



# THE PROFESSIONALS

*A Publication of Naval Doctrine Command*

VOLUME 1

AUGUST 2024



**MEET THE SECOND FLAG  
OFFICER COMMANDING  
NAVDOC**





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- 📍 Wilmot Point Ahmadu Bello Way, Victoria Island Lagos
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**CNS**

**COMMAND PHILOSOPHY**

To Lead the NN with Integrity,  
Courage and Relentless Pursuit for  
Excellence Through Teamwork,  
Discipline and Human Capacity Building,  
Whilst Upholding the Highest  
Standards of Professionalism,  
Ethics and Respect  
for Human Rights.



**Vice Admiral EI OGALLA**

AM GSS psc fdc(+) BSc MSc

CHIEF OF THE NAVAL STAFF



## VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT OF THE CHIEF OF THE NAVAL STAFF



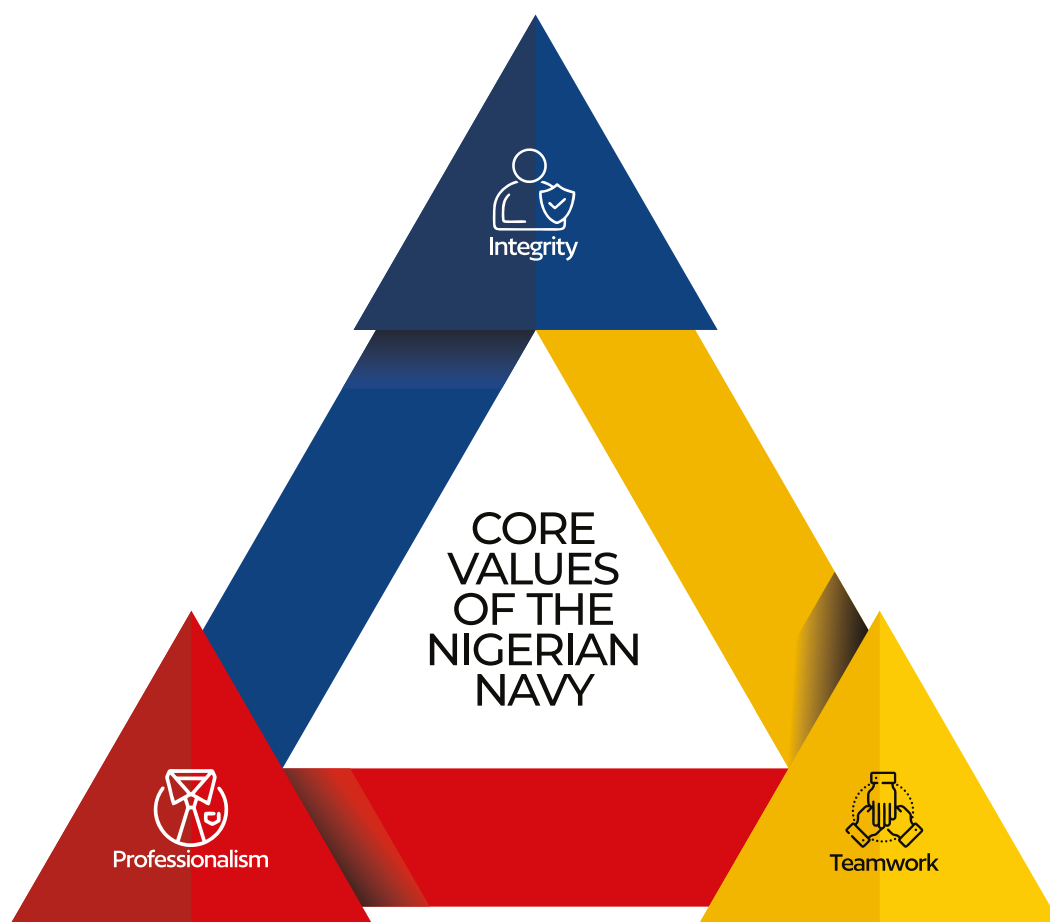
**VICE ADMIRAL EI OGALLA** AM GSS psc fdc(+) BSc MSc  
CHIEF OF THE NAVAL STAFF

### VISION

**A highly motivated professional naval force capable of shaping the security outcomes within Nigeria's maritime domain and the littorals including land based engagements in fulfilment of Nigeria's national interest**

### MISSION

**Maintain and equip a professionally competent and ethical naval force while leveraging on all elements of national power for the effective defence of Nigeria's maritime area of interest against all forms of threat in fulfilment of national security imperatives.**



# Core Values of the Nigerian Navy

## Integrity

A quality which NN officers and men of the Navy must hold steadfast because the nation has entrusted its maritime security and implicitly, the lives of the citizenry to the NN. The NN shall therefore maintain the strictest integrity and uphold the confidence that the Nigerian people have reposed in it.

## Professionalism

The vagaries of the maritime environment, the sophistication of the naval platforms, the constraints imposed on operations under democratic directions/legal regimes and the imperatives of international norms have all combined to make naval operations more complex than ever before. This demands high professional standards by all NN personnel which shall not be comprised under any condition.

## Teamwork

The complex nature of naval operations dictated by environmental factors and political cum legal imperatives makes teamwork indispensable for success. The NN shall continue to promote excellent teamwork at the various strata and with sister services as well as with cooperating agencies in line with its motto "ONWARD TOGETHER".

# HEADQUARTERS NAVAL DOCTRINE COMMAND



## COMMAND PHILOSOPHY, VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT OF THE FOC

### COMMAND PHILOSOPHY

As the Flag Officer Commanding Naval Doctrine Command, my philosophy centres on excellence, innovation and collaboration, committed to fostering a culture guided by NN Core values.

### VISION

To be the home of highly motivated professionals committed to fostering a culture guided by NN Doctrine.

### MISSION

Our mission is to conduct objective operational sea training and ashore evaluations to develop a professionally competent and operationally ready NN Force in fulfilment of NN Doctrine.





# THE COMMAND TEAM



**R ADM MB KATAGUM**  
CHIEF STAFF OFFICER



**CDRE AA ZUBAIRU**  
DIRECTOR OF SIMULATION



**R ADM HD ZAKARIA** GSS psc+ fnwc+ fdc+ MIAD MLC MSDN  
FLAG OFFICER COMMANDING



**CAPT OO FANEYE**  
COMMAND PROJECT OFFICER



**CAPT JA OKLOBIA**  
COMMAND ADMIN OFFICER



**CDR ROE ANYA**  
COMMAND ACCOUNT  
& BUDGET OFFICER



**CDR BF APEKUYE**  
COMMAND LOGISTICS OFFICER



**CDR YM TASIU**  
COMMAND TECHNICAL OFFICER



**CDR S AKINWOLA**  
COMMAND IMAM



**LT CDR AI ABDULSALAM**  
COMMAND MOTOR  
TRANSPORT OFFICER



**LT CDR G EGBUNU**  
COMMAND INFORMATION  
OFFICER



**LT CDR OA OPARINDE**  
SO2 LOGISTICS



**LT CDR J ABAFRAS**  
COMMAND INTELLIGENCE OFFICER



**LT CDR LA ORIRETAN**  
COMMAND SPORTS OFFICER



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**LT CDR AA OLADEINDE**  
SO2 ICT



**LT CDR SI AKPAN**  
NA-FOC



**LT AG SADIQ**  
SO2 PUBLICATION & MANUAL



**LT EG MIESEIGHA**  
SO2 CASH



**LT KF HARUNA**  
SO3 ADMIN



**SLT JJ EI ALASOMUKA**  
FLAG-FOC



**SLT KS BUHARI**  
SO3 ICT



**SLT JJ DAUDA**  
SO3 LEGAL



**SLT OG OGWAH**  
DW-FOC



**SLT A ZUBAIRU**  
SO3 PROVOST



**NWO LA SAKA**  
CBM

# From the Editorial Desk



LT CDR G EGBUNU

I am pleased to present to you, our dear readers, the Maiden Edition of the annual publication of Naval Doctrine Command (NAVDOC) – The Professionals Magazine. This edition is the first publication of the Command since its establishment in 2022. This edition showcases the impressive achievements of Naval Doctrine Command in the discharge of its statutory mandate in line with the Nigerian Navy Order, Chief of the Naval Staff Vision and Mission as well as the Strategic Directive 23-6. The magazine presents the activities and contributions of NAVDOC towards improving professionalism in areas of research and development operational efficiency of the Nigerian Navy. The rich content and quality of the magazine would no doubt bolster our readers' knowledge on NAVDOC's stride for enhancing professional conducts and sustainability in the Nigerian Navy. With the recent appointment of Chief of the Naval Staff Vice Admiral El Ogalla AM GSS fdc+ MSc by the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of Nigerian President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, it heralded a new era in the Nigerian Military particularly the Navy. This allowed for smooth transition from the first to the second Flag Officer Commanding Naval Doctrine Command Rear Admiral HD Zakaria GSS psc+ nwc+ fdc+ MIAD MLC MSDS. This maiden edition thus captured pictures, articles, papers

on activities and ceremonies of NAVDOC on assumption of office by R Adm HD Zakaria. We have also included the profile of the Second Flag Officer Commanding for our readers to get acquainted with the chief professional of NAVDOC.

It is of utmost import to state that NAVDOC was established as a more robust structure for the realization of the mandate earlier assigned to the defunct Naval Doctrine and Assessment Centre. NAVDOC is tasked with formulation of doctrinal values which are critical to the operational and organisational objectives towards enhanced professionalism in the NN. The Command has been able to deliver considerably in some areas of its mandate such as human capacity development, infrastructural development and supporting the fleet renewal effort of the NN. The Command is thus a response to NN's need for an enduring organisation to formulate and oversee careful implementation of concepts, principles, practices, techniques and procedures of naval operations, consistent with the NN Doctrine. The Command achieves this through actualization of several important functions, which include development of doctrines, conduct of work-up of NN fleet which aims at blending the ships' company and the equipment into an efficient and effective fighting unit. The aspect of work-up was always realized through some forms of training that

include: Safety Operational Sea Training (SOST), Basic Operational Sea Training (BOST) and Consolidated Operational Sea Training (COST), which involve the use of NAVDOC Evaluation Checklists before the conduct of drills, exercises and evolutions.

Finally, the magazine is poised to inform, educate and entertain our readers and I enjoin readers to enjoy the rich content of the magazine while building knowledge of the Naval Doctrine Command and Nigerian Navy. I also want to thank the publisher Rear Admiral HD Zakaria, the chief professional whose vision, guidance and support assisted in actualizing the magazine publication. Also noteworthy are the contributions of Rear Admiral MB Katagum, Chief Staff Officer NAVDOC whose direction was valuable in generating the drive and momentum to complete the publication in good time. My sincere appreciation also goes to our numerous contributors who sent in publication materials and advert placements in the magazine. Your support means a lot to us and affirms your friendship and shared interest in the progress of NAVDOC and NN at large. Do have a delightful read. Onward Together.

# EDITORIAL BOARD

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**For enquiries contact us on**

**Tel: 08175003065 | Email: [nndoc.comd@navy.mil.ng](mailto:nndoc.comd@navy.mil.ng)**



## *From the Desk of the*

### **CHIEF PROFESSIONAL** **R ADM HD ZAKARIA**

**GSS psc+ fnwc+ fdc+ MIAD MLC MSDS**

I am thrilled to spearhead the publication and launch of the maiden edition of The Professionals Magazine - A Journal of Naval Doctrine Command (NAVDOC). As the publisher of this groundbreaking edition, I am honored to lead a team of dedicated individuals in showcasing the excellence and professionalism of the NN through NAVDOC. It is pertinent to state that, since the establishment of NAVDOC, it has made efforts to lay a solid foundation for optimal performance on its operational and administrative tasks. As such, the Command continued to execute its expanded statutory role and other assigned tasks towards enhancing the operational efficiency of the Nigerian Navy (NN) in line with the Chief of the Naval Staff vision and mission.

NAVDOC has continuously strived to ensure professionalism by formulating and overseeing careful implementation of concepts, principles, practices, techniques and procedures of naval operations. The Command achieves this, through actualization of several important functions, which include development of doctrines, conduct of work-up of NN fleet which aims at blending the NN ships' companies and the equipment into efficient and effective fighting units. The work-up is realized through some forms of evolution that include: Basic Operations Sea Training (BOST), Safety Operations Sea Training (SOST) and Consolidated Operations Sea Training (COST), which involve the use of the developed NAVDOC Evaluation Checklists before the conduct of drills, exercises

and evolutions. Additionally, the Command is required to certify all NN ships and establishment on HSE in line with global best practices.

Our magazine will serve as a platform to highlight the latest developments in naval doctrines, ship workups, assessments, as well as conduct of Command Appointment Examination, Midshipman Board and ratings Higher Rate Professional Advancement Examinations. It will also serve as a testament to the commitment and expertise of NAVDOC personnel, providing valuable insights and knowledge to our readers through engaging articles, in-depth analyses, and exclusive interviews. On the whole, The Professionals Magazine is intended to educate, inspire, and inform our audience about the critical role of the Command.

This journal is a collection of selected articles and photo-news while demonstrating the highest standards of journalism and editorial excellence. It is hoped that in the near future, this publication will not only inform but showcase the best NN has to offer.

Finally, I would like to appreciate everyone who has contributed in one way or the other to the success of this publication. Thank you for your commitment and passion for this project. Let's set sail on this exciting journey of the maiden edition of The Professionals together.

Warm regards,  
Onward Together.



## *Goodwill Message by*

**THE FLAG OFFICER COMMANDING  
WESTERN NAVAL COMMAND**

**REAR ADMIRAL MB HASSAN**

GSS fdc (+) nwc (+) psc (+)(+) PhD

ON THE OCCASION OF THE PUBLICATION  
OF THE MAIDEN EDITION OF  
THE PROFESSIONALS MAGAZINE OF  
THE NAVAL DOCTRINE COMMAND

I am delighted to congratulate the Flag Officer Commanding Naval Doctrine Command and the members of the Editorial Board of "The Professionals Magazine", the official magazine of the Naval Doctrine Command. On the occasion of the maiden edition of 'The Professionals Magazine', it is indeed a milestone. Over the years magazines have served as a useful collection of commands' activities. Thus, insiders can go through the magazine with some nostalgia while it also affords outsiders an uncommon opportunity to be acquainted with the command's events in the year under review.

It is heartwarming to know that the Naval Doctrine Command was established to promote excellence and professionalism in the Nigerian Navy while also fostering creativity and conducting combat readiness assessments of all fleets in the Nigerian Navy to enhance her operational efficiency.

