, Auto Instructor Officers course-India, Combat Team Comd Course-India, Combat Group Comd (CG-22)-India.

A significant milestone in his educational journey was his graduation from the National Defense College Sri Lanka, earning him the title of “ndc”. Further, to complement his qualifications, he obtained a Master of Science in National Security and Strategic Studies from KDU.

Moreover, he is decorated with “Uththama Sewa Padakkama” for his immaculate and unblemished service.

His interests include driving and maintenance, book reading and listening to music and sports such as badminton, firing and cycling. He is a nature lover. He is married to Mrs Dulashi Meepagala, and blessed with two kids, Tharushi Meepagala and Ashinka Meepagala.



BRIGADIER T C HARASGAMA RSP

Brigadier Thushara Harasgama was born on 9th July 1971. He joined the Army as a Officer Cadet of Intake 38, SLMA on 24th July 1992 and he was Commissioned on 9th April 1994 as a Second Lieutenant.

Brigadier Thushara Harasgama, RSP, he served as the Director of Operations at the Disaster Management Centre in Sri Lanka. With a distinguished military career spanning over 32 years, Brigadier Harasgama has consistently demonstrated his commitment to his country through his extensive experience in combat and challenging environments. His strategic planning, decision-making, and problem-solving skills have been instrumental in achieving numerous successes across various complex operational settings, earning him a reputation as a highly skilled and accomplished leader.

Throughout his career, Brigadier Harasgama has been awarded several gallantry awards and decorations, including the Rana Suria Padakkama (RSP) for acts of bravery and distinguished conduct in the face of the enemy. His service has been recognized with medals such as the Eastern Humanitarian Operations Medal, North Humanitarian Operations Medal, Purna Bhumi Padakkama, and the Videsha Seva Padakkama, among others. These honors reflect his dedication and valor in active deployments and his significant contributions to Peacekeeping operations under the United Nations.

Brigadier Harasgama's professional qualifications are extensive. He has undergone Basic Military Training at the Sri Lanka Military Academy in Diyatalawa, and has completed several advanced courses including the Young Officer Course in Pakistan, junior staff and mid-career courses in Pakistan, a Driving and Maintenance Course in India, and the Battalion Commander Course in China. Additionally, he has participated in the Advanced Civil Affairs Course organized by the Embassy of the USA and served in the UN Mission in Haiti in 2010. His involvement in the Annual Joint Humanitarian Assistance Disaster Relief Exercise in 2023 and the BIMSTEC Governing Board Conference in India, where he was appointed as the Country Representative, underscores his commitment to continuous learning and international collaboration.

Brigadier Harasgama's education includes completing his G.C.E. O/L and A/L examinations at Vidyarthi College, Kandy, and earned an Executive Diploma (Merit) in Disaster Management. His extracurricular activities during his school years included serving as a Senior Prefect, being a member of the school hockey team, the Senior scout group, and the Regimental Council of the Sri Lanka Armoured Corps.

In his professional career, Brigadier Harasgama has held several key positions. As a Grade One Staff Officer at the Security Force Headquarters, he was responsible for planning, conducting, and supervising military operations and training. His role as Battalion Commander of the 5th Reconnaissance Regiment required dynamic leadership and operational expertise to ensure mission success and regimental readiness. As the Colonel of Administration and Quartering at the Division Headquarters, he managed personnel, logistics, and financial resources, and developed welfare programs to boost morale. In his role as Colonel General Staff, he oversaw strategic planning, crisis management, and intelligence integration. As the Commandant of the Armoured Corps Training Center, he planned and supervised military training, designed training programs, and maintained high operational readiness. As Brigade Commander of the 543 Infantry Brigade, he commanded troops during defensive and offensive operations, handling critical decisions and administrative matters with limited resources.

In his current role as Director of Operations at the Disaster Management Centre, Brigadier Harasgama provides strategic leadership and oversees the development and implementation of comprehensive disaster response plans. He coordinates with local, regional, and National authorities, as well as non-governmental organizations, to ensure effective disaster response. His focus on resource management, technology integration, and crisis communication enhances the center's preparedness and response capabilities, contributing to the overall National disaster management framework.

Brigadier Thushara Harasgama's extensive experience, strategic vision, and dedication to service make him a formidable leader in both military and disaster management contexts. His contributions continue to inspire and guide those around him towards achieving their goals and objectives.



