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The Final Countdown



Sri Lanka Armed Forces have reached the final stage of their counter terrorist operation fought against Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) for more than two and half decades . The mission of our armed forces is to free our nation from clutches of terrorism and to make it a country where all Sri Lankans can live in peace and harmony.

The ongoing phase of the battle commenced in August 2006 when terrorists closed down the Mavil Aru sluice gates denying water for more than 30,000 civilians. The terrorists initially had their domination over an area of 15000 square kilometers in the Northern and the Eastern Provinces. The LTTE terrorism was eradicated from the Eastern Province by August 2007.

Land operations were commenced in the Northern Province in March 2007 with the induction of the Army's 57 Division to the Vavuniya area. The second offensive division Task Force 1 was inducted to the battlefield from Mannar in September 2007. Army opened its 3rd battlefront from Welioya with the induction of the 59 Division in January 2008.

At present, the army has engaged 5 offensive Divisions and 3 Task Forces at remaining LTTE hiding areas in Wannu. LTTE terrorists are boxed in to a triangular shape land marked by A-9 road from the West, A-34 road from South and the Northeastern coast from the East. The below is a brief description of the operations carried out by the army offensive divisions engaged in the battlefield

57 Division

The 57th Division (57 Div) commanded by Major General Jagath Dias commenced its operations in March 2007 in Vavuniya. The Division was maneuvered directly at the LTTE's heartland Kilinochchi, cutting across the strategically vital northwestern coast and the A-9 road. Time Line

Serial No	Date	Area Liberated
01.	24 April 2008	Madhu church complex
02.	16 May 2008	Palampiddi Town
03.	23 May 2008	Mundumurippu village
04.	15 June 2008	Periyamadhu village
05.	11 July 2008	Naddankandal village
06.	13 Aug 2008	Kalvilan Village

07.	22 Aug 2008	Thunukkai and Uilankulam Towns
08.	02 Sept 2008	Mallavi Town
09.	29 Oct 2008	Akkarayankulam tank bund
10.	05 Nov 2008	Akkarayankulam built-up
11.	01 Dec 2008	Kokavil town
12.	10 Dec 2008	Terumurikandy junction
13.	02 Jan 2009	Kilinochchi town
14.	17 Jan 2009	Ramanathapuram
15.	28 Jan 2009	Visuamadu Town

58 Division

The Army 58th Division earlier known as the Task Force 1 commanded by Brigadier Shavendra Silva commenced its operations from Mannar in September 2007. This was the Division that maneuvered along the Northwestern coast of the Island and denied the LTTE of their vital lifeline that existed across the Palk Strait.

Timeline

Serial No	Date	Area Liberated
01.	09 May 2008	Adampan town
02.	24 June 2008	Mullikkandal, Minnaniranchan and Marattikannaddi villages
03.	29 June 2008	The Mannar Rice Bowl"- Alankulama, Andankulama, Alakaddiveli, Parappakandal, Parappukadatan, Papamoddai, Odupallam, Neduvarampu, Kannaputtukulama and Vannakulama, villages
04.	30 June 2008	Linked up with 57 Div -southwest of Periyamadhu
05.	16 July 2008	Vidattaltivu town
06.	02 Aug 2008	Illuppaikkadavai township
07.	12 Aug 2008	Vellankulam town
08.	12 Aug 2008	Mulankavil and Pallavarayankaddu areas
09.	21 Aug 2008	Nachchikudha
10.	16 Oct 2008	Maniyankulama
11.	20 Oct 2008	Vannerikkulama

12.	28 Oct 2008	Nochchimodai
13.	29 Oct 2008	Jeyapuram
14.	29 Oct 2008	Nachchikuda
15.	10 Nov 2008	Kiranchi
16.	13 Nov 2008	Devil's Point and Vallaipadu
17.	15 Nov 2008	Pooneryn
18.	23 Dec 2008	'Sinna-Paranthan'
19.	26 Dec 2008	Nalanawakulam village
20.	01 Jan 2009	Paranthan
21.	08 Jan 2009	Murasumoddai
22.	15 Jan 2009	Dharmapuram
23.	28 Jan 2009	Visuamadu Town
24.	20 Feb 2009	Thevipuram
25.	17 March 2009	Iranapalai Junction
26.	01 April 2009	Pachchapulmuddai
27.	05 April 2009	Puthukkudiyiruppu

59 Division

The Army 59th Division commanded by Brigadier Nandana Udawatte commenced its operations from the Welioya area in January 2008. Troops of this division slowly but successfully marched across the Andankulam and Nagancholai forest reserves that stood as natural defences for the LTTE's main military bastion in Mullaittivu.

Timeline

Serial No	Date	Area Liberated
01.	30 May 2008	Munagam Base
02.	04 July 2008	Michael Base
03.	27 July 2008	'Sugandan' base
04.	16 Aug 2008	Jeevan Base
05.	21 Aug 2008	West of Nayaroo lagoon
06.	23 Oct 2008	Gajabapura
07.	11 Nov 2008	Kumulamunai village
08.	29 Nov 2008	Otiyamalai

09.	26 Dec 2008	Mulliyawalai
10.	25 Jan 2009	Mullaittivu Town

53 Division

The Army 53rd Division commanded by Brigadier Kamal Gunarathne was initially manning the forward defence line at Muhamalai in the Jaffna peninsula. The Division was deployed in the area south of A-9 road and was one of the two Army Divisions that defended the isolated Jaffna peninsula against LTTE infiltration over the past few years. The Division shifted its mode of operations from defensive to offensive in mid November 2008.

Timeline

Serial No	Date	Area Liberated
01.	12 March 2009	Puthukkudiyirippu Hospital
02.	01 April 2009	Pachchapulmuddai
03.	05 April 2009	Puthukkudiyiruppu

55 Divison

The Army 55th Division commanded by Brigadier Prasanna Silva was initially manning the forward defence line at Muhamalai in the Jaffna peninsula. The Division was deployed in the area north of A-9 road and was one of the two Army Divisions that defended the isolated Jaffna peninsula against LTTE infiltration over the past few years. The Division shifted its mode of operations from defensive to offensive in mid November 2008.

Timeline

Serial No	Date	Area Liberated
01.	05 February 2009	Chalai

Task Force 2

The Army Task Force 2 commanded by Brigadier Rohana Bandara commenced its operations in

June 2008 from the South of Palamoddai area. This was the first Army offensive element to maneuver along the west-east axis across A-9.

Timeline

Serial No	Date	Area Liberated
01.	11 July 2008	Navvi village
02.	04 Dec 2008	Puliyankulam
03.	05 Dec 2008	Kanakarayankulam
04.	21 Jan 2009	Udayarkattukulam Tank Bund

Task Force 3

The Army Task Force 3 commanded by Brigadier Sathyapirya Liyanage commenced its operations in November 2008 from the Vannivilankulam area. This was the second Army offensive element to maneuver along the west-east axis across A-9.

Timeline

Serial No	Date	Area Liberated
01.	17 Nov 2008	Mankulama
02.	25 Nov 2008	Olumadu
03.	15 Dec 2008	Ampakamam

Task Force 4

The Army Task Force 4 commanded by Colonel Nishantha Wanniarachchi commenced its operations in December 2008 from the Nadunkerni area. This was the second offensive element inducted to the Mullaittivu battlefield after the Army 59 Div.

Serial No	Date	Area Liberated
01.	20 Dec 2008	Nadunkerni
02.	04 Jan 2009	Oddusuddan
03.	12 Jan 2009	Keridattadu