Accordingly, I wish to felicitate and commend the officers and entire Editorial Board members on the launch of this maiden edition of "The Professionals Magazine". There is no gain saying that the magazine will echo the command's excellent activities. I am optimistic that this maiden edition will meet the expectation of all readers.

I wish to state again that the richness of the magazine will leave no one in doubt as to the creativity and resourcefulness of the members of the Editorial Board. For those that also contributed in one way or another to make this edition a reality, I encourage you not to relent but continue to seek ways of improving subsequent editions. Once again, well done and onward together.

# Goodwill Message

**ON THE PUBLICATION OF  
THE PROFESSIONALS MAGAZINE  
BY THE NAVAL DOCTRINE COMMAND**

**R ADM SA AKINWANDE**

GSS psc(+) fdc nwc(+) MSc



It is with great pleasure and pride that I extend my heartfelt congratulations on the successful publication of the First Edition of the Professionals Magazine. This milestone achievement underscores the unwavering commitment of the Naval Doctrine Command to promoting excellence and professionalism in the Nigerian Navy.

The launch of this magazine is a testament to the dedication and hard work of the talented individuals behind its creation. Through its insightful articles, thought-provoking features, and engaging content, the magazine will serve as a platform for sharing knowledge, best practices, and fostering a culture of continuous learning within our esteemed organization.

As the Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Naval Command, I am confident that the Professionals Magazine will play a pivotal role in supporting our personnel in their professional development, enhancing their capabilities, and furthering their understanding of naval doctrine. By providing a forum for exchange of ideas and experiences, this publication will undoubtedly contribute to the overall growth and success of the Nigerian Navy.

I commend the editorial team, contributors, and all those involved in bringing this vision to fruition. Your dedication and hard work have not gone unnoticed, and I am certain that the Professionals Magazine will be a source of inspiration and empowerment for all who have the privilege of reading it. Relatedly, the content would serve as a veritable reference material for researchers.

I urge all personnel of the Nigerian Navy to embrace this valuable resource, to engage with its content, and to leverage the insights shared within its pages to excel in their roles and uphold the highest standards of professionalism in service to our great nation.

Once again, congratulations to the Naval Doctrine Command on this significant achievement. May the Professionals Magazine continue to serve as a beacon of knowledge, excellence, and inspiration for many editions to come. Onward Together.

Please accept the assurances of my esteemed regards.

# Goodwill Message by R ADM IM ALBARA

GSS psc(+) psc(j) mni MCMI MA

**FLAG OFFICER COMMANDING  
NAVAL TRAINING COMMAND  
EBUBU – ELEME RIVERS STATE**



I am pleased to be a part of the maiden edition of this unique magazine of the Naval Doctrine Command. The idea of publishing “The Professionals Magazine” is an encouraging visionary and purposeful initiative from the Command worthy of commendation. This initiative is a testimony of the Nigerian Navy broad approach to information dissemination to the larger society without exceptions. Therefore, I welcome onboard the latest magazine coming at a time the Nigerian Navy is celebrating her 68 years of patriotic service to our dear Fatherland. Certainly, the employment of the print media in the Nigerian Navy image laundering efforts is one of those varieties of soft powers for bridging the gap between the military and the civil populace towards mutual understanding, collaboration and cooperation.

“The Professionals Magazine” as the name implies, will go a long way to add to the body of knowledge and ultimately convey the professional services of the Naval Doctrine Command and the sacrifices of the Nigerian Navy as one of the fore-runners in nation building, National Security and Defense. I am convinced that this Magazine will not only inspire and educate the general public but will greatly entertain enthusiasts and friends of the Navy. Though, the Naval Doctrine Command is the youngest of the Commands but has made giant strides in the Nigerian Navy transformation and restructuring efforts to enhancing operational effectiveness through human capacity building. Your Command has worked hard to emplace

doctrinal reorientation and reinforcement for the strengthening of Nigerian Navy core values and standards.

It is undeniable to state that Naval Doctrine Command and Naval Training Command can be said to be Siamese twins tasked with similar mandate of ensuring quality and effective professional local training of personnel for requisite competencies and proficiencies. In this voyage, the two Commands will continue to simplify and execute the Mission and Strategic Directives of the Chief of the Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Emmanuel Ikechukwu Ogalla AM. In this vein, let me acknowledge the flawless collaboration and cooperation that exist between the two Commands in ensuring that training remains an enabler towards the effective accomplishment of the Nigerian Navy roles.

Let me also recognize the hard work and outstanding linguistic prowess of your Editorial Board for coming up with this maiden master piece. I believe this first edition of “The Professionals Magazine” will thrill readers and lovers of the print media due to its content, originality and creativity. I look forward to reading more editions of your magazine. Congratulations!!

On this note, on behalf of the officers, ratings and civilian staff of Naval Training Command, I wish you a successful publication and launching of “The Professionals Magazine”. Onward Together and God bless!!



# Goodwill Message by

## R ADM AA OREDERU

GSS psc(+) fdc(+) nswc B.Eng PGD (Log)  
Msc MIAD MNSE FCILT FISPAN MNIM

**ADMIRAL SUPERINTENDENT  
NAVAL DOCKYARD LIMITED**

It is with utmost pride and joy that I extend my congratulations to the leadership and staff of Naval Doctrine Command for publishing the Maiden Edition of the Magazine christened '*The Professionals*'. This achievement represents a significant milestone in the history of the Command which has evolved from a mere department into a fully-fledged command, measuring and sustaining Naval standards that advance the core values of professionalism, integrity and teamwork in the Nigerian Navy. The Command has also contributed immensely to upholding valuable traditions of the Navy to reflect the global outlook of navies worldwide. The Naval Doctrine Command therefore stands out as a beacon of excellence, embodying the current and future positions of the NN while ensuring that standards meet current operation realities.

The Naval Dockyard Family would find the Magazine interesting, informative and entertaining, presenting a valuable companion for information on contemporary issues as well as leisure. I have absolutely no doubt that the Magazine would enjoy readership from the Services, sister agencies, government and the private sector. I am therefore confident that the publication will be sustained and serve as a veritable means of preserving institutional memories. On this note, on behalf of the officers, ratings and civilian staff of Naval Dockyard Limited, I heartily congratulate and felicitate with the Naval Doctrine Command for achieving this important feat of launching the First Edition of '*The Professionals*'. Congratulations and Onward Together.

# CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY BETWEEN R ADM KG LEVI AND R ADM HD ZAKARIA

Sequel to the retirement of R Adm AN Ayafa the first Flag Officer Commanding Naval Doctrine Command after meritoriously serving the nation for 35 years, R Adm Habila Dunku Zakaria was appointed as the second Flag Officer Commanding Naval Doctrine Command. In a humble and quiet ceremony, the Acting FOC R Adm KG Levi handed over Command to R Adm HD Zakaria to mark the commencement of his duty tour as the FOC NAVDOC.



The FOC receiving the Quarter Guard salute



The CBM hands over the Command flag to the FOC



The acting FOC signing the handing over note



During a tour of the Command



Rear Admiral HD Zakaria signing a taking over note



Change of Command ceremony

## CNS FAMILIARIZATION VISIT TO HQ NAVDOC

With the appointment of Chief of the Naval Staff Vice Admiral El Ogalla AM GSS fdc+ MSc by the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of Nigerian President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, it heralded a new era in the Nigerian the Navy. Vice Admiral Ogalla upon assumption of office embarked on familiarization visit of all naval units and formation to lay a solid foundation to his tenure as the 24<sup>th</sup> Chief of the Naval Staff. At HQ NAVDOC, he charged the Command to carry out its mandatory responsibility professionally with utmost dedication and loyalty. On his part, he promised to give speedy considerations to the needs of NAVDOC to assist her function maximally for the growth of the Command and NN at large.



The CNS inspects the Quarter Guard



The FOC introducing his PSOs to the CNS



The CNS in a handshake with the Command CBM



The CNS in a handshake with officers of the Command



The FOC delivering a brief to the CNS



A cross section of PSOs of NAVDOC during the brief



The CNS being led on a tour of the Command



FOC WEST & FOC NAVDOC during the visit



The CNS & his team taking a tour of the Command



FOC NAVDOC emphasizing a point to the CNS



FOC NAVDOC presenting a souvenir to the CNS



FOC NAVDOC showing a spot to the CNS & his team



CNS departure from the command



A group photograph during the visit



## R ADM HD ZAKARIA

GSS, psc+ fnwc+ fdc+ MIAD MLC MSDS

**R** Adm Habila Dunku Zakaria was born on 23 March 1969 in Mangu Local Government Area of Plateau State. He was commissioned into the Nigerian Navy on 25 September 1993 as member of 40RC NDA. He has served onboard several Nigerian Navy ships both afloat and ashore. Some of the ships he served afloat include NNS AGU, HADEJIA, SIRI and ARADU. As a Staff Officer, he was Staff Officer Grade 2, Staff Officer grade 1 and Assistant Director Marine Services at different times at the Naval Headquarters. As his contributions to capacity development in the Armed forces, he was a Directing Staff, Chief Instructor and Director Logistics at the Armed Forces Command and Staff College Nigeria as well as the pioneer Director Leadership and Management Studies and a Directing Staff at the Naval War College Nigeria. He was also a Directing Staff at the Premier National Defence College Nigeria. In Operations, he served as the Base Operations Officer at NNS DELTA, Deputy Command Operations Officer and Chief Staff Officer at HQ Western Naval Command. Before assuming office as the second Flag Officer

Commanding Naval Doctrine Command, he was the Commander Command Naval Drafting Banda. R Adm Habila Dunku Zakaria has attended several courses at home and abroad. Some of which are Officers Long Course India specializing in Anti-Submarine warfare, the United Nations Staff Officers Course Sweden, Junior and Senior Staff Courses at the Armed Forces Command and Staff College Nigeria as well as the National Defence College Bangladesh. R Adm Zakaria holds a BSc Degree in Chemistry from NDA, Masters in International Affairs and Diplomacy and Masters in Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice both from the Ahmadu Bello University Zaria. He also has a Master of Strategy and Development Studies from the Bangladesh University of Professionals. He is currently pursuing a Doctorate degree in Defence and Security Studies at the Nigerian Defence Academy.

R Adm Zakaria is married to Mrs Helen Habila Zakaria and the union is blessed with 2 children Mitong and Nitong-Joy. He likes playing golf, travelling and reading at his leisure time.

# THE CNS ADVANCE INSPECTION TEAM'S VISIT TO HQ NAVDOC

The CNS Advance Inspection Team 2023 was on an inspection tour of Naval Doctrine Command. The Team was led by Cdre SU Gombe (now Rear Admiral), during the tour and inspection of facilities, the team commended the FOC NAVDOC and his team for a well-kept ambience of the Command and encouraged the Command to maintain the momentum as it will speak well for the Command at all times.



The CNS AIT inspecting the Command library



The CNS AIT touring the Command



The CNS AIT inspecting the Logistics Block



The CNS AIT inspecting the ratings arrival hall



The CNS AIT leader receiving salute at the Quarter Guard



The FOC & CNS AIT leader during the Command brief

# CNS ANNUAL SEA INSPECTION EXERCISE NCHEKWA OSHIMIRI

The CNS Sea Exercise code named NCHEWA OSHIMIRI is part of the several Sea Exercises hosted by the various Commands of the NN annually. The Exercise is geared towards improving the state of readiness of NN ships and personnel in combating maritime crimes within the Nigerian Maritime Environment for enhanced national prosperity.



NAVDOC observers going through the Ex Setting



NN Ships taking formation position during the Ex



The CONE & the crew at the bridge house of NNS KADA



NNSBS on display during the Ex



NN helicopter landing onboard NNS KADA



FOC EAST, FOC NAVDOC and CONE at sea during the Ex



FOC NAVDOC observing the Ex from the bridge



The SGOH & other dignitaries during the flag off



The SGOH granting press interview



The SGOH officially flags off the Ex



The SGOH delivers his speech during the flag off



The CNS delivers the opening remark



The SGOH and CNS during the flag off ceremony



A cross section of senior officers during the flag off

## FOC NAVDOC DURBAR WITH RATINGS OF HQ NAVDOC

The Flag Officer Commanding Naval Doctrine Command Rear Admiral HD Zakaria held a durbar with ratings of the Command on assumption of office as the second Flag Officer Commanding. During the durbar, the FOC harps on personal and service discipline as a requisite for greater productivity. Additionally, he promised to address the welfare issues raised by the ratings such as accommodation challenge in the Command, palliatives in terms of fuelling the Liberty Bus and general well-being of the ratings serving onboard HQ NAVDOC.



The CBM receiving the FOC on arrival



A rating asking a question during durbar



A Regulator asking a question during durbar



FOC & PSOs in attendance



Ratings of NAVDOC listening with keen interest



The FOC addressing ratings during the durbar

# COURTESY CALL ON THE FOC BY DELEGATES OF PAKISTAN NAVY LED BY CDRE VAQAR MUHAMMAD



CSO NAVDOC leading PN team to the Quarter Guard



PN team leader presents a souvenir to FOC NAVDOC



FOC NAVDOC presents Sailor Magazine to PN team leader



FOC NAVDOC presents command plaque to PN team leader



FOC NAVDOC in a discussion with PN team in his office



CSO NAVDOC receiving PN team on arrival



Cdre Vaqar Muhammad taking a Quarter Guard salute



Cdre Vaqar Muhammad inspects the Quarter Guard

# WORKUP SKILLS ACQUISITION TRAINING IN COLLABORATION WITH PAKISTAN NAVY LED BY CDRE VAQAR MUHAMMAD

The NN and Pakistan Navy (PN) have been engaged in series of talks with regards to training and other aspects of collaborations. Among the discussions were training on building foundation for doctrine and policy development as well as workup skills acquisition. Accordingly, the PN engaged with HQ NAVDOC for the conduct of workup skills acquisition training from 6 – 10 Nov 23 at Naval Dockyard Ltd auditorium. The training was meant to build capacity of the NN in the conduct of BOST, SOST and COST.



Cdre Vaqar Muhammad delivering a lecture during the training



Rear Admiral AA Orederu making a remark at the opening ceremony



A participant asking questions during the training



Lt Cdr Shoukat Furqan delivering a lecture on BOST



A group photograph during the training



FOC NAVDOC making the opening remark



# ADVANCING LEADERSHIP AND MENTORSHIP IN NIGERIAN NAVY DIVISIONAL SYSTEM

- LT CDR SI AKPAN

## INTRODUCTION

1. The Nigerian Navy (NN) Divisional System is crucial for nurturing a resilient and efficient naval force. Therefore, by fortifying leadership capabilities and fostering mentorship bonds, the NN can ensure the growth and preparedness of its personnel to confront contemporary maritime security challenges. As Colin Powell, a distinguished Black American General, aptly noted, ***“Great leaders are almost always great simplifiers, who can cut through argument and doubt to offer a solution everybody can understand.”*** The concept of leadership garners diverse interpretations. Some view it as the capacity to sway and direct others, while others perceive it as assuming control, establishing objectives and motivating others to attain them. Conversely, mentorship entails providing guidance, counsel and influence to a mentee. This encompasses providing aid and insights to a younger or less experienced individual across various realms, including professional, educational or informal contexts.