COLONEL W A I S MENDIS RSP USP

Colonel Welikada Arachchige Indika Sujeewa Mendis was born on 13th October 1972, and received his education at Moratu MahaVidyalaya. He joined the Sri Lanka Army as a cadet on 5th May 1994 of Intake PMA 7 and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant on 13th October 1994. Throughout his distinguished career, Colonel Mendis has held various critical positions, demonstrating exemplary leadership and dedication. He served as Troop Leader, and Squadron Second-in-Command of the 5 SLAC, before becoming the Technical Adjutant and later the Adjutant of the same regiment. His promotions followed his demonstrated competence, including his advancement to Captain in November 2000 and Major in June 2005. Colonel Mendis has also completed numerous specialized courses, including the Young Officers Course, Radio Instructor Course, Combat team, Combat group Commander in India, and Armour Equipment Support Course in China. His operational roles included Officer Commanding of 'B' Squadron 6 SLAC, Operations and Training Officer of 6 SLAC, and General Staff Officer roles at the 58 Division and Army Headquarters commander security. He has international experience through his UN mission with MINURSO and advanced training courses in China and India. Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in October 2014 and posted to Security force headquarter Jaffna as a General Staff Officer 1, then promoted to Colonel in October 2021, he has commanded the 5 SLAC and served as General Staff officer 1 at the Regimental Headquarters SLAC. His most recent appointments include Colonel (AQ) at the 66 Infantry Division and Commandant of the Armoured Corps Training Centre (ACTC). Presently he is serving as the Brigade Commander of 553 Infantry Brigade. Colonel Mendis's career is marked by his strategic expertise, operational excellence, and unwavering commitment to the Sri Lanka Army.



COLONEL T A M K DE SILVA (RTD) RSP USP psc

Colonel T A M K De Silva RSP USP psc was born on 1st October 1967. He was educated at Royal College, Colombo 7. He joined the Sri Lanka Army as an Officer cadet in 1993 and underwent basic military training at the Sri Lanka Military Academy and he was Commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the same year. Then he was posted to the 4th Armoured Regiment and 5th Reconnaissance Regiment Sri Lanka Armoured Corps. Colonel T A M K De Silva RSP USP psc was retired on 30th September 2022. During his military career, he has followed the Young Officers Course - India, Junior Staff Officers Course, psychological Operations Course, Automotive Instructor Course, Army Command & Staff Course, Introduction to Geoinformatics for Military Planning and Management, The Potential Observers and Staff Officers Course, GIS Advanced Course, The International Humanitarian Law & Human Rights Basic Instructor Course for Officers, Pre-shipment Inspection of Tank Transporters purchased under the Indian Line of Credit Course. During his 29-plus years of service, he had held the command, staff and instructor appointments such as Troop Leader-4 and 5 SLAC, Mechanical Transport Officers Course, Unit Intelligence Officers Course, SO III- President Security Unit, OC B Squadron 5 SLAC (JFN,MNR), Tech Adjt Armd Bde, BM 223 Bde, BM 593 Bde, BM 681 Bde, OC HQ Squadron-8 (Rft) SLAC, Overlooking 2IC 8 (Rft) SLAC, BM-Armd Bde, GSO 1 (OPS)-58 DIV, SO 1 MS BR. In recognition of the bravery act, he has been awarded Rana Sura Padakkama.



COLONEL D K S M KARIYAWASAM USP

Colonel Sujith Kariyawasam, born on 15th October 1974, embarked on his distinguished military career as he joined the Sri Lanka Army as a Cadet Officer on 3rd January 1996, as part of Regular Officer Cadet Intake 44 at the Sri Lanka Military Academy (SLMA). He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant on 20th December 1997, marking the beginning of a career characterized by tactical insight, operational excellence and an unwavering commitment to service.

All the way through his career, Colonel Kariyawasam has demonstrated an exceptional leadership and versatility, holding numerous appointments within the Sri Lanka Armoured Corps in various capacities. Early in his career, he served as Troop Leader and held significant appointments including Adjutant at the 4th Armoured Regiment and Officer Commanding in the C Squadron of the 4th Armoured Regiment where he showcased his command capabilities. His leadership was further recognized with promotions to Lieutenant in 1999, Captain in 2002, and Major in 2006. Additionally, he served as the, Tech Adjutant at the Armoured Brigade, and General Staff Officer II at the 58 Infantry Division. Further, he held the noteworthy appointment of the PSO to General Jagath Jayasuriya, then Commander of the Army.

