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

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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 Malaysians 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

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