2. Numerous scholars have articulated differing perspectives on leadership and mentorship. Nevertheless, all definitions underscore the ability to influence and nurture others' potential. It is crucial to recognize that while leadership and mentorship differ, both entail guiding, cultivating and championing others towards achieving predetermined objectives and realizing their full capabilities.

3. Accordingly, leaders are individuals who have the authority to make decisions and offer guidance to others. They are responsible for setting the vision and strategy of the organization for every members to align. Conversely, mentors focus on nurturing the skills and talents of their mentees, assisting them in achieving their personal and professional objectives. Unlike leaders, mentors do not exert authority over their mentees but rather work collaboratively to create a supportive environment that fosters growth. To succeed in either role, it is essential to comprehend the distinctions between leadership and mentorship, as they revolve around different focal points. Thus, leadership centres on achieving the goals of the organisation while mentorship emphasizes on the development of the individual. Although the 2 approaches may appear contradictory, they are actually complementary. Therefore a competent leader can also be an exceptional mentor and vice versa.

4. In discussing leadership and mentorship, there are some questions to be pondered on which are: **what are the qualities of a good Leader/Mentor and secondly are Leaders Born or Made?** The first question explores the qualities of an effective leader/mentor, while the second question examines the nature of leadership whether it is innate or can be acquired. The decision to pursue a leadership role, mentorship or combining both depends on the objectives and needs of the team. Therefore, it is important to recognize the value of both approaches as they contribute to the success in different ways.

5. Mentoring in the past was often seen as a one-sided arrangement where the mentor offered their time and the mentee solely benefited from advice and insight. However, this perception has recently changed as the benefits of being a mentor are now widely acknowledged. This shift is due to the fact that mentees can also provide valuable mentorship to their mentors, as more managers and leaders are

learning from their younger or less experienced colleagues. For instance, in 1999 Jack Welch, the former CEO of General Electric popularized the concept of reverse mentoring by pairing 500 of his top executives with junior associates to learn how to effectively use the internet. This demonstrates that in the present era, both mentors and mentees can benefit from each other's experience and knowledge.

6. The NN recognizes the importance of these 2 variables and actively advocates for the implementation of a divisional system at all levels. This approach has positively influenced the administration and leadership of the system. Also, with technological advancements highlighting the importance of recruiting, training and motivating highly skilled personnel for successful NN operations, the divisional system has become increasingly necessary.

7. Though the system has achieved notable success in terms of administering, leading and mentoring Ratings in the NN, there are still identified gaps in its coverage of the officers' cadre particularly for those at the early stage of their careers. In the words of Admiral Arleigh Burke US navy, **“the effectiveness of a navy is dependent on many factors and the most important is the quality of its officer corps”**. There is need for the NN to enhance the existing system in terms of administering, guiding, developing and supporting the growth of junior officers. This will shape junior officers into becoming future leaders and mentors in a positive manner.

## **CONCLUSION**

8. It is necessary to establish a robust mentorship framework within the NN Divisional System in order to facilitate the transfer of knowledge, skills and experiences from seasoned NN personnel to the junior ones. Pairing experienced officers with young ratings can offer invaluable guidance, support and career development opportunities. Emphasizing the importance of leadership and mentorship at all levels of the NN Divisional System will foster a culture of continuous learning, professional growth and excellence. By investing in the development of its personnel, the NN can strengthen its capabilities and enhance its effectiveness in safeguarding Nigeria's maritime interests.

# COURTESY VISIT ON FOC NAVAL TRAINING COMMAND

## R ADM PC NWATU GSS psc+ fdc MIAD MTM FCIPDM PhD



A group photograph during the visit



Exchange of souvenir during the visit



FOC NAVDOC signing the visitor's register



FOC NAVTRAC making a remark



FOC NAVDOC & FOC NAVTRAC during the visit



FOC NAVTRAC in a hand shake with officers of NAVDOC



FOC NAVDOC being received by Cmdt NNS QUORRA



FOC NAVDOC receiving a Quarter Guard salute

# THE COA R ADM KC EZETE HELD A DIALOGUE WITH PERSONNEL IN LAGOS ISLAND ON NN ZERO POLICY FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE



A group photograph with junior officers during the dialogue



A group photograph with senior officers & resource persons



COA addressing NN personnel during the dialogue



FOC NAVDOC making a contribution during the dialogue



Team of discussants during the dialogue



Resource persons at the dialogue



A cross section of personnel in Lagos Island Area



A cross section of personnel during the dialogue

## FOC LOGISTICS COMMAND R ADM B IYALLA PAID A COURTESY VISIT TO HQ NAVDOC



FOC NAVDOC leads FOC Logistics on tour of the Command



A group photograph during the visit



FOC LOC signing the visitors register



Exchange of souvenir during the visit



FOC LOC and his team



FOC NAVDOC making a remark



FOC LOC making his remark



FOC LOC taking Quarter Guard salute

# FOC NAVDOC COURTESY CALL ON ADMIRAL SUPERINTENDENT NAVAL DOCKYARD LTD

**R ADM AA OREDERU** GSS pcs+ fdc+ nswc B.Eng Msc MIAD MNIM



Exchange of souvenir during the visit



FOC NAVDOC inspects the Quarter Guard



FOC NAVDOC during the reception at the officers mess



FOC NAVDOC taking the Quarter Guard salute

# FOC NAVDOC COURTESY VISIT ON CORPS COMMANDER NIGERIAN ARMY ENGRS MAJ GEN PE EROMOSELE



A group photograph during the visit



FOC NAVDOC stating reason for his visit



A view of the conference room during the visit



A cross section of PSOs from NAVDOC



In a discussion with the Corps Comd NAE in his office



Corps Comd NAE introducing his officers to FOC NAVDOC



FOC NAVDOC in a hand shake with PSOs NAE



FOC NAVDOC taking a Quarter Guard salute



# ENHANCING FLEET READINESS FOR EFFECTIVE MARITIME SECURITY OPERATIONS

- CDR YM TASIU

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. In the sphere of maritime security, the NN gives precedence to protecting national interest by ensuring the operational readiness of its maritime assets, with NAVDOC playing a central role in this regard. The Command shapes the NN's strategy for fleet readiness through sea assessments and evaluations, ensuring mission readiness and protecting Nigeria's maritime interests in line with the NN's doctrine. This doctrine influences the training, equipping and deployment of NN assets, focusing on excellence, strategic foresight and positioning the NN as a strong maritime force. Acceptance trials of NN assets are performed to assess their suitability for operations, with new ships undergoing Harbour and Sea Acceptance Trials (HAT/SAT) before joining the fleet. Older ships go through routine evaluation known as workups to ascertain their operational readiness. Assessments and appraisals of operational readiness determine the suitability of NN vessels for maritime security operations (MSO).

2. James R. Holmes, an American Naval Strategy expert and Professor of Strategy at the US Naval War College, defines MSO as a set of activities carried out at sea to protect national interests, ensure maritime safety and uphold freedom of navigation. British naval historian Professor Eric Grove describes fleet readiness as the operational preparedness and efficiency of the naval fleet in executing assigned missions. A well-maintained and trained fleet can promptly and effectively counter maritime security threats such as piracy or smuggling, thus safeguarding maritime commerce and upholding stability in the maritime domain. Fleet readiness and maritime security operations are interdependent elements of naval power projection, each supporting the other to ensure the safety, security and stability of maritime domains in achieving a successful MSO.

3. In 2021, the US Navy conducted HATs for the future USS Savannah in the Gulf of Mexico, which were completed on 13 May 21. The vessel was commissioned on 5 Feb 22 and primarily supports MSO in the Pacific Ocean. The South African Navy (SAN) conducted HAT and was immediately followed by SAT of the SA Navy Ship (SAS) King Shaka Zulu between Apr 23 and Jul 23. The SAS King Shaka Zulu was commissioned on 27 Oct 23 and deployed to Naval Base Durban for MSO in promoting the economic prosperity of SA's Blue Economy. Additionally, the NN received the hydrographic research ship NNS LANA from the French shipyard OCEA on Jun 21, after provisional acceptance trials. Currently, the NN has 49 ships in its inventory, but only 21 of these ships are operational. The lack of regular evaluation of NN ships to ascertain their readiness, with only about 5 percent of the fleet being assessed, highlights a significant problem to the state if readiness of the NN fleet. This situation calls for an urgent need to enhance the evaluation and re-evaluation of the NN fleet to determine their readiness for deployment to MSO. It is against this backdrop that this paper seeks to address enhancing evaluation of NN fleet to determine their readiness for effective MSO.

4. The purpose of this paper is to review the commitment of NAVDOC in ensuring fleet evaluations for effective MSO. The readers of this paper are mainly NN personnel. Thus, knowledge of the

comatose state of the NN fleet is assumed. Therefore, there will be no statistics to provide data of the number of vessels in the 3 NN operational commands that are currently undergoing one form of refits or the other. The study of this paper is limited to the period between 2020 -2024, being the period under review. The paper will cover overview of NAVDOC, challenges and way forward.

### **AIM**

5. The aim of this paper is to discuss the commitment of NAVDOC in ensuring fleet evaluation for effective MSO, with the view to making recommendations.

### **AN OVERVIEW OF NAVDOC**

6. NAVDOC has undergone several changes over time. It was originally known as Sea Training Unit (STU) under NAVTRAC. In 1993, it relocated to Bonny Camp and was renamed the Sea Training Command (STC). In 2012, it transitioned into the Naval Doctrine and Assessment Centre (NDAC), conducting various sea training evaluations in the NN. Finally, in 2023, NDAC evolved into NAVDOC. The evolution of NAVDOC can be divided into three phases. From 1987 - 1993, STU served as operational overseer of the NN. Then, from 2012 - 2023, NDAC became an autonomous establishment and assumed the responsibilities for monitoring and evaluating doctrine compliance for the NN. Finally, from 2023 to the present, NDAC transformed into NAVDOC.

### **PERIOD OF STU FROM 1988 - 2015**

7. STU was a unit established in 1987 under STC now known as NAVTRAC. Its main responsibilities included providing Basic Operations Sea Training (BOST), Safety Operations Sea Training (SOST) and Consolidated Operations Sea Training (COST) for all NN ships when assigned. In addition, it conducted harbour and ship acceptance trials for NN vessels after major refits. STU's contributions greatly improved fleet readiness and ensured the proficiency of the NN fleet in fulfilling their mandates of MSO.

### **PERIOD OF NDAC FROM 2015 – 2023**

8. STU was renamed Naval Doctrine and Assessment Centre (NDAC) on 7 Feb 12 to enhance its effectiveness and authority. The Centre became independent and began reporting directly to NHQ, no longer under the supervision of NAVTRAC for training. This transformation allowed the Centre to adopt a more rigorous approach to evaluating the NN fleet and ensuring compliance with higher doctrine standards for NN operations. The Centre assessed and evaluated several NN ships, examining their conditions, performance, and capabilities, as well as gathering vital information for informed decision-making to guide fleet deployment, maintenance prioritization, and resource allocation. This ensures that the NN fleet remains mission-ready for maritime security operations.

### **PERIOD OF NAVDOC FROM 2023 – 2024**

9. NDAC, as a field unit, had limitations that hindered the effectiveness of the Centre. Therefore, the NN established NAVDOC to oversee naval operations in line with the NN Doctrine. Navy Board 4 of 2021 approved the establishment of NAVDOC as a replacement for NDAC. Since its inception, NAVDOC has successfully conducted SATs, administered professional exams and organized workups for NN ships. Moreover, NAVDOC has been responsible for conducting midshipman exams, Command Appointment and Promotion Exams (CAPEX), and reviewing training curriculum, among other tasks. The results of these assessments and evaluations have directly impacted the readiness of the NN fleet. It has also provided valuable information for decision-making regarding fleet deployment, advancement, promotion, doctrine improvement and assessment of the readiness of personnel and equipment for effective MSO.

## **CHALLENGES OF NAVDOC**

10. NAVDOC is essential for the NN because it provides a framework for organizing, training, equipping and deploying personnel. It sets standards for both personnel and equipment as well as establishes doctrine for evaluating naval activities and procedures. However, NAVDOC faces several challenges, including inadequate office accommodation, insufficient specialist personnel, inadequate manpower and insufficient funding.

### **INADEQUATE SKILLED PERSONNEL**

11. The upgrade from NDAC to NAVDOC has increased the responsibilities of the Command, which means competent personnel are needed to effectively carry out these functions. It is important to note that the current officers have some deficiencies in their expertise, which hinder their ability to fulfill the Command's mandates. For example, NAVDOC is responsible for evaluating and assessing ships and establishing Health, Safety, and Environment (HSE) standards and certifying them accordingly. However, the Command currently lacks a trained HSE officer. Additionally, there is a challenge in the Command's capacity for doctrinal writing. Talks are ongoing with BMATT and DCDC to address this concern. The Command is also working with appropriate agencies to enhance the capacity building of its personnel and seeks NHQ's assistance in nominating personnel for relevant courses available to the NN through either MOD or DHQ. This would equip the Command to adequately deliver on its mandate of enhancing fleet readiness for effective MSO.

### **INADEQUATE OFFICE ACCOMMODATION**

12. The need to take control of NN landed properties has become necessary due to the NA's failure to release NN properties at Bonny Camp, which raises serious concerns. It could be noted that approximately 80 percent of Bonny Camp was allocated to the NN by DHQ on 24 Jun 91. However, the NN's delay in promptly occupying the allocated properties resulted in several requests from the NA for their temporary use, which was granted through mutual understanding. For example, the NN approved several applications for the temporary use of the various vacant offices by the DARRR. Consequently, the properties were occupied by some units of the NA, including 75 ST Bde, 81 Div Fin, 65 Bn and 1040 Div Workshop. Other units occupying the properties include the Civilian Personnel Unit, 81 Div Provost Coy and DADP Annex.

13. Additionally, other integral parts of the property in Bonny Camp ceded to the NN also include No. 2 George Street Ikoyi, No. 20 Ribadu Road, Ikoyi and No. 38 Cooper Road, Ikoyi. The failure to relocate the NA from the NN part of Bonny Camp has resulted in a shortage of offices and living accommodations for NN personnel. Therefore, it is considered necessary for the NN to recover its occupied landed properties from the NA. The recovery of these property will ensure the provision of office and living accommodations for NAVDOC personnel and the NN in general. This will ultimately improve the status and operational efficiency of the Command to deliver on its mandate of evaluating operational readiness for an effective MSO.