Moreover, his international experience includes deployment with the United Nations Peace Keeping Mission as a Platoon Commander in Second Sub Contingent of Sri Lanka Army in Haiti (MINUSTAH), where he further enhanced his operational skills. Colonel Kariyawasam's career is marked by continuous professional development, as evidenced by the successful completion of a wide array of training courses, both locally and internationally.

Those local courses include:

- Basic Military Training as an Officer Cadet of Intake 44 at Sri Lanka Military Academy.
- Local Young Officers Course at Armoured Corps Training Centre, Kalatthawa.
- Arty Observation Post Course at the School of Artillery, Minneriya.
- Battalion Support Weapon Course at Infantry Training Centre, Minneriya.
- Basic Parachute Course at Commando Regiment Training School, Kuda Oya.
- General Information Technology Skill Course at KDU.
- Peace Support Operations Pre-Deployment Training Course at the Institute of Peace Support Operation Training Sri Lanka, Kukuleganga.
- Junior Command & Staff Course at the Air Force Academy, China Bay.
- Potential Observers and Staff Officers Course at the Institute of Peace Support Operation Training Sri Lanka, Kukuleganga.
- Basic French Language Course at the Language Section of Sri Lanka Military Academy, Diyatalawa.

Foreign courses includes:

- Foreign Young Officers Course at Armoured Corps Centre and School in Ahmednagar, India.
- Military Induction Training Course at United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (Minustah).
- Radio Communication Instructor's Course at Armoured Corps Centre and School in Ahmednagar, India.
- Junior Staff Course (AC) 46 and Mid-Career Course (AC) 53 at the School of Armour and Mechanized Warfare in Nowshera, Pakistan.
- Diploma on Programme for Maintenance and Management of Tracked Armoured Equipment at the Army Academy of Armoured Forces at Beijing, China.
- Armoured Intermediate Command Programme Diploma at the Army Academy of Armoured Forces at Bengbu Campus, China.

Having promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in 2015 and Colonel in 2021, his recent roles have included serving as the Commanding Officer of the 5 Reconnaissance Regiment Sri Lanka Armoured Corps, Staff Officer I at the Regimental Centre Sri Lanka Armoured Corps, and Staff Officer I at the Armoured Brigade. Currently, he holds the esteemed position of Deputy Centre Commandant at the Regimental Centre of the Sri Lanka Armoured Corps.

Colonel Sujith Kariyawasam's career is a testament to his dedication to the Sri Lanka Armoured Corps, Sri Lanka Army and its mission as his brave and enthusiastic employment during the past Humanitarian Operation and post war era as well. His strategic insight, coupled with operational expertise, continues to contribute significantly to the defence and security of the nation.

Further, Colonel Sujith is happily married to Mrs. Anusha Rajapakshe.



LIEUTENANT COLONEL W A W T SUJITH RWP psc

Lieutenant Colonel Withana Appuhamilage Wasantha Thushara Sujith was born on 22nd August 1975, and educated at Kadawatha Central. He commenced his military career on 22nd January 1997, as a Cadet Officer of Intake BMA 3, and was Commissioned as a Second Lieutenant on 20th June 1997. Throughout his career, Lt Col Sujith has held various key positions in the Sri Lanka Armoured Corps and other significant military units. His early roles included Troop Leader in 'A' Squadron of the 3 SLAC, Instructor for recruiting, and various adjutant roles. He was promoted to Lieutenant in July 2000, and Captain in July 2003. Lt Col Sujith has completed numerous advanced training courses, such as the Young Officers Armoured Course, Basic Intelligence Course, and the Staff Course at DSCSC. His operational roles included Officer Commanding of both the 3 and 10 SLAC, and GSO 2 (Ops) at the 57 Division. He was promoted to Major in 2007, and Lieutenant Colonel in January 2015. He served as the Chief Instructor at the Battalion Training School in Ampakamam, and held Staff Officer positions in various military branches specially as a SO 2 (Prom-Grade 2)-Ms Br, SO 2 (Sup & Maintenance), MGO Branch. Also, he has followed Potential Observer and Staff Officer Course to embark his military career with added qualifications. He has followed foreign courses including the Maintenance and Management of Tracked Armoured Equipment Course in China and many other countries as well. His most recent assignments include Research Coordinator at KDU, Commanding Officer of the 5 SLAC, and GSO 1 (Local Training) at the Directorate of Training. His career is marked by a dedication to continuous professional development and significant contributions to the operational and training capacities of the Sri Lanka Army.



