AN EXPLORATORY STUDY ON
OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH HAZARDS (OSHH)
IN THE MALAYSIAN ARMY

By

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This Research Paper is submitted to the
Faculty of Business and Accountancy, University of Malaya
in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of

Master of Management

September 1997

Perpustakaan Universiti Malaya
ABSTRACT

Occupational Safety and Health Hazard (OSHH) is considered a new subject in the Malaysian Army. With the changes in the technological advancement of weapon system and the expanding roles of the army in the United Nations Peacekeeping mission has also change the working condition and the environment of the Malaysian Army.

In view of this trend, one of the challenges faced by the Malaysian Army today is to meet the growing needs for effective and efficient management of OSHH issues. The requirement of overall quality and working condition and environment has placed emphasis on the OSHH in the Malaysian Army. The growing concern of OSHH in the Malaysian Army has subsequently trigged and initiated the study of this paper.

The purpose of this study is to highlight the tangible and intangible aspect of OSHH in the Malaysian Army in the perspective of strategy, policy, organisation, structure, action plan, training, awareness, technical knowledge and research and development. All these aspects will be discussed and analysed with the view of suggesting the OSHH programme and to reduce and control the OSHH in the Malaysian Army.

This paper gives an overview of the Malaysian Army with the detail of their roles and task of each Corps in the army. It then provides an insight of all the sources of OSHH in the Malaysian army. This study has categorised the
various sources of OSHH into ten categories of hazards i.e. acoustic energy, temperature extreme, physical trauma, vibration, shock, occupational stress, radiation energy, oxygen deficiency, biological and chemical effect. This study also highlights the Occupational Safety Act 1994 in relation to OSHH in the Malaysian Army.

The current strategy, policy, action plan, technological knowledge, awareness, statistical data, compensation, training and research and development of OSHH in the Malaysian Army was highlighted in this paper. Also included are the research findings on the strengths and weaknesses of the management of OSHH in the Malaysian Army. As for the analysis, a fish bone model was developed with the view to analyse the control and reduce of OSHH issues of the Malaysian Army.

Finally this paper presents the total OSHH programme, integrating all the components in the fish bone model. The suggested OSHH programme emphasise on the strategy, policy, action plan, awareness, technical knowledge and research and development that need to be implemented in the Malaysian Army.
ABBREVIATIONS

CIW - Counter Insurgency Warfare
CTD - Cumulative Trauma Disorder
DRC - Defence Research Centre
DTC - Defence Technology Centre
ILO - International Labour Organisation
KIV - Korean Infantry Vehicle
MAF - Malaysian Armed Forces
MBO - Management by Objective
MINDEF - Ministry of Defence
OHMIS - Occupational Health Management Information System
OSHA - Occupational Safety and Health Act
OSHH - Occupational Safety and Health Hazards
PSTP - Pusat Sain dan Teknologi Pertahanan
R&D - Research & Development
RFPs - Requests for Proposals
RFR - Radio Frequency Radiation
SOW - Statement of Work
TEMP - Test and Evaluation Master Plan
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We have benefited from the help of many people in the writing of this project paper. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Directorates, Units and individuals who were kind enough to assist us in this endeavour of writing the paper. We would like to thank the Medical Directorate, Army Human Resource Department, Army Logistic Command, Defence Science and Technology Centre for providing us with all the research materials, views, opinions and suggestions during the interviews.

We also would like to convey our thanks to Royal Armour Regiment, Royal Artillery School and Armed Forces Hospital, Port Dickson for providing the necessary information and co-operation during the interviews. We would also like to extend our thanks to the Management of Institut Pengurusan Tentera Darat (IPDA) and the management of Faculty of Business and Accountancy in providing the necessary assistance for the preparation of this paper.