### **INADEQUATE MANPOWER**

14. The shortage of personnel in NAVDOC is impeding its operational efficiency and effectiveness. Currently, essential positions within the Command are unfilled, making it difficult to perform necessary tasks like simulation and wargaming. This understaffing is hindering the smooth functioning of NAVDOC and preventing it from fulfilling critical responsibilities. Currently, NAVDOC has a total of 133 personnel, including 25 officers, 108 ratings, and 5 civilian staff. However, the proposed NAVDOC establishment NNO had planned for 104 officers, resulting in a shortfall of approximately 71.1 percent. This indicates that NAVDOC is currently operating at only 28.9 percent of its expected capacity. There is therefore a shortage of 76 officers needed to fill the vacant positions in the Command. Efforts have been made to address the shortfall by co-opting personnel from other

units. However, this is a temporary solution that fails to resolve the underlying staffing issue. Consequently, the lack of personnel not only affects NAVDOC's ability to carry out its assigned responsibilities but also compromises its mandate to ensure the readiness of the NN fleet for effective MSO.

### **INADEQUATE VEHICLE**

16. The Command currently has a total of 8 operational vehicles. Four of these vehicles are part of the FOC's vehicle pool, while the remaining 4 are used for routine activities such as serving as a liberty bus or utility vehicle. The FOC's vehicle pool consists of a Prado Jeep, Peugeot 508, Toyota Hilux and Innoson pick-up. The other 4 vehicles include a Toyota Hilux used as a utility van, a Toyota HiAce bus for transportation to exercise venues, a Toyota Coaster bus used as a liberty bus and a Mercedes Benz Truck. However, these 4 vehicles are old and inadequate to meet the Command's diverse operational needs, particularly in regards to conducting work-ups, operational assessments of ships and other critical tasks that involve the movement of personnel for sea exercises assessment to enhance MSO.

### **WAY FORWARD**

17. To ensure smooth and efficient functioning of the Command, it is important to consider the following key factors appointing skilled personnel, providing suitable office accommodation, appointing sufficient manpower and increasing funding for the Command. Implementing these initiatives can establish a and position for long-term success.

### **APPOINTMENT OF SKILLED PERSONNEL**

18. The upgrade from NDAC to NAVDOC has increased the responsibilities of the Command. Therefore, it is necessary to have competent personnel to effectively carry out these functions. It is important to note that the current officers have certain deficiencies in their expertise, which hinder their ability to fulfill the Command's mandates. For example, NAVDOC is responsible for evaluating and assessing ships and establishing Health, Safety, and Environment (HSE) standards and certifying them accordingly. However, the Command currently lacks a trained HSE officer. Additionally, there is a challenge in the Command's capacity for doctrinal writing. Talks are ongoing with British Military Advisory Training Team (BMATT) to address this concern. The Command is also working with appropriate agencies to enhance the capacity building of its personnel and seeks NHQ's assistance in nominating personnel for relevant courses available to the NN through either MOD or DHQ. This would equip the Command to adequately deliver on its mandate of enhancing fleet readiness assessments for effective MSO.

### **PROVISION OF OFFICE ACCOMMODATION**

19. The Command is facing a challenge with inadequate and in some cases, a complete lack of accommodation for personnel. This has placed a burden on personnel and hindered the operational efficiency of the Command. As a result, personnel have had to rent accommodation on their own. The Command has made several efforts to address this issue, including requesting to establish a communication channel with AHQ through NHQ to relocate NA units from NN land in Bonny Camp, as well as relocating the Command to a more suitable location such as NN land at Essene, Ikot-Abasi, Akwa Ibom State. Additionally, it has converted many office spaces within the Command HQ into an arrival hall and other accommodations for the ratings. However, the accommodation for officers still needs to be addressed. Recently, the Command submitted a request for the provision of accommodation as part of the performance target for the CNS's first 100 days in office. Therefore, efforts could be made to purchase permanent accommodation in Victoria Island for the FOC, while temporary accommodation for other officers can be rented on Victoria Island.

### **APPOINTMENT OF REQUISITE MANPOWER**

20. HQ NAVDOC is currently operating at 28.9 percent due to 72 vacant offices in the Command HQ. The Concept and Development Directorate and the Simulation Directorate, which are critical to the functioning of HQ NAVDOC, are understaffed. The Command HQ has a total of 178 personnel, including 28 officers, 150 ratings and 5 civilian staff members. To address the personnel shortage, officers and ratings from other units are frequently brought in temporarily. However, accommodating the existing personnel poses a significant challenge. Therefore, it is essential to appoint officers to fill the 72 vacant offices in HQ NAVDOC and adequately staff the 2 directorates. This will ensure the ability to effectively fulfill their mandates, such as doctrine development, simulation, wargaming as well as guarantee the readiness of the NN fleet for efficient MSO.

### **PROVISION OF ADEQUATE VEHICLES**

21. The current number of vehicles in the Command is insufficient to meet operational needs. This is particularly problematic for work-ups, ship assessments, examinations at different locations and personnel movements. Additionally, both the liberty bus and the Coaster Bus are unreliable for distances over 200 km. The Command is one of the most frequently travelled NN establishments because of its operational mandates in different NN establishments. The lack of vehicles has presented many challenges for personnel. For example, between Oct 23 and Nov 23, personnel had to participate in curriculum reviews of NN schools in the Port Harcourt Area and the CNS Sea Exercise. Due to the limited number of vehicles, personnel were forced to rely on commercial buses for transportation. Unfortunately, during their journey, 5 personnel travelling to Port Harcourt for the CNS Sea Exercise were robbed. Some personnel have also survived ambushes. These incidents could have been prevented if the Command had a sufficient fleet of vehicles. It is therefore requested that NHQ facilitates the provision of 2 x Hilux Van, 2 x Coaster Bus, 2 x HiAce Bus and Fire Truck for the Command to facilitate the smooth operation of the Command and ensure adequate assessments for effective MSO.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

22. It is therefore recommended that NHQ should:
- a. Appoint NAVDOC personnel to attend relevant courses available to the NN through MOD and DHQ.
  - b. Purchase permanent accommodation in Victoria Island for the FOC, while rendering transit accommodation for the officers.
  - c. Appoint the requisite manpower to the Command.
  - d. Provide the right mix of vehicle to NAVDOC.

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# THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE FOR INCREMEX 2024 LED BY R ADM CE ATEBI PAID A COURTESY VISIT ON HQ NAVDOC



Chairman IMCREMEX 2024 receiving Quarter Guard salute



CSO NAVDOC introducing PSOs of NAVDOC



Signing the visitors register



Other team members of IMCREMEX 2024



During a discussion at the FOC's office



Exchange of pleasantries on arrival



A group photograph during the visit



The departure of the team from NAVDOC

## SHIPPING OF STRIPES FOR OFFICERS NEWLY PROMOTED

Shipping of Stripes is a naval tradition of decorating promoted officer with additional stripes on their shoulders. It is usually conducted at Unit, Command and NHQ levels for the commensurate ranks. HQ NAVDOC organized Shipping of Stripes for 2 officers serving onboard that were promoted by Navy Board within the year under review. The officers are Lieutenant Commander BE Enock promoted to Commander and Sub Lieutenant UF Gwandu promoted to Lieutenant.



FOC NAVDOC assisted by Mrs Gwandu decorates Lt UF Gwandu



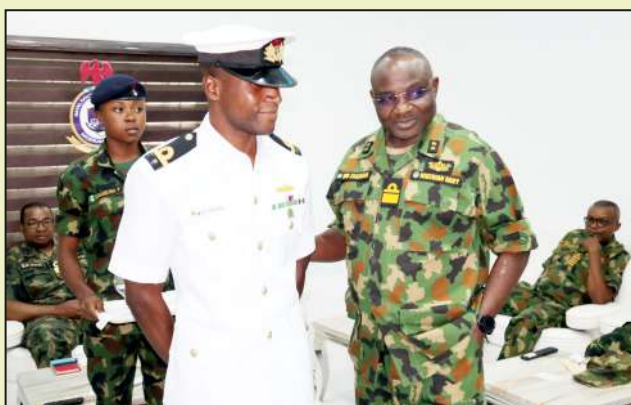
Lt UF Gwandu and family



The FOC NAVDOC & the family of Lt UF Gwandu



Lt UF Gwandu salutes wife after the decoration



FOC making a remark before the decoration



The reception ceremony after the decoration

# SHIPPING OF STRIPES FOR OFFICERS NEWLY PROMOTED



FOC & the family of Cdr BE Enock



FOC decorates Cdr BE Enock



Mrs Enock adjusting the head gear of Cdr BE Enock



The FOC & Mrs Enock getting ready to decorate Cdr BE Enock



Wetting the new stripes



Unveiling the new rank



A cross section of guests at event

# COURTESY VISIT ON COMMANDANT ARMED FORCES RESETTLEMENT CENTRE OSHODI

**AVM AH AMESINLOLA** GSS psc fnwc MBA nim Msc NSS



A group photograph during the state visit



FOC NAVDOC presenting souvenir to the Commandant



FOC NAVDOC signing the visitors register



A view of the conference room during the visit



FOC NAVDOC & members of his team during the visit



In a discussion session at the Commandants office



FOC NAVDOC being received on arrival



FOC NAVDOC taking a Quarter Guard salute

# CDRE UU FARUK PRESENTING AWARD TO THE BEST RATINGS OF THE YEAR

As part of reward system for work place, the Flag Officer Commanding Naval Doctrine Command Rear Admiral HD Zakaria rewarded the best ratings in order of merit for the year 2023. During the award presentation, Cdre UU Faruk represented the FOC and presented the awardees with a letter of commendation and token gift from the Command. He encouraged the entire ship company especially non recipients to put in their best as they may be the next to be recognized in 2024 version of the award. Ratings that won the award for the year 2023 are ABMEA Adepoju OG, SMJNL Ibrahim NA and SMSA Salman BD. Congratulations to the winners!



Cdre UU Faruk making a remark before the presentation



The CBM receives the rep of FOC at the event



ABMEA Adepoju OG one of the recipients of the award



A cross section of the ratings during the event



SMSA Salman BD, a recipient of the award



SMJNL Ibrahim NA, a recipient of the award

# FOC NAVDOC'S FREE MEDICAL RAPHSODY TO SURA COMMUNITY LAGOS ISLAND

In line with CNS Directive and as part of Corporate Social Responsibility, HQ NAVDOC carried out a medical outreach programme in Sura Community Lagos Island to foster Civil-Military relationship with its host community. Highlights of the occasion include free vital signs check, malaria and typhoid tests medical checks, treatment, free eye test and distribution of glasses. Others are distribution of sanitary pads to the girl child and distribution of treated mosquito nets. The outreach was flagged off by the Flag Officer Commanding Rear Admiral HD Zakaria ably represented by Cdre UU Faruk (now Rear Admiral), also in attendance was Chief medical Officer of Lagos Island East Council Dr Onose Adeleye who represented the council Chairman Dr Muyibi Alade Folawiyo.



Distribution of sanitary pads during the event



Eye test being conducted on one of the beneficiaries



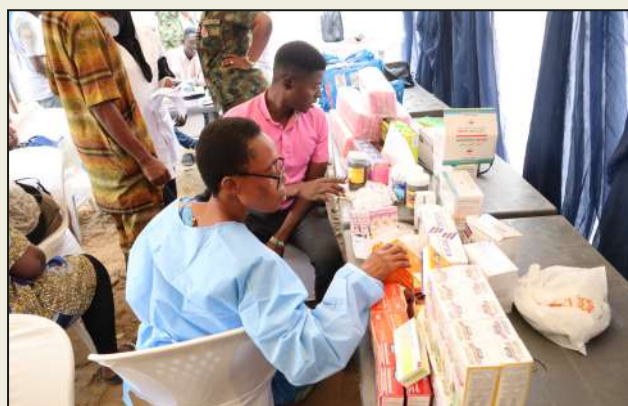
Collection of blood sample for test



Medical test on one of the beneficiaries



Vital sign test being conducted



Dispensing drugs to the beneficiaries



Attending to one of the beneficiaries



Blood pressure test being conducted



Blood pressure test being conducted



A group photograph during the event



Dr Onose Adeleye making a remark during the event



Rep of the FOC delivering a welcome address



A cross section of beneficiaries



Addressing beneficiaries before commencement



## OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES OF GLOBAL CONTINENTAL AND REGIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY ARCHITECTURE IN RESOLVING NIGERIA'S SECURITY PROBLEMS

- COMMODORE IGBANI U AGWU

### 1.0. Introduction

The history of mankind is inherently rife with conflicts over dominance and resources, creating armed contests between individuals, groups and states and hence one of the primary and most important responsibilities of government is the provision of security for the peace and stability of society. The evolving nature and trends of global security threats in the Twenty-First Century have created complex, fluid and dynamic challenges to security in communities and states, often overwhelming the capacity of states to effectively manage conflicts (Watts, 2017). Also, globalization and increased activities and influences of Non-State Actors (NSAs) in the global space have generated new security challenges such as internal conflicts, terrorism, insurgency and transnational crimes among others, causing changes to how groups and states approach and pursue their interests.

The use of traditional strategies and tactics by armed forces, like modern warfare, have evolved with groups and states employing modern technologies and means such as guided weapons, drones, cyber-warfare and psychological operations to achieve strategic military and national aims. This struggle between parties in a

conflict could lead to violent disputes and destruction, undermining the peace and stability of states, if not adequately managed. Hence, this necessitates the use of the instruments of national power such as economic, legislation, military coercive force and diplomacy to protect national interests towards achieving national goals and objectives (Biddle, 1996). The employment of diplomacy, which has been found to be effective, usually involves the use of global, continental and regional peace and security architecture to prevent, mitigate and manage crises to achieve sustainable peace and stability within society. Thus, global, continental, and regional peace and security architectures refer to frameworks, institutions and mechanisms established at the global, continental, or regional levels to promote peace, security and cooperation among nations (UN, 2023). To this end, states have leveraged global and regional security frameworks to manage crisis and security challenges to achieve peace and stability towards promoting national interests. characterize.