LIEUTENANT COLONEL A K GAMAGE psc

Lieutenant Colonel Kelum Gamage was born on the 27th of September 1978, and he proudly represents the remarkable legacy of Matara Central College, Matara. Throughout his formative years, he established himself as a prominent sportsman who was a member of the athletic team and volleyball team of the school. These early experiences instilled in him a sense of discipline, teamwork, and perseverance.

His journey in the Sri Lanka Army began on 4th July 1998, when he enlisted in the Regular Force as part of Intake 48. Following basic military training at the prestigious Sri Lanka Military Academy, he was Commissioned on 17th June 2000. His first assignment led him to the 5th Reconnaissance Regiment, Sri Lanka Armoured Corps.

Throughout his illustrious military career, Lt Col Kelum Gamage held numerous Command, Staff, and Instructor appointments, demonstrating his exceptional leadership and expertise.

At the unit level, he excelled in various appointments such as Troop Leader, Squadron Second in Command, Platoon Commander at ACTC, Assistant Adjutant, Officer Commanding Kanniya Detachment in the 5th Recce Regiment, Sri Lanka Armoured Corps, and Squadron Command of Squadron, Officer Commanding of 'HQ' Squadron, and Second in Command of the 6th Regiment (RFT), Sri Lanka Armoured Corps.

Moving up the ranks, he undertook various responsibilities including serving as the General Staff Officer 2 at the Regimental Centre of the Sri Lanka Armoured Corps, Brigade Major of the 211 Infantry Brigade and the Armoured Brigade, Staff Officer 1 at the Regimental Centre of the Sri Lanka Armoured Corps, General Staff Officer 1 Coord at 53 Infantry Division (RSF), and Special Education Officer 1 at Abimansala II.

His pursuit of excellence extended to his participation in various military courses, both locally and internationally. Locally, he attended the Infantry YOS Course in Minneriya, Maduru Oya, and Kuda Oya, the Armour YOS Course at ACTC and TTS, and the Forward Observation Course at the School of Artillery in Minneriya. He also completed the Unit Admin Course in Panagoda SLAGSC, the Basic Airborne Course at the Commando Regiment Training School, and the Staff Course at the Defence Services Command and Staff College. Additionally, he participated in the Potential Observers and Staff Officers Course, the IHL and HR Basic Course in Kukule ganga, the IHL and HR Advance Course in Kukule ganga, and the Senior Command Course at the Army War College in Buttala. Expanding his knowledge and skills beyond National boundaries, he followed several international courses including the Young Officers Course in Bangladesh, Armoured Instructor Course in India, United Nations Military Observer Course in Nepal, Defence Services Command and Staff College Study Tour in Malaysia and Singapore, and the UN Mission Combat Convoy Company Course in Mali, Africa.

He is married to Radhika Lasanthi Gamage and is blessed with two daughters Yuthika Samanalee Gamage and Sithmini Ameesha Gamage.

At present, he is serving as the Commanding Officer of the 5th Reconnaissance Regiment, Sri Lanka Armoured Corps. Under his leadership, the unit has achieved unprecedented success, won three out of the five most prestigious trophies for Best Operational and Training Unit in 2023, Best Sports Unit in 2023, and Best Presentation in 2023 for the first time in its history.

COMD/A/6/1

Army Headquarters,
P O Box 553,
Colombo.

HQ 1 Div

HQ 2 Div

HQ 3 Div

20 November, 1993.

APPOINTMENTS OF COMMANDING OFFERS (DESIGNATE)
REINFORCEMENT BATTALIONS

1. The Comd of the Army has approved the appointments of the under-mentioned Offrs as Commanding Officers (Designate) for the Rft Battalions due to be raised in December 1993 as shown against their names with effect from 22 Nov 93.