Special thanks to Dr. Ainin bt Sulaiman for her tireless effort in rendering supervision and assistance in this project paper. Finally, not forgetting our beloved wives and children for their time and sacrifice. May Allah bless everyone that has contributed in one way or another in ensuring the completion of this paper in time for submission.
LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1-1  -  Research Process Flow  11
Figure 2-1  -  Organisation Structure of the Ministry of Defence  19
Figure 2-2  -  Organisation Structure of the Malaysian Army  21
Figure 3-1  -  Health Hazards to Soldier  36
Figure 4-1  -  Fish Bone Model of OSHH Analysis  62
Figure 5-1  -  Malaysian Army Health Hazard Assessment Program Model  72
Figure 5-2  -  Prevention Pillar  77
Figure 5-3  -  Protection Pillar  81
Figure 5-4  -  Performance Pillar  84
Figure 5-5  -  Sustainment & Survivability Pillar  88

LIST OF TABLES

Table 2-1  -  The Various Hazards Faces by the Various Corps  28
Table 4-1  -  Injuries in the Malaysian Army  54
Table 4-2  -  The Various Hazards Faces by the Malaysian Army  56
Table 6-1  -  Summary of the Research  97

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix A  -  Human Resource Department of Malaysian Army
Appendix B  -  Organisational Structure of Artillery Directorate
Appendix C  -  KP/G-CSM/1/(KEB)/6759 dated 15th July 97
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abbreviations</td>
<td>i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgements</td>
<td>ii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>List Of Figures, Tables &amp; Appendices</td>
<td>iii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tables Of Contents</td>
<td>iv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1  INTRODUCTION</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1 INTRODUCTION</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2 AIM</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3 OBJECTIVES</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5 SCOPE AND LIMITATION</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.6 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.7 ORGANISATION OF THE STUDY</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2  THE MALAYSIAN ARMY</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1 INTRODUCTION</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2 THE ROLES OF THE MALAYSIAN ARMY</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.1 Primary Roles</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.2 Secondary Roles</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.3 Supporting Role</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3 ORGANISATION STRUCTURE</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.1 MINISTRY OF DEFENCE</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.1.1 Medical Directorate</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.1.2 Pusat Sains dan Teknologi Pertahanan (PSTP)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.3.2 MALAYSIAN ARMY
2.3.2.1 Logistic Command
2.3.2.2 Human Resource Organisation
2.3.2.3 Infantry
2.3.2.4 Signal
2.3.2.5 Engineer
2.3.2.6 Artillery
2.3.2.7 Special Service
2.3.2.8 Intelligence
2.3.2.9 Military Police
2.3.2.10 Supplies and Transport
2.3.2.11 Ordnance
2.3.2.12 Electrical and Mechanical Engineering
2.4 CONVENTIONAL WARFARE CAPABILITIES
2.5 TRAINING
2.6 CONCLUSION

3 CONCEPTS PERTAINING TO OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH HAZARDS
3.1 INTRODUCTION
3.2 CHANGES IN THE ARMY
3.3 SOURCES OF OSSH IN THE ARMY
3.3.1 Acoustic Energy
3.3.2 Temperature Extreme
3.3.3 Physical Trauma
3.3.4 Vibration
3.3.5 Shock
5 SUGGESTIONS

5.1 INTRODUCTION 65

5.2 MALAYSIAN ARMY HEALTH HAZARD ASSESSMENT PROGRAM 66

5.2.1 VISION STATEMENT 70

5.2.2 THE MODEL 71

5.2.3 STRATEGY 71

5.2.4 PILLARS 74

5.2.4.1 Prevention Pillar 75

5.2.4.2 Protection Pillar 78

5.2.4.3 Performance Pillar 81

5.2.4.4 Sustainment & Survivability Pillar 84

5.2.5 FOUNDATION ELEMENTS 88

5.2.5.1 Leadership 89

5.2.5.2 Customers 90

5.2.5.3 People 90

5.2.5.4 Training 91

5.2.5.5 Communication 92

5.2.5.6 Resources 93

5.2.5.7 Management and Organisation 94

5.3 CONCLUSION 95

6 SUMMARY 97

BIBLIOGRAPHY 101