In Asia, the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) has been involved in several regional efforts through diplomacy, conflict prevention and peacebuilding in crisis zones. In

2011, the UN Security Council supported the ASEAN's diplomatic efforts to resolve the Thailand-Cambodia border disputes as well as Myanmar's Rakhine state. Similarly, the ASEAN and China aimed at maintaining regional peace and maritime security by establishing a viable South China Sea framework to prevent conflict within the region (UN, 2020). These peace and security initiatives have been instrumental in ensuring peace and development, enabling the region to account for over Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of US\$ 3.35 Trillion in 2021 (Statista, 2023). In Africa, Rwanda leveraged global, continental and regional peace and security architectures in addressing its security problems through peace and security architectures such as the United Nations (UN), as the institution provided financial, logistical, and technical assistance to strengthen Rwanda's security sector, enhance its capacity to maintain law and order, and address threats to stability after the 1994 genocide (Rwandan Genocide, n.d.; Lambourne & Gitau, 2013). Similarly, through UN/African Union peace initiatives, peace negotiations, reconciliation, demobilization and disarmament as well as the resolution of underlying causes was facilitated (Berdal, 2005; Maluki, 2014). Furthermore, the international

and continental institutions provided the requisite support and training to the reforms for the defence and security sectors as well as the development programmes as part of the peace-building programmes for sustainable peace and stability in the country (Mwambari, 2017; Issifu, 2015). Both nations have leveraged global, continental and regional peace and security architecture to enhance the management and resolution of security problems towards achieving national objectives.

Nigeria, as one of the continental and regional powers in Africa, has contributed significantly to the establishment and development of several peace and security architectures in the African and West African Subregions toward promoting peace and stability in the continent and region. Some of these include the AU, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), African Continental and Development Bank, and African Continental Free Trade Zone among others. The nation has also been actively involved in several peace and security initiatives and missions with the continent and region, often playing the lead role by providing leadership and support to such missions. The role and support of Nigeria in restoring peace, at various times and crises, in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Burkina Faso, Kenya and Burundi amongst others typifies its commitment to peace, security and development within the continent and regions in line with its Afrocentric foreign policy thrust. However, Nigeria is facing several security challenges and problems that negatively impact peace and stability in the country, region and continent, with

potentially huge implications for global security (Onuoha, 2018; Ajaero & Eme, 2019). The country is dealing with several security challenges such as insurgency and terrorism, ethnic and religious crises, weak governance and corruption as well as infrastructural deficit and political instability among others (Transparency International, 2021; Ibrahim, 2017). These security challenges affect political stability, socio-economic development and national cohesion undermining the capacity of the country to attain its full potential towards attaining national objectives. Nevertheless, the country has not been able to substantially leverage its influence and goodwill to prevent, respond, mitigate and manage its security challenges to enhance national security and sustainable development. This could largely be attributed a several factors ranging from weak regional security collaborative frameworks and poor regional socio-economic indices to poor international support and Anglo-Franco polarization of states. These challenges undermine Nigeria's ability to leverage global, continental and regional security architecture in providing a realistic and sustainable solution for the security problems. It is against this background that this paper seeks to examine the challenges impinging Nigeria's capacity to benefit from global and regional security architecture in solving security problems.

The purpose of this paper is to examine the opportunities and challenges of global, continental and regional peace and security architecture to benefit Nigeria with a view to suggesting workable solutions. To achieve

this, the paper will cover conceptual clarification, theoretical framework, security challenges in Nigeria and roles of peace and security architecture. It will further highlight the inherent opportunities of global, continental and regional peace and security architecture as well as the challenges militating against the effective benefit from global, continental and regional peace and security architecture.

## **2.0 Conceptual clarification and the roles of global, continental and regional peace and security Architecture**

The concept of collective peace and security of states is rooted in the theory of international relations and plays a crucial role in ensuring national security. The concepts of global and regional security, which emphasize the idea that peace and security could be better achieved through collective efforts and cooperation among states, are based on the principles of international relations. To this end, international relations explore the relationships, interactions and behavior of states within the international system and is largely supported by various theories, such as realism, liberalism and constructivism (Dunne, Kurki, & Smith, 2017). These theories further offer different perspectives on how states interact and pursue their interests. The concept of collective peace and security aligns with theories that emphasize cooperation, multilateralism and the importance of shared interests and norms in international relations. Collective peace and security are essential in promoting national security it recognizes the interconnectedness of states' security and the fact that addressing global and regional

security challenges collectively, through mechanisms such as alliances, treaties and international organizations would contribute to the security and well-being of respective states (Hurd, 2007). Accordingly, cooperation among states enables the pooling of resources, sharing intelligence and coordinating actions, strengthening their ability to respond to common threats.

It is against backdrop that global, continental and regional peace and security frameworks were established to provide the needed avenue to collectively prevent, respond, mitigate and manage security problems that could undermine global, regional and national security of states. For instance, the UN was established in 1945 as a peace and security initiative after the defunct League of Nations. With over 193 member states from all the continents, the Organization is the global institution for peace and security, with organs such as the general assembly, security council, economic and social council, the trusteeship council and the secretariat to address threats to international peace and security (Cotter & Nash, 2003). The UN serves as the central institution for global peace and security, with the Security Council playing a crucial role in conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts while preventing the outbreak of wars, managing conflicts and promoting cooperation among nations. It offers opportunities for countries to collaborate on issues of global significance, such as disarmament, counterterrorism and the protection of human rights.

In the same vein, the African Continental Peace and Security

Architecture is a framework established by the African Union (AU) to address security challenges specific to the African continent. It comprises various components, including the Peace and Security Council (PSC), the African Standby Force (ASF), and the Panel of the Wise. The ACPSA aims to prevent conflicts, resolve disputes peacefully, and promote sustainable peace and security across Africa. It provides opportunities for African states to strengthen their capacity for conflict prevention, peacebuilding and security cooperation within the framework of the AU (Bachmann, 2015). Additionally, the regional peace and security architectures refer to frameworks in Africa that were established by regional organizations to address security challenges within specific geographic regions. These architectures include institutions such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in East Africa and the Southern African Development Community (SADC). These institutions are aimed at enhancing regional security cooperation, fostering conflict prevention, and promoting peacebuilding efforts within the specific regional context (Gumedze, 2018). The institutions offer opportunities for regional states to collaborate on shared security concerns, pool resources, and develop region-specific solutions to address conflicts and security threats. The essence of collective peace and security for national security lies in the recognition that cooperation, shared responsibilities, and collective action among states are crucial for addressing common security challenges.

### 3.0 Security challenges in Nigeria and roles of global, continental and regional peace and security architecture in mitigating the problems:

The security problems in Nigeria are complex, multidimensional and fluid resulting in political, economic, social and environmental insecurity. These have manifested in several areas of national existence and serve as key drivers of several other forms of security challenges, undermining the peace and security of society. This paper would briefly examine critical aspects of insecurity in Nigeria such as political, economic, social and environmental.

a. **Political Insecurity.** Nigeria, with a population of about 206 million and 250 ethnic groups, is one of the largest and diverse population in the world, has a relatively unstable political system. The country is having a history rife with political instability typified by election malpractices and violence, military intervention and coup d etat, nepotism and corruption, lack of transparency as well as political intolerance. These results in a largely unstable and fragile polity characterized by poor governance, corruption and weak political institutions, undermining ability of the government to delivery dividends of democracy to the people. This could be attributed to the formation of the political system along regional and ethnic lines, creating divides that breed intolerance and marginalization. For instance, the National Congress for Nigeria and the Cameroun (NCNC), Northern People's Congress (NPC) and the Action Group (AG) were founded along regional and ethnic lines and pave the way for sustaining

the division of modern political parties along these lines, creating further division in society and undermining national cohesion. The global and regional peace and security architecture could not play any significant role under the non-interference rule in internal matter expressed in the frameworks for peace and security of the state. Thus, this requires a strong political leadership to make necessary reforms and reorientation to reorganize the political system to reflect a nationalistic outlook as against a regional colouration.

#### **b. Economic Instability.**

Nigeria's economy is one of the largest in Africa, with significant natural resources and a diverse economic base. However, it faces several challenges that hinder its growth and development. Nigeria's economy is heavily dependent on oil, which accounts for a substantial portion of government revenue and exports, with slow pace of diversification to other sources such as agriculture, manufacturing, and services (World Bank, 2023). Also, Nigeria's rapidly growing population, which presents both opportunities and challenges, faces significant unemployment particularly among young people, with unemployment rate of 33% and youth unemployment at 42.5% in 2020 (Uduji et al, 2020). This constitutes a security threat as the largely unengaged youth could employ ingenuity, vigour and strength to perpetrate crimes and serve as easy recruits to terrorists and insurgents. Furthermore, Nigeria's infrastructure deficit is a major challenge to economic growth, with poor transportation and road networks, power supply and weak telecommunications infrastructure, limit productivity

and hinder investment (World Bank, 2017). Moreover, inflationary pressures and macroeconomic instability in Nigeria is due to factors such as unstable oil prices, currency depreciation and policy mismatch continues to impede governments efforts at improving the economy (Adelakun, 2014). Similarly, the debt profile continues to rise with about 90 per cent of expected revenue being used to service external debts annually. To ameliorate the economic challenges, the UN and AU have facilitated loans and credits for infrastructure development through the UN Development Programmes (UNDP) and African Continental Bank development initiative, which if properly invested, would yield some dividends. Addressing these challenges requires sustained efforts in diversifying the economy, improving infrastructure, combating corruption, enhancing governance and promoting security and stability while implementing policies and comprehensive reforms in various sectors to foster sustainable economic growth and development in Nigeria.

**c. Social Insecurity.** Nigeria's social environment faces numerous challenges that impact the well-being of its population. These challenges include poverty, inequality, illiteracy, healthcare deficiencies, social exclusion and unrest. Nigeria experiences various forms of social unrest, including ethnic and religious tensions, communal clashes, and militancy. These conflicts disrupt social cohesion, hinder development and threaten peace and stability (Ukiwo, 2012). For instance, Nigeria's relatively high poverty rate, with a significant

portion of the population living below the poverty line. Income inequality is also a concern, with a significant wealth gap between the rich and the poor. Poverty and inequality exacerbate social tensions and could contribute to instability (National Bureau of Statistics, 2019). Nigeria further faces challenges in providing quality education and bridging the skills gap, with access to quality education limited in some regions and social classes due to the cost and educational development (Ogunsanya, 2018). The inadequacy of skilled human capital hampers socio-economic development. Furthermore, several government's policies and programmes to bridge the division along social, ethnic and religious line, the is often exploited by politicians and influential persons and groups for selfish ends, remaining a potent threat peace and stability in the country. Additionally, the mistrust among regions and major ethnic groups is palpable, with significant negative impacts on national cohesion and tolerance of diversity. More so, the challenges in healthcare delivery, including inadequate infrastructure, limited access to quality healthcare services and low healthcare spending. These deficiencies contribute to relatively low life expectancy, high morbidity and mortality rates, particularly in rural areas (Oche & et al, 2013). The global and regional peace and security frameworks could assist Nigeria in addressing these challenges by promoting stability, fostering cooperation and supporting social development. Also, the global, continental and regional peace and security frameworks could address poverty and inequality by promoting economic stability, encouraging

foreign investment, and providing technical assistance for poverty reduction programmes while supporting initiatives for improving access to education, promoting vocational training, and facilitating knowledge-sharing and capacity-building programs. Additionally, the global and regional peace and security frameworks could assist promoting cooperation in healthcare infrastructure development, capacity-building for healthcare professionals and supporting public health initiatives such as combat infectious diseases, strengthen healthcare systems and improve access to quality healthcare services.

#### d. **Environmental Challenges.**

Nigeria faces several environmental security challenges that have significant implications for the country's sustainable development and overall security. These challenges include deforestation, desertification, pollution, climate change and resource conflicts. For instance, Nigeria has experienced significant deforestation, leading to the loss of biodiversity, ecological imbalances, and reduced carbon sinks. This poses threats to ecosystems, livelihoods, and climate resilience. Also, its northern regions are vulnerable to desertification, land degradation and drying up of waterbodies such as the Lake Chad due to factors like climate change, unsustainable agricultural practices and population pressure. This poses risks to food security, livelihoods, and socio-economic stability (Adeola, 2019; Nkemdirim, Okechukwu, & Egbule, 2019). In these regards, the global and regional bodies could play essential roles in mitigating these

problems through various mechanisms and initiatives such as the Sahel Green Belt initiative and recharging of Lake Chad from Congo River (United Nations, 2023). The global and regional frameworks could support such initiatives for sustainable forest management, conservation and reforestation efforts as well as assist in implementing sustainable land management practices to combat desertification and land degradation.

#### e. **Security Challenges.**

Nigeria's security challenges stems from the other political, economic, social and environmental problems. The country is therefore faced with a myriad of security threats such as terrorism and insurgency, resource control and secessionist agitations, banditry and farmer-herders clashes as well as kidnapping, drugs and human trafficking and other criminal and civil crimes, undermining peace and stability. These challenges are exacerbated by weak legislation and institutional capacity of the government, military and other security agencies to deal with the problems by addressing the root causes. As a result, security problems such as terrorism and insurgency are gaining wide discourse in the government, public, media and international domains with discussions focusing on the impacts and potential effects on the national polity. Some of the armed groups recently categorized as terrorist organizations include the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND), the Biafra Zionist Movement (BZM), the Movement for the Advancement of Democracy (MAD), and most recently the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB).

However, the degree and magnitude of the loss of lives and property due to the activities of these groups do not compare to that of the insurgent the Boko Haram Terrorists (BHT) and Islamic State West African Province (ISWAP) (Houel, 2021). According to OCHA (2021), the activities of BHT and ISWAP have collectively led to about 10,000 deaths, 18,000 injuries and 3.1 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) in Nigeria and 1.2 million Refugees in Cameroun, Chad and Niger (Reliefweb, 2021; Oghuvbu & Okolie, 2021; UNHCR, 2022). The relatively huge toll of terrorism and other related crimes resulted in Nigeria being ranked third, after Afghanistan and Iraq, consistently since 2014 on the Global Terrorism (GTI) (GTI, 2020). Since most of these interests and challenges are shared, the global, continental and regional peace and security frameworks such as UN, AU and ECOWAS could lend more support in terms of military intervention, information sharing, funding, capacity building and technical support to enhance Nigeria's capacity to adequately mitigate government's and security agencies' shortfalls towards effectively dealing with the problems.

#### **4.0 Opportunities of leveraging global, continental and regional peace and security institutions to enhance security in Nigeria:**

The global, continental, and regional peace and security frameworks can play several roles in preventing and mitigating security problems in Nigeria. These frameworks provide platforms for cooperation, coordination, and support in addressing various security challenges. Hence, there are

several opportunities available to Nigeria to leverage global, continental and regional peace and security architecture to mitigate insecurity in Nigeria towards enhanced national security. These include intelligence sharing and collaboration, capacity building and training, mediation and conflict resolution as well as peacekeeping and peacebuilding and resource mobilization and support. These are discussed subsequently.