a.	Lt Col VR Silva SLA	-	8 Rft Bn SLA
b.	Lt Col HANT Perera, SLE	-	7 Rft Bn SLE
c.	Lt Col NA Ranasinghe, SLAC	-	5 Rft Bn SLAC
d.	Maj RN Akmeemana, GW	-	33 Rft Bn GW
e.	Maj WMR Wijesundara, SLLI	-	11 Rft Bn SLLI
f.	Maj EP de Z Abeysekera, SLSC	-	5 Rft Bn SLSC
g.	Maj AMB Peiris, VIR	-	5 Rft Bn VIR
h.	Maj NAJC Dias, GR	-	44 Rft Bn GR
j.	Maj P Ganegoda, SLSR	-	22 Rft Bn SLSR

2. The Regt Comds are requested to get the above named Officers to plan and initiate action to raise the new Units.

3. The letter of appointments will be sent in due course.

Handwritten signature
HS HAPUARACHCHI
Brigadier
Military Secretary

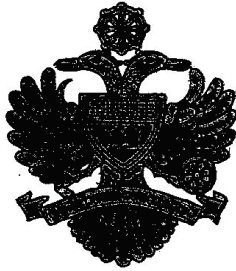
Copy to:

RHQ SLAC, RHQ SLA, RHQ SLE, RHQ SLSC, RHQ SLLI, RHQ SLSR, RHQ GW, RHQ GR, RHQ VIR, Lt Col VR Silva SLA, Lt Col NA Ranasinghe SLAC, Maj RN Akmeemana GW, Maj WMR Wijesundara SLLI, Maj EP de Z Abeysekera SLSC, Maj AMB Peiris VIR, Maj NAJC Dias GR, Maj P Ganegoda SLSR.

Info:

HQ SLAVF, List A, List B3, List B5, 3 SLSC, 6 SLLI, 1 SLSR, 1 GW, 6 GR, 1 VIR.

Source: Major General N A Ranasinghe (Rtd) RSP VSV USP ndc psc Isc



සීමාන්විතයි

5 වන රෙජිමේන්තුව ශ්‍රී ලංකා සන්නාහ සන්නද්ධ බලකාය

විශේෂ නියෝග I වන කොටස

5 වන රෙජිමේන්තුවේ අණදෙන නිලධාරී ලුතිනන් කරනල් එන් ඒ රණසිංහ පිඨස්සි
නිකුත් කරන ලදී.

1994 ජනවාරි මස 06 වන දින අංක 01 හි ඡේද අංක 01 සිට 11 දක්වා

නභා සිවුචිම

1. ශ්‍රී ලංකා යුධ හමුදාවේ නිත්‍ය බල හමුදාවේ ඒකකයක් වශයෙන් 5 වන රෙජිමේන්තුව ශ්‍රී ලංකා සන්නාහ සන්නද්ධ බලකාය නභා සිවුචිම යුද හමුදාපති කුමා විසින් අනුමත කර ඇත. ඒ අනුව 1994 ජනවාරි මස 06 වන ගුරු දින පෙරවරු 0624 ට යෙදී ඇති සුභ නැකතින් 5 වන රෙජිමේන්තුව ශ්‍රී ලසසබ රෙජිමේන්තු අදාපති ක්‍රිශේධියර් ටීඑන්ද සිල්වා හේ ප්‍රධානත්වයෙන් රොක්කවුස් කඳවුරේ නගා සිටුවනු ලැබේ. ඒකකයේ කෙටි යෙදුම 5 ශ්‍රී ලසසබ වේ.

අණදීමේ පිළිවෙත

2. 5 ශ්‍රී ලසසබ, රෙජිමේන්තු මධ්‍යස්ථානය ශ්‍රී ලංකා සන්නාහ සන්නද්ධ බලකාය හා සන්නද්ධ අධ්‍යක්ෂ මණ්ඩලය/ සන්නද්ධ බල සේනාවේ අණසකට යටත්වේ. ඒකකයට ඇතුළත් කර ඇති නිලධාරී, සෙසු නිලයින්ගේ සම්පූර්ණ අණදීම, පාලනය හා විනය සබැඳිව රෙජිමේන්තු ආඥාපති හට වගකීම අණදෙන නිලධාරී සතු වේ. 5 ශ්‍රී ලසසබ හි සියලුම පාලන කටයුතු සඳහා වගකීම 2 සේනාංක මූලස්ථානය සතුවේ.

සංස්ථාව

3. 5 ශ්‍රී ලසසබ හි සංස්ථාව 1993 දෙසැම්බර් 06 දිනැති ප්‍ර/ මංරා/ 114 (169) දරණ යුද හමුදා මූලස්ථාන ලිපිය අනුව වේ.