**a. Intelligence Sharing and Collaboration.**

The global, continental and regional peace and security frameworks such as the UN, AU and ECOWAS could facilitate intelligence sharing and collaboration among nations through the early warning and standby forces, enabling a collective effort in identifying and addressing security threats within member states including Nigeria. The global, continental and regional peace and security frameworks provides Nigeria with opportunities to collaborate with other nations and organizations, leading to enhanced cooperation and intelligence sharing. This enables Nigeria to access valuable information, expertise, and resources to address internal security challenges effectively. This would ensure the timely detection and reporting of the activities of terrorists and criminals who exploit porous borders and ungoverned spaces to perpetrate attacks and criminal activities (Schmidle, 2019). It would also avail Nigeria a more robust response force, adequate number of well-equipped and trained, to counter the activities of the groups towards restoring peace and stability in the country and region.

**b. Capacity Building and Training.**

The global, continental and regional peace and security frameworks could assist in capacity building and training programmes to enhance the capabilities of Nigerian security forces in areas such as counterterrorism, border security and cybersecurity as well as humanitarian law and human rights. Also, the provision of the requisite modern equipment such as drones, communication equipment, mobility and weaponry would place the Nigerian security forces in good stead to detect and respond to threats within the country and fringes (Innes & et al, 2018). The participation in these frameworks allows Nigeria to benefit from capacity-building programs and training initiatives conducted at the global, continental and regional levels. Such programs would enhance Nigeria's security forces' skills, professionalism and operational capabilities, enabling them to better address internal security challenges. This would ensure a more professional force capable of carrying out its role within the context of operational requirement and international standards.

**c. Mediation and Conflict Resolution.**

The global, continental and regional frameworks could provide a veritable opportunity to facilitate mediation efforts and support conflict resolution initiatives to address internal conflicts and tensions within Nigeria (Ahmed, 2018). While the involvement of external institutions in internal crises may not be practicable, the institutions could initiate and support mediation and conflict resolution processes. Nigeria could leverage the global,

continental and regional peace and security frameworks to enhance the resolution of its internal security problems through negotiation, mediation, arbitration and litigation while addressing the root causes of conflicts to promote peace and security within society.

**d. Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding.**

In line with the Chapter VI and VIII of the UN Charter, the continental and regional peace and security frameworks could contribute to peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts in Nigeria, helping in post-conflict reconstruction, reconciliation and the restoration of stability. The peacekeeping and peace building effort in Liberia, Siera Leone and Rwanda are typical examples where the benefits of the framework were brought to the fore (Williams, 2018). By participating in peacekeeping efforts, Nigeria could resolve conflicts beyond its borders, which could indirectly contribute to its own internal security by promoting regional stability and preventing spill-over effects such as transnational crimes, humanitarian crisis and proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), which ultimately exacerbate internal conflicts in Nigeria. Peace keeping and peace building are therefore vital benefits of the frameworks for ending violent conflicts and emplacing long term peace and stability within Nigeria and memberstates.

**e. Resource Mobilization and Support.**

The global, continental and regional frameworks provide a means to mobilize resources as financial and logistical support to member states, including Nigeria in addressing security challenges

(IEP, 2020). This is essential as the most states in continent require financial support to implement kinetic and non-kinetic operation against threats from criminal elements and terrorist groups (Jenks, 2017). This support could be provided as aid or special grants from international organizations and donors to support conflict resolution initiatives, developmental programmes and military operations towards sustaining peace and stability. This includes assistance in counterterrorism operations, infrastructure development and humanitarian response. Engaging with these frameworks enables Nigeria to access financial resources, technical assistance and logistical support to enhance its internal security capabilities while financial and material resources would bolster Nigeria's efforts in addressing internal security problems effectively. By leveraging the roles and support of these peace and security frameworks, Nigeria could enhance its security capabilities, foster regional cooperation and address the root causes of insecurity more effectively.

### **5.0 Challenges militating against the effective benefit from global, continental and regional peace and security architecture:**

There are several challenges militating against Nigeria's in optimally benefiting from global, continental and regional peace and security frameworks such as the UN, AU and ECOWAS in resolving its internal security problems. The weak regional security framework, high colonial polarization, weak institutional capacity, poor funding as well as neocolonialism and conflicting

interests. These are discussed subsequently.

**a. Weak regional security framework.** The weak continental and regional framework for peace and security in Africa and West Africa is a challenge preventing Nigeria from benefiting from the arrangements in solving its security problems. This could be attributed to the limited cooperation and coordination among neighbouring countries in addressing security challenges. The limited collaboration and cooperation of the continental frameworks hinder the effectiveness of joint operations, intelligence sharing, and coordinated responses to cross-border threats (Isiugo-Abanihe, 2018). Though, the global, continental and regional peace and security frameworks stipulate noninterference in states internal security problems, the collaboration and cooperation in finding solutions to drivers such as poverty, illiteracy, transborder crimes, smuggling and proliferation of SALW, which are not necessarily interference, is limited. These are often manifested in inadequate border controls and porous borders in the region allow for the easy movement of criminals, arms and illicit activities. This facilitates the infiltration of armed groups into Nigeria, exacerbating internal security challenges (Ayogu, 2018). Weak continental and regional frameworks are an impediment to Nigeria's ability to benefit from global, continental and regional peace and security architecture in resolving security problems.

**b. High Colonial Polarization.** The high colonial polarization is a challenge that undermines the ability of states within the

continental and regional frameworks to work together due to their varying allegiances, approaches and exclusivism created by colonial influences. The historical legacy of Anglo-Franco polarization in West Africa has resulted in language, cultural and legal differences that impedes regional cooperation and integration efforts, impinging ability to develop common approaches to resolving security problems of member states, including Nigeria. The colonial disparities between Nigeria and its neighbours such as Benin, Chad, Niger and Cameroun often create a sense of mistrust and resentment between the Nigeria and these countries, undermining ability to collaborate in mitigating and curbing terrorism with their borders (Ibeanu, 2014). This has negatively impacted counterterrorism in Nigeria, as such borders created a breeding ground for terrorist groups where each of the parties, especially the French colonials, would not cooperate with the other without the consent of France (Abubakar, 2018; CFR, 2019). According to a report by the United States Institute of Peace, "the divisions left by colonialism have created challenges for governance, as leaders have struggled to balance the interests of different groups" (USIP, 2019). To this end, the collaboration in multination joint task force was stalled for several years, enabling the terrorist groups to fully entrench its force within the weak borders of the Nigeria and countries such as Cameroun, Niger and Chad, with inimical consequences to nation and regional security. The divisions often hinder the establishment of a unified approach to addressing security challenges in West Africa and limit

the effectiveness of regional peace and security architectures (Igue, 2018). While Nigeria and other Anglophone states may enjoy some autonomy from the British colonialists, the Francophone nations usually rely on the consents from France to national and foreign policies. To this end, the high neocolonialism polarization in the continental and regional levels constrains Nigeria's ability to benefit from the frameworks in solving security problems.

**c. Weak institutional capacity.**

The weak institutional capacity of most of the members of continental and regional peace and security frameworks presents a significant challenge to leveraging the frameworks to resolve Nigeria's security problems. The weak institutional capacity pervades most sectors including political, economic, social and security, manifesting weak economies and fragile polities among member states. For instance, Nigeria is one of the largest contributors of resources and personnel for the Africa and ECOWAS standby force, as most countries lack the requisite personnel, equipment and financial capacities to effectively deploy and project forces for continental and regional engagements (Adetula, 2014). The regional organizations and mechanisms may lack the necessary institutional capacity, resources and expertise to effectively address complex security challenges, which includes political, economic, social and environmental. This limits their ability to provide substantial support to Nigeria in resolving internal security problems and was typified by Niger and Chad requests for Nigeria to provide

mobility and logistics for collaborative response to transborder activities of Boko Haram and Islamic State West African Province terrorists and insurgents. The weak institutional capacity is thus an impediment to Nigeria's benefits from global, continental and regional peace and security framework in resolving internal security problems.

**d. Poor funding.** Poor funding is a critical challenge that impedes the benefit of Nigeria from global, continental and regional peace and security frameworks. As required by the continental and regional frameworks, member states are required to contribute between 6% and 11% of the national budget to continental and regional frameworks to fund conflict resolution and initiatives to promote peace and stability. However, EU remain the major contributor as most state is not able to meet obligations due to weak economy while developed nations are unwilling to actualize their promise to avail African peace and security frameworks with US\$ 100 billion annually as part of contributions to their efforts (UN, 2023, p.4). Funding is therefore a critical factor that limits Nigeria's benefit of the global, continental and regional peace and security frameworks in addressing security problems.

**e. Neocolonialism and Conflicting Interests.**

Neocolonialism is the practice of exploiting developing countries by developed countries through economic and political means. In Nigeria, neocolonialism has had a negative impact on counter-terrorism efforts and human rights. According to a report by the International Crisis Group, "the

persistence of socioeconomic disparities, especially in the northeast, has fueled a sense of grievance and fueled extremist groups" (ICG, 2019). Western countries, such as the United States, have provided military aid and support to Nigeria, with unfavourable conditions. For instance, the US demanded that Nigeria abide by its human rights standards, which may entail principles and values that are not consistent with national interest. A typical instance is the demand for Nigeria to respect the rights of Lesbian Gay Bi-sexual Transgender and Queers (LGBTQs) and enact laws to protect such rights (Obi, 2019). This request was declined by Nigeria and the US subsequently accused the country of human rights abuses, subsequently reducing support to the Nigerian military in the fight against terrorism and insurgency. Another instance is the US restriction of use of the Super Tucano aircraft for terror-related security challenges in other geopolitical zones other than the Northeast. Furthermore, France among other superpowers, have been alleged to be one of supporter of the insurgents in the Sahel region and have employed strategies to undermine effectiveness and legitimacy of the Nigerian government, creating a sense of resentment among the Nigerian people (Ezeibe, 2020; Amuwo, 2019). Thus, these influence through neocolonialism has adversely impacted counter-terrorism measures and human rights, affecting capacity to effectively deal with insurgency in Nigeria.

**6.0 Conclusion**

Nigeria is faced with several security problems that the global, continental and regional peace

and security architecture could assist in mitigating but the country has not optimally benefited from the frameworks despite the significant influence and contributions over the years. The complex and multifaceted security problems in the country, which include political, economic, social, environmental and security challenges, undermines national security with significant potential to affect regional, continental and global stability. The relationship between the roles of international peace and security framework and national security was examined using the complex interdependency concept and these revealed several factors and actors that could determine the effectiveness of global, continental and regional bodies in providing the requisite support toward national security. To this end, the opportunities available to Nigeria include intelligence sharing and collaboration, capacity building and training, mediation and conflict resolution as well as peacekeeping and peacebuilding and resource mobilization and support. Nevertheless, challenges such as weak regional security framework, high colonial polarization, weak institutional capacity, poor funding as well as neocolonialism and conflicting interests continue to undermine Nigeria's benefits from peace and security frameworks.

In this regard, the poor collaboration and cooperation in mitigating drivers such as poverty, illiteracy, transborder crimes, smuggling and proliferation of SALW as well as porous borders in the region allow for the easy movement of criminals, arms and illicit activities to exacerbate problems in Nigeria. Also, the

divisions created by colonial polarization often hinder the establishment of a unified approach to addressing security challenges in West Africa and Africa limit the effectiveness of regional peace and security architectures. Furthermore, the lack the necessary institutional capacity, resources and expertise to effectively address complex security challenges, which includes political, economic, social and environmental presents a potent constraint to Nigeria's benefit from continental and regional security frameworks. Moreso, the AU and ECOWAS dependence on funds and supports from US and EU for resolution of conflicts and security problems in Africa is a critical limitation if resolution of such conflicts is contrary to the interests of the donors. These challenges are potent and prevent Nigeria from benefiting from global, continental and regional peace and security frameworks to resolve security problems towards enhancing national security.

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## FOC NAVDOC PRESENTS SOUVENIRS DURING A SEND-OFF CEREMONY FOR OFFICERS ON APPOINTMENT

**H**Q NAVDOC organized a send-off ceremony for 2 batches of officers that were recently posted out of the Command having completed their tour of duty successfully. A total of 25 officers comprising 2 Rear Admirals, 2 Commodores, 3 Captains, 3 Commanders, 6 Lieutenant Commanders, 2 Lieutenants and 9 Sub Lieutenants were sent-off during the ceremony. The FOC, Rear Admiral HD Zakaria admonished the celebrants to remain committed, dedicated and focused in their service to the NN and fatherland. Finally, he wished them fair winds following seas in their future endeavours.



The FOC admonishing officers on posting



A group photograph at the event



The FOC presenting a gift to Capt O Teniola



The FOC presenting a gift to R Adm UU Faruk



R Adm EC Anakwe presenting a gift to SLt MU Ahmed



R Adm UU Faruk presenting a gift to Lt Cdr MA Gbadamosi



The FOC Presenting a gift to Capt OO Fanyeye



The FOC Presenting a gift to Cdr YM Tasiu



The FOC Presenting a gift to Lt Cdr AI Abdulsalam



The FOC Presenting a gift to Lt Cdr G Egbunu



The FOC Presenting a gift to Lt Cdr OA Oparinde



R Adm MB Katagum Presenting a gift to Lt Cdr GIT Onwagbaruo



R Adm MB Katagum Presenting a gift to Lt Cdr LA Oriretan



R Adm MB Katagum Presenting a gift to Lt Cdr AA Oladeinde

# FOC NAVDOC COURTESY VISIT ON FOC WESTERN NAVAL COMMAND R ADM MM ABDULLAHI



FOC WEST presenting a souvenir to FOC NAVDAC



A group photograph during the visit



FOC WEST giving a welcome remark



FOC NAVDOC signing the visitors register



CSO WEST introducing PSOs of WNC to FOC NAVDOC



FOC & PSOs from NAVDOC



FOC NAVDOC inspecting Quarter Guard



CSO WEST receives FOC NAVDOC on arrival

## ARMED FORCES JOINT DOCTRINE WARFARE CENTRE STEERING COMMITTEE VISIT TO HQ NAVDOC

The Armed Forces Joint Doctrine Warfare Centre Steering Committee led by Maj Gen EV Onumajuru visited HQ NAVDOC for talks on exploring means and ways of establishing a Joint Doctrine Warfare Centre for the Armed Forces of Nigeria. The visit was to look at modalities of infusing Naval Doctrine into the Joint Doctrine when the centre is established. The Committee was made up of both serving and retired senior officers as well as seasoned civilian expert.



FOC NAVDOC welcomes members of the committee



FOC introducing his PSOs to the Chairman



MAJ GEN EV ONUMAJURU signing the visitors register



In a discussion at FOC's office



A group photograph at the end of the visit



The Chairman stating reason for the visit

# HQ NAVDOC SECOND QUARTER ROUTE MARCH

In line with NN 2024 schedule of events, HQ NAVDOC conducted the 2024 second quarter Route March for her personnel. The CSO NAVDOC RAdm MB Katagum led officers, ratings and corps members for the exercise. The exercise was geared towards building endurance of NN personnel while also checking their physical and mental fitness for national assignments.



A cross section of the ratings squad



The leading squad at the route march



CSO NAVDOC R ADM MB KATAGUM delivering his remark



The Command sport officer submitting the parade state



A cross section of the officers squad



A light work-out at the end of the route march



# ROLE OF THE NAVY IN COUNTER INSURGENCY OPERATIONS IN NIGERIA

– CDRE AA ZUBAIRU

## INTRODUCTION

**N**avies or maritime forces are universally acknowledged as a crucial element within the national security framework. Given that insurgency stands as a prominent threat to global security, nations formulate corresponding Counter-Insurgency (COIN) measures to address the repercussions of insurgent activities. Specifically, naval forces enhance COIN Operations through activities at sea, such as implementing blockades and patrols, gathering intelligence, and deterring external powers from escalating or becoming involved. Additionally, the strategic transportation of forces to and within COIN theatres, logistical support provision, and facilitation of amphibious landings and strike operations serve as avenues through which Naval Forces reinforce COIN Operations (Cass, 2016).

The emergence of Boko Haram insurgents initially as a religious sect in 2002, evolving into a violent group in 2009, led to the implementation of Counter-Insurgency (COIN) operations in Nigeria's North East zone. Commencing in 2011 as a Joint Task Force under the moniker Operation RESTORE ORDER, the operation underwent restructuring and renaming as Operation ZAMAN LAFIYA in 2013. Subsequently, it was re-designated as Operation LAFIYA DOLE in 2015 and further named Operation HADIN KAI in April 2021. The persistent insurgency by the Boko Haram Sect and the Islamic State in West Africa Province (ISWAP) has resulted in the loss of lives and extensive destruction of homes and properties among the Nigerian populace. Effectively addressing this insurgency necessitates the implementation of robust COIN strategies. The COIN Framework of the [Federal Government of Nigeria](#) is grounded in the National Security Strategy (NSS) of 2014, NSS 2019, and the National Counter Terrorism Strategy (NACTEST) of 2016. These documents offer the Federal Government alternative approaches for addressing insurgency. In addition, the Nigerian Government, in collaboration with Chad and Niger, established the Multi-National Joint Task Force (MNJTF) in 2014. The MNJTF Operations notably include a crucial Naval component, serving as an essential COIN mechanism in the Lake Chad region (Willie, 2018).

Certainly, the fundamental constitutional mandate of the Nigerian Navy is to safeguard the nation's maritime interests and protect offshore resources, thereby enhancing national security. The policing function of the Nigerian Navy primarily involves maintaining law and order within its territorial waters, operating within the framework of the Total Spectrum Maritime Strategy (TSMS) established in 2011. According to Vice Admiral Ibok-Ete Ekwe Ibas (Rtd), the TSMS, organized into five spectrums, serves as a guiding framework for all operational engagements of the Nigerian Navy. Spectrum-5 encompasses activities related to internal security, counterinsurgency (COIN), and counter-terrorism operations. The Nigerian Navy has demonstrated effectiveness in this spectrum through initiatives such as establishing a Naval Outpost (NOP) in the Lake Chad region and deploying a detachment of the Nigerian Navy Special Boat Services (NNSBS) as part of the Armed Forces Special Forces Battalion (AFSFBn) in the north eastern zone of Nigeria.

In 2016, the Naval Headquarters established Naval Base Lake Chad, originally known as NOP Lake Chad, under the oversight of the Maritime Component Commander (MCC) of Operation HADIN KAI. Following this, Nigerian Navy (NN) personnel were promptly deployed to the Lake Chad Basin, constituting the counterinsurgency (COIN) maritime component of Operation LAFIYA DOLE, as highlighted by Adeniyi (2019). Naval Base Lake Chad has played a significant role in the COIN endeavors of Operation HADIN KAI, successfully repelling numerous insurgent attacks and forcing them out of their camps in North Eastern Nigeria. Despite these achievements, the insurgents persist in their activities, leading to the destruction of military assets in the Lake Chad region. Therefore, there is a pressing need to formulate effective strategies to address the challenges hindering the Nigerian Navy's COIN efforts through the operations of Naval Base Lake Chad.

### **DISSECTING THE PAST CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE NIGERIAN NAVY IN COUNTER INSURGENCY OPERATIONS**

On December 27, 2006, the Nigerian Navy established a specialized and elite unit called the Nigerian Navy Special Boat Services. This unit was created in response to the prevailing internal security threats such as insurgency, hostage-taking, and piracy. The operatives of the Special Boat Services played a significant role in various operations, including Operation PULO- SHIELD in the Niger Delta, Operation SAFE HAVEN in Plateau State, Operation RESTORE ORDER in Kano State, Operation IRON FENCE II in Kogi State, and Operation ZAMAN LAFIYA in the north eastern zone of Nigeria (Bolarinwa, 2019).

The elements of the Nigerian Navy Special Boat Services actively took part in Operation HADIN KAI in the North East and Operation SAFE HAVEN in Plateau State. Originally established as a Naval Outpost, it initially offered support to Operation LAFIYA DOLE. Additionally, it played a role in Operation GAMA AIKI, contributing from October 2016 until its successful conclusion in January 2017. Subsequently, it has functioned as a blocking force in the Lake Chad Basin, demonstrating its effectiveness during the RUWAN KADA mission, which spanned from March to July 2017 (Aliyu, 2019).

The Nigerian Navy Special Boat Services Unit continues to participate in collaborative clearance operations on the immediate islands of Lake Chad within its designated Area of Operations, working in conjunction with the Multinational Joint Task Force Sector Three Amphibious Company. Furthermore, the unit is actively engaged in joint patrols, both on land and water, in partnership with the Joint Task Force Sector Three. It plays a crucial role in the operations of the Multinational Joint Task Force, collaborating with the maritime forces of Sector One (Cameroon), Sector Two (Chad), and Sector Four (Niger). Consequently, the Naval Base Lake Chad has significantly contributed to the efforts of previous counterinsurgency (COIN) operations and the ongoing Operation HADIN KAI, enhancing its counterinsurgency endeavors and overall activities.

### **CONTEMPORARY CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE NIGERIAN NAVY IN COUNTER INSURGENCY OPERATIONS**

Aligned with its COIN mandates, the Nigerian Navy strategically planned to establish Naval Base Lake Chad in the North East region of Nigeria. This base collaborates with the Joint Task Force of the Armed Forces of Nigeria, primarily engaged in land-based operations. Many of these operations are conducted jointly with personnel from other military and paramilitary services. Since 2016, the Nigerian Navy has been actively involved in comprehensive COIN operations on the Nigerian side of the Lake Chad area to ensure the complete liberation from Boko Haram insurgents. Marine troops were deployed in accordance with Presidential Directives to enhance the fight against insurgency in north eastern Nigeria. The formation of Naval Base Lake Chad serves as a pivotal hub for intensifying

COIN operations under Operation HADIN KAI and preventing the infiltration of terrorists into the country. To achieve the COIN targets and objectives of Naval Base Lake Chad, the advance team of officers and ratings deployed in the Forward Operations Base formulated plans for the deployment of a larger force and the necessary equipment for operations in the area (Soriwei, 2020).

The Lake Chad region is situated in Baga, a border local government in the northern region of Borno State, known as a notorious stronghold for BH insurgents who conduct cross-border operations following the seizure of the fishing town of Baga. The Naval Base Lake Chad, under the operational directives of Operation HADIN KAI, is actively working towards liberating the area from insurgents. This collaborative effort involves coordination with the ground and aerial forces of Operation HADIN KAI.

## CONCLUSION

The establishment of Naval Base Lake Chad was aimed at strengthening the overall COIN Operations of the Armed Forces of Nigeria and foster a more secured environment for economic and social activities to thrive in the tri-border area of the Lake Chad region. The establishment of the Naval Base was therefore essential in the north east zone of Nigeria, as it significantly complements the efforts of the Nigerian Army and Nigerian Air Force as well as other security agencies with COIN roles. There are several lines of operations to holistically tackle insurgency through the COIN maritime component. Operation HADIN KAI has adopted the military-centric lines of maritime security operation that is visibly functional and has really been effective in combating the insurgents. The efforts of Naval Base Lake Chad have no doubt impacted on COIN Operations through the creation of awareness in the area of combating and reclaiming the Nigerian waters, reduced insurgent attacks in the Lake Chad, and contributing to both defensive and offensive measures in the COIN Operations. The maritime operations of Naval Base Lake Chad have assisted in the degradation of insurgents particularly within the waterways of the Lake Chad. Succinctly, the efforts of the Nigerian Navy through activities of Naval Base Lake Chad have no doubt contributed to the level of success achieved in the COIN Operations, but needs to be continually strengthened towards enhancing effective COIN Operations in the north east zone of Nigeria.

## RECOMMENDATION

Consequently, this paper proffers the following recommendations:

1. The Nigerian Navy should provide adequate surveillance equipment and weapons required for Naval Base Lake Chad to conduct efficient sea blockades/patrols.
2. The Nigerian Navy should install the Falcon Eye cameras along the coastline in the Lake Chad towards enhancing the Navy's monitoring of insurgent advances in real time.
3. The Federal Government should strengthen the operational frameworks of Naval Base Lake Chad in the north east zone of Nigeria.

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# FOC WESTERN NAVAL COMMAND R ADM MB HASSAN COURTESY VISIT ON HQ NAVDOC



FOC WEST being led on a tour of the Command by FOC NAVDOC



Exchange of pleasantries



Group photograph during a visit



FOC WEST signing the visitors register



FOC WEST presenting a souvenir



FOC NAVDOC presenting a souvenir



A view of the conference room during the visit

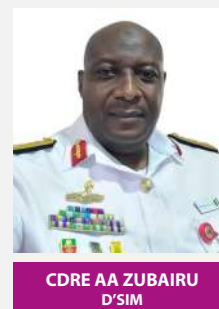


FOC WEST & FOC NAVDOC during the visit

# BRIEF OF THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS IN HQ NAVDOC

## SIMULATION DIRECTORATE

1. This is a specialized Directorate within the Command at the forefront of cutting-edge technology and innovation, driving preparedness to new heights. The Directorate of Simulation is tasked with the development, implementation, and maintenance of advanced simulation systems that replicate real-world scenarios with remarkable accuracy. These simulations provide personnel with invaluable training opportunities, allowing them to hone their skills, test strategies, and enhance decision-making capabilities in a risk-free environment.



CDRE AA ZUBAIRU  
D'SIM

2. The Directorate is saddled with the responsibility of conducting simulation and war gaming exercises for ships/units, serve as proponent and lead developer of war simulations, develop and maintain a repository of re-usable analytic tools/methodologies on war gaming and simulation. Others are implementing and documenting dynamics gaming of approved standard scenarios and required study scenarios as well as maintaining and liaising with NHQ, FOCs and NN Professional Schools and other institutions on war gaming and simulation matters.

## ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT



CAPT JA OKLOBIA  
CAO

1. The Administrative Department at HQ NAVDOC is headed by the Command Administrative Officer (CAO), who functions as the Commanding Officer within the Command. Supported by other staff officers, the Department oversees the administration of personnel, including officers, ratings and civilian staff. Other key responsibilities include addressing staff welfare issues, maintaining discipline, evaluating civilian staff performance for promotions and ensuring timely execution of work schedules. Additionally, the Department oversees leave schedules for personnel, manages internal appointments and upholds standards of conduct across all staff members.

2. The Administrative Department organizes seminars and conferences both within and beyond the Command and also conducts inspections, visits and tours. The Department plays a pivotal role in coordinating daily activities within the Command and through the CAO, provides essential advice to the Flag Officer Commanding (FOC) on administrative matters. Beyond these core functions, the Department diligently fulfills other assigned duties to support the operational effectiveness and efficiency of HQ NAVDOC.

## COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

1. The Communication Department at HQ NAVDOC is head by Ag Command Communication Information and Technology Officer (CCITO), the department oversees the receiving and transmitting of signals, and conducting Naval ceremonies. Additionally, the Department conducts routine trainings for personnel on communication-related matters. Other key responsibilities include managing the Command's communication systems and networks, including voice, data, and video communication systems.



LT CDR AA OLADEINDE  
Ag CCIT

2. The Department is also responsible for managing the Command's IT system, implementing and overseeing cybersecurity measures, developing and implementing IT policies and guidelines, managing IT projects, providing technical support, conducting IT training programs, and coordinating the integration of different IT systems. Furthermore, the department manages the Command's IT assets, including hardware, software licenses, and equipment. Beyond these primary functions, the Department diligently accomplishes other assigned duties to support the operational effectiveness and efficiency of HQ NAVDOC.

## INFORMATION DEPARTMENT



LT CDR G EGBUNU  
CINFO

1. The Information department carries out public relations functions and archival role in the Command. The department is mandated to undertake activities geared towards projecting a positive image and building mutual understanding between the Command, Nigerian Navy and the Nigerian society. To achieve this goal, the department carries out Public Relations (PR) initiatives in 4 areas, namely: Media Relations, Internal Communication, Documentation and Community Relations.

2. The responsibilities of the Directorate of Information include projecting the image of the Command and Nigerian Navy to the public, media relations, production of the Command's in-house Journals, internal coverage of ceremonies, operations and other activities of the Command using own photographers. Others are production of documentaries, contributions of news stories, photographs and feature materials for Command website, management of Command's Library, production of press clippings, production of photo books/photo albums, storage of photo and video archival materials, production of posters, banners, invitation cards and programmes for Command events. Furthermore, the department carries out production of gifts/souvenir items for the Command, anchoring Command events, effective liaison with relevant Commands/stakeholders, sister Services and MDAs for courtesy calls and visits as well as any other task that may be assigned by the FOC.

## ACCOUNTS AND BUDGET DEPARTMENT

1. The Command Accounts and Budget Officer (CABO) is the appointed head of the Accounts and Budget (A&B) Department in the Command and financial adviser to the Flag Officer Commanding. The Department is saddled with prudent administration of the Command's Secretariat and management of all Command's financial related matters, such as budget preparation, disbursement of funds, rendition of accounts and interaction with auditors among others. These responsibilities are performed by competent staff officers appointed to the Department.