කාර්යයන් හා වගකීම

4. 5 ශ්‍රී ලසසබ හි කාර්යයන් හා වගකීම යුද හමුදා නියෝග 1/81 හි ඡේද 117 හි සඳහන් පරිදි වේ.

භකාස හා පාලනමය කටයුතු

5. 5 ශ්‍රී ලසසබයට ඇතුළත් කර ඇති නිලධාරී / හා සෙසු නිලයින් පාලනමය හා භකාස කටයුතු සම්බන්ධව වගකීම අණදෙන නිලධාරී සතුවේ.

නිලධාරී හා සෙසු නිලයින් ඇතුළත් කිරීම

6. 5 ශ්‍රී ලසසබ වෙත ඇතුළත් කරන ලද නිලධාරීන් හා සෙසු නිලයින් පහත සඳහන් පරිදි වේ.

අ. ලුතිනන් කරනල් එන් ඒ රණසිංහ පිඨස්සි	- අණදෙන නිලධාරී
මේජර් යූජිබ් මැදවල	- දෙවන අණදෙන නිලධාරී
මේජර් (උපා) ආර්ථම් පුංචිබණ්ඩා	- බලහතාධිපති
කපිතන් කේසී සෙනවිරත්න	- බලහතාධිපති
කපිතන් කේඑස් පෙරේරා	- බලහතාධිපති
කපිතන් ඩබ්ල්ඩ්වී විජේසූරිය	- විධායක අධිකාරී
ලුතිනන් (උපා) එන්එස් ජයවර්ධන	- සහකාර භය කායඞ් සම්පාදන නිලධාරී

Source: Major General N A Ranasinghe (Rtd) RSP VSV USP ndc psc Isc

සීමාන්විතයි

2/ ලුතිනන්	ඩබ්එස්එම්බී	වැවේගම	-	රැලි නිලධාරී
2/ ලුතිනන්	ජීකේඑච්	ජිකනායක	-	රැලි නිලධාරී
2/ ලුතිනන්	බීකේඒපී	දරිපු	-	රැලි නිලධාරී
2/ ලුතිනන්	එම්පීඑස්	මාරපන	-	රැලි නිලධාරී
2/ ලුතිනන්	එම්ජීආර්	බණ්ඩාර	-	රැලි නිලධාරී
2/ ලුතිනන්	ඩීඑම්එම්බී	පුස්සලේල	-	රැලි නිලධාරී
2/ ලුතිනන්	ටීඑම්එකේ	ද සිල්වා	-	රැලි නිලධාරී
2/ ලුතිනන්	ජී	අමර	-	රැලි නිලධාරී
2/ ලුතිනන්	එල්ආර්	සිල්වා	-	රැලි නිලධාරී
2/ ලුතිනන්	අයිඑස්සී	කරුණාරත්න	-	රැලි නිලධාරී
2/ ලුතිනන්	ඩබ්කේසී	පෙරේරා	-	රැලි නිලධාරී
සො/ 97227	බනි II	හේමචන්ද්‍ර	එස්එච්එස්	- රෙජිමේන්තු මහ සැරයන්
සො/ 97329	බනි II	නිලමේ	එච්ජීආර් ආරඑස්සී	- බලහත මහ සැරයන්
සො/ 97297	මා/ සැරයන්	ගුණසිංහ	ඩීජී	- විනය ශාලා උපකරණ පාලක සැරයන්
සො/ 97277	මා/ සැරයන්	රණතුංග	යුජේ	- බලහත මහ සැරයන්
සො/ 97110	මා/ සැරයන්	ජයසිංහ	එම්ජී	- බලහත මහ සැරයන්
සො/ 97129	මා/ සැරයන්	සුවනිපාල	එල්එච්එන්	- රෙජිමේන්තු උපකරණ පාලක සැරයන්
සො/ 97522	මා/ සැරයන්	මෙන්ඩිස්	ටීඩබ්බී	- බලහත මහ සැරයන්
සො/ 97318	සැරයන්	මෙන්ඩිස්	ටීඩබ්බී	- බලහත මහ සැරයන්
සො/ 97417	සැරයන්	ධර්මදාස	එස්	- බලහත මහ සැරයන්
සො/ 97141	සැරයන්	සිල්වා	අයිඑස්	- බලහත මහ සැරයන්
සො/ 97327	සැරයන්	ප්‍රේමචන්ද්‍ර	ඩීජී	- බලහත මහ සැරයන්
සො/ 97543	කෝපුල්	රූපසිංහ	එස්එච්එම්	- බලහත මහ සැරයන්
සො/ 98442	කෝපුල්	සේරසිංහ	ඩීජී	- බලහත මහ සැරයන්
සො/ 97021	කෝපුල්	නන්දසේන	එම්සී	- බලහත මහ සැරයන්
සො/ 98448	කෝපුල්	සුභපකුමාර	ටීජේඑන්	- බලහත මහ සැරයන්
සො/ 97692	කෝපුල්	ගුණවර්ධන	එච්එම්බී	- බලහත මහ සැරයන්
සො/ 97814	කෝපුල්	දයාසේන	ආර්බී	- බලහත මහ සැරයන්
සො/ 98101	කෝපුල්	ජනකානන්	එච්එම්බී	- බලහත මහ සැරයන්
සො/ 98882	කෝපුල්	බණ්ඩාර	එච්එම්එල්ආර්	- බලහත මහ සැරයන්
සො/ 98452	කෝපුල්	රංජිත්	එච්	- බලහත මහ සැරයන්
සො/ 98889	කෝපුල්	රම්බණ්ඩාර	ජේජී	- බලහත මහ සැරයන්
සො/ 98710	කෝපුල්	වීරසූරිය	ඩීසුකේජී	- බලහත මහ සැරයන්
සො/ 97436	කෝපුල්	විජේසිංහ	අයිඑච්	- බලහත මහ සැරයන්
සො/ 98070	කෝපුල්	විද්‍යානිලක	ටීජීඑස්	- බලහත මහ සැරයන්
සො/ 97878	කෝපුල්	නිහාල්	එස්එල්	- බලහත මහ සැරයන්
සො/ 98077	කෝපුල්	වීරවංශ	කේඩ්ආර්	- බලහත මහ සැරයන්
සො/ 98452	කෝපුල්	ආධිතේට්ටි	කේජී	- බලහත මහ සැරයන්
සො/ 98955	කෝපුල්	පියරත්න	පිඑම්	- බලහත මහ සැරයන්
සො/ 98475	කෝපුල්	ගුණසිරි	ටීඑච්	- බලහත මහ සැරයන්
සො/ 97890	කෝපුල්	සිල්වා	ආර්යුඑස්	- බලහත මහ සැරයන්
සො/ 98695	කෝපුල්	පෙරේරා	ඊජීආර්	- බලහත මහ සැරයන්
සො/ 98078	කෝපුල්	සිල්වා	එඩ්මන්ඩ්බ්ජී	- බලහත මහ සැරයන්
සො/ 97882	කෝපුල්	දසනායක	ජීකේඑල්	- බලහත මහ සැරයන්
සො/ 100227	කෝපුල්	චන්ද්‍රආරච්චි	ඩබ්එස්සී	- බලහත මහ සැරයන්

සීමාන්විතයි

Source: Major General N A Ranasinghe (Rtd) RSP VSV USP ndc psc Isc

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Army, S. L. (1999). Sri Lanka Army 50 years on, 1949-1999. Colombo, Colombo, Sri Lanka : Sri Lanka Army. Retrieved July 2024.

Army, S. L. (2000). Operation Completion report, Operation Kinihira I-IX. Colombo, Colombo, Sri Lanka : Sri Lanka Army. Retrieved June 2024.

Corps, S. L. (2015). "WHEELS TO TRACKS" History of Sri Lanka Armoured Corps 1955-2015. Colombo, Colombo, Sri Lanka : Sri Lanka Armoured Corps. Retrieved July 2024.

Navy, S. L. (2013). Diamond of the Silent Blue. Colombo, Colombo, Sri Lanka : Sri Lanka Navy. Retrieved July 21, 2024.

Senaratne, J. P. (2015). Sri Lanka Armoured Corps 60 Years of History (1955-2015). (1st ed.). Colombo 15, Colombo, Sri Lanka: Sri Lanka Armoured Corps. Retrieved June 28, 2024.

Journals published by Sri Lanka Armoured Corps – 1994 to 2023.

Newspapers Referred;

Sunday Times

Sunday Times (London)

The Island

Daily News

Sunday Observer



- SRI LANKA ARMoured CORPS -