CDR ROE ANYA  
CABO

2. The CABO ensures that personnel in the Department are well motivated and ensures regular on-the-job trainings to build capacity for improve performance. Importantly, the Department has experienced enhanced performances in assigned duties, for instance, periodic budgets for Command's activities and renditions of accounts are done within a very short period and in line with Service and other extant financial regulations. Generally, financial matters of Command's concern with regards to personnel borne onboard forms a major aspect of the CABO's implied responsibilities. This covers information on pay related matters, loan facilities within and outside the Service as well as advice for insurance facilities. The CABO's tasks also encompasses sensitization on claims and death benefits/entitlements for deceased personnel.

## LOGISTICS DEPARTMENT

1. The Logistics department at HQ NAVDOC is headed by the Command Logistics Officer (CLO) who functions as the logistic officer within the command. He is responsible for all matters related to procurement and catering organization, the CLO is responsible for the management of the Command chain of supply with overriding focus on ensuring that the right quality of materials are supplied in the right quantity while employing the right means at the right time in an efficient and effective manner.

2. The Logistics Department also provides logistics backup to effectively achieve the given objectives of the command. The department is responsible to the Flag Officer Commanding for all logistics matters and requirements, also initiate and advises the Flag Officer Commanding in the formulation and implementation of logistics polices. Additionally, the department is responsible for the procurement, storage and distribution of the general stores and POL product. The department is also responsible for maintaining a Log book on POL product consumption and utilization. Beyond these functions the logistics department diligently fulfils other task to support the operational effectiveness and efficiency of the HQ NAVDOC.



**CDR BF APEKUHYE**  
CLO

## HEALTH SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT



**CDR YM TASIU**  
CHSEO

The Command Health Safety and Environment Officer (CHSEO) formulates, reviews and evaluates HSE doctrinal policies, ensuring compliance within the NN through training, assessments and coordination with relevant agencies. He is assisted by the Deputy HSEO for Shore Establishments and Ships to implement and enforce HSE policies, conduct inspections and develop safety programs tailored to their specific environments. The department also focuses on specific areas such as machinery systems, technical personnel and overall technical safety, conducting risk assessments and recommending mitigation strategies. Collectively, these roles contribute to monitoring a safe and healthy environment across the NN ships, units and establishments.

## COMBAT READINESS DEPARTMENT

1. The Command Combat Readiness department is the operations cornerstone of the Naval Doctrine Command dedicated to ensuring the combat readiness and operational effectiveness of NN ships/units. This is achieved through meticulous planning, rigorous training, and strategic coordination. The department stands as a bulwark of preparedness in the face of any challenge especially at sea.

2. The Combat Readiness department is entrusted with a wide array of responsibilities that are integral to maintaining operational readiness. Some of these responsibilities are conduct of combat readiness assessment of ships/units through Work-ups, Basic Operational Sea Training (BOST), Safety Operational Sea Training (SOST) and Consolidated Operational Sea Training (COST). Others are assessment of capacity and capability of units to perform assigned tasks/visions while establishing uniform standards to evaluate ships/units thereby enhancing capabilities to perform assigned roles.



**LT AG SADIQ**  
Ag So2 CCR

## DOCTRINE AND ASSESSMENT DEPARTMENT

The Command Doctrine and Assessment Officer (CDAO) is responsible for formulating, reviewing and evaluating doctrinal policies for the NN. He advises on force structure and development, conducts evaluations of naval history and war gaming and develops concepts for tactics and weaponry. Furthermore, he liaises with agencies to perform threat and security analyses and assess training curricula for NN professional schools. Additionally, the CDAO oversees various exams and assessments within the NN and evaluates combat and tactical concepts to be applied in training and exercises.



**CDR YM TASIU**  
CDAO

## PHYSICAL TRAINING DEPARTMENT

1. The Physical Training Department at HQ NAVDOC is headed by the Command Sports Officer, who functions as the Sports Officer within the Command supported by personnel (PTI). The Department oversees the physical fitness of personnel, including officers, ratings and civilian staff. Other key responsibilities include organizing sports, training and leading the command to other sporting activities such as inter command games and NN games.

2. The PT Department organizes Training and conduct of the annual Physical Fitness Test, Swimming Proficiency Test and other assigned duties in other to ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of the Command.



**LT CDR LA ORIRETAN**  
C'SPORT

## REGULATING DEPARTMENT



**SLT A ZUBAIRU**  
SO3 PROVOST

1. The Regulating department at HQ NAVDOC is headed by the Ag Command Provost Marshal CPM. The Regulating department is saddled with the sole responsibility of advising the Flag officer commanding on disciplinary issues and upholding discipline of the personnel borne onboard HQ NAVDOC in line with extant regulations and books of references.

2. The regulating department is also responsible for the constant reminder of the command's complement and delivery of lectures as it concerns personnel activities in and outside the command to keep personnel of the command abreast with extant regulations as they go about their day to day activities.

## TECHNICAL DEPARTMENT

The Command Technical Officer (CTO) supervises technical operations such as maintenance, procurement and compliance for the Command while coordinating with internal and external entities. The AD Tech manages the operations, maintenance and emergency response. He also oversees the maintenance and operation of weapon systems, provides technical support, conducts testing and develops training programs for weapon system personnel.



**CDR YM TASIU**  
CTO



# UPHOLDING COMPLIANCE WITH THE ARMED FORCES ACT ON SOCIAL MEDIA IN NIGERIA: ADDRESSING VIOLATIONS AND ENSURING ADHERENCE

– LT CDR AI ABDULSALAM

## INTRODUCTION

The emergence of social media platforms has revolutionized communication and connectivity in the World. It has become an integral part of modern communication, providing a platform for individuals to express themselves and share information with a global audience. However, the use of social media by military personnel can have significant implications, especially in countries where strict regulations govern the behavior of Armed forces members. In Nigeria, the Armed Forces Act governs the use of social media by military personnel to safeguard security, discipline, and operational effectiveness. It controls the conduct and behavior of military personnel, both on and off-duty. With the proliferation of social media platforms, ensuring compliance with these regulations has become increasingly challenging. Despite heightened awareness, publicity, and warnings regarding the Act, violations continue to occur among personnel. This paper delves into the reasons behind the persistent violations of the Armed Forces Act on social media in Nigeria and offers strategies to enhance compliance among military personnel.

## OVERVIEW OF THE ARMED FORCES ACT ON SOCIAL MEDIA USAGE

The Armed Forces Act in Nigeria plays a crucial role in regulating the use of social media among military personnel. These regulations are carefully crafted to safeguard national security, preserve operational integrity and maintain the esteemed reputation of the Armed forces. Some key provisions within the Act include:

- 1. Prohibition of Disclosing Classified Information.** Central to the Act is the strict prohibition against military personnel disclosing classified or sensitive information on social media platforms. This restriction ensures that critical operational details, strategic plans, and other confidential data remain protected from unauthorized access or exploitation. By adhering to this provision, personnel contribute significantly to upholding national security interests and safeguarding the effectiveness of military operations.
- 2. Respect for the Chain of Command.** Upholding military hierarchy and discipline is paramount in all aspects of military service, including social media engagement. Personnel are required to demonstrate utmost respect for the chain of command

when expressing opinions, discussing military affairs, or sharing perspectives on social media. This principle reinforces order, unity and operational coherence within the Armed forces, fostering a disciplined and cohesive military environment.

- 3. Avoidance of Inflammatory or Divisive Content.** In the realm of social media, military personnel must exercise caution to avoid posting content that could potentially incite violence, propagate hate speech, or undermine the unity of the armed forces. Such inflammatory or divisive content not only contradicts the core values of military service but also poses risks to public safety and societal harmony. By refraining from such postings, personnel uphold the ethical standards expected of them and contribute to maintaining positive public perceptions of the armed forces.

## CHALLENGES LEADING TO VIOLATIONS

- 1. Lack of Awareness.** Despite ongoing efforts to publicize the provisions of the Armed Forces Act, some personnel may still lack a comprehensive understanding of the regulations governing social media usage. Inadequate training and education on the Act can contribute to unintentional violations. Training sessions might not be sufficiently comprehensive

or frequent, leaving gaps in personnel's knowledge about the specific rules and guidelines related to social media use.

**2. Social Media Addiction:** The addictive nature of social media platforms can lead to impulsive or thoughtless posting by personnel, resulting in the inadvertent sharing of sensitive information or inappropriate content that violates the Act.

➤ **Impulsive Behavior:** The instant gratification provided by likes, comments, and shares can drive personnel to post without fully considering the content's appropriateness or security implications.

➤ **Constant Connectivity:** The ubiquitous presence of smartphones and internet access means that personnel are continuously connected to social media, increasing the likelihood of impulsive and potentially harmful posts.

➤ **Mental Health Issues:** Social media addiction can lead to mental health issues such as anxiety or depression, which might impair judgment and lead to violations.

**3. Ignorance of Consequences:** Some personnel may underestimate the potential repercussions of violating the Armed Forces Act on social media, failing to grasp the serious implications for national security, operational integrity, and personal discipline. Some personnel may underestimate the potential repercussions of violating the Armed Forces Act on social media, failing to grasp the serious implications for national security, operational integrity, and personal

discipline. These are further enumerated as

➤ **Lack of Real-World Examples:** Without seeing the tangible consequences faced by others who have violated the Act, personnel may not fully understand the severity of potential repercussions.

➤ **Misjudgment of Impact:** Personnel may believe that their individual posts are insignificant in the larger scheme, not realizing how even small breaches can compromise security or operational integrity.

➤ **Informal Culture:** A culture of informal communication and sharing among peers can diminish the perceived seriousness of adhering to formal regulations.

**4. Peer Pressure and Influence:** The influence of peers or social media trends can sometimes override the judgment of military personnel, prompting them to engage in behavior that contravenes the Act in pursuit of acceptance or validation from their online networks.

➤ **Desire for Acceptance:** The need to fit in or be accepted by peers can lead personnel to engage in risky online behavior, such as sharing sensitive information or engaging in controversial discussions.

➤ **Social Media Trends:** Trending topics or challenges on social media can lure personnel into participating without considering the potential violations of military regulations.

➤ **Group Dynamics:** In group settings, the collective behavior of peers can pressure individuals to

conform, even if it means breaking the rules.

**5. Misguided Intentions:** In certain instances, personnel may violate the Armed Forces Act on social media with the misguided intention of raising awareness, expressing dissent, or seeking attention, without fully considering the ramifications of their actions.

➤ **Activism and Advocacy:** Some personnel might use social media to advocate for causes they believe in, inadvertently breaching security protocols or revealing sensitive information.

➤ **Expression of Frustration:** Personnel might express dissatisfaction or dissent regarding military policies or conditions, failing to recognize the potential security risks or disciplinary consequences.

➤ **Attention-Seeking Behavior:** In pursuit of likes, followers, or viral fame, personnel might post sensational or controversial content that contravenes the Act.

## **STRATEGIES FOR ENHANCING COMPLIANCE**

**1. Comprehensive Training and Education.** Implementing regular training programs and workshops to educate military personnel on the provisions of the Armed Forces Act, the importance of responsible social media usage, and the consequences of violations.

**2. Clear Communication Channels:** Establishing clear communication channels for personnel to seek guidance, clarification, or approval before sharing content on social media platforms, fostering a culture of accountability and compliance.

### 3. **Monitoring and Enforcement:**

Instituting robust monitoring mechanisms to track social media activity among personnel, identify potential violations, and enforce disciplinary measures promptly to deter future infractions.

### 4. **Peer Support and Mentoring:**

Encouraging peer support networks and mentorship programs within the military to promote positive behavior, provide guidance on social media best practices, and intervene when violations occur.

### 5. **Regular Reviews and Updates:**

Conducting periodic reviews of the Armed Forces Act on social media to ensure its relevance in the evolving digital landscape,

incorporating feedback from personnel, and updating guidelines as needed to address emerging challenges.

### **CONCLUSION**

The violations of the Armed Forces Act on social media among military personnel in Nigeria persist due to a combination of factors, including lack of awareness, social media addiction, ignorance of consequences, peer pressure, and misguided intentions. By implementing strategies such as comprehensive training, clear communication channels, monitoring and enforcement, peer support, and regular reviews, the Nigerian armed forces can enhance compliance with the Act and foster

a culture of responsible social media usage. Upholding adherence to the regulations is crucial not only for maintaining security and discipline but also for safeguarding the reputation and integrity of the military in the digital age.





# CONTENTMENT

- CDR S AKINWOLA

## INTRODUCTION

**C**ontentment is a state of being satisfied and at peace with one's current situation. It is the feeling of being happy and fulfilled with what one has, rather than constantly desiring and striving for more. Contentment is often associated with gratitude, acceptance, and a sense of inner peace. It doesn't necessarily mean having everything one wants, but rather appreciating what one already possesses. It is a valuable quality to cultivate in order to find joy and fulfilment in life.

## WAYS OF CULTIVATING CONTENTMENT

Attaining contentment is a personal journey and can vary from individual to individual. Here are some ways to cultivate contentment:

**1. Always express gratitude:** Take time each day to reflect on the things you are grateful for. This can shift your focus towards what you have rather than what you lack.

**2. Live in the present moment:** Cultivate mindfulness and try to fully engage in and appreciate the present moment. Instead of dwelling on the past or worrying about the future, focus on what is happening right now.

**3. Let go of comparison:** Constantly comparing oneself to others can lead to feelings of dissatisfaction. Instead, focus on your own progress and achievements and celebrate them.

**4. Simplify your life:** Identify and reduce the clutter, both physical and mental, in your life.

Simplifying your life can help create space for contentment to flourish.

**5. Practice self-care:** Make time for activities that bring you joy and recharge your energy. Taking care of yourself physically and emotionally is essential for attaining contentment.

**6. Set realistic expectations:** Unrealistic expectations can lead to constant disappointment. Set practical, achievable goals that align with your values and aspirations.

**7. Foster positive relationships:** Surround yourself with supportive and positive people who uplift you and contribute to your overall happiness.

**8. Embrace imperfections:** Accept that life is not always perfect and that mistakes and setbacks are a part of the journey. Embrace the lessons they offer and use them as opportunities for growth.

**9. Find purpose and meaning:** Engage in activities that align with your values and bring a sense of purpose to your life. This can give you a sense of fulfilment and contentment.

**10. Practice self-compassion:** Be kind and understanding towards yourself. Treat yourself with the same compassion and forgiveness you would extend to a loved one.

# BENEFITS OF CULTIVATING CONTENTMENT

Contentment is a journey and takes conscious effort to cultivate. It is a mind-set that can lead to numerous benefits and a more fulfilling and meaningful life. These are several benefits of cultivating contentment in our lives:

**1. Improved mental well-being:** Contentment promotes a positive mind-set, reduces stress, and enhances overall mental well-being. It helps us appreciate the present moment and accept things as they are, reducing anxiety and promoting inner peace.

**2. Increased happiness:** Contentment is closely linked to happiness. When we are content, we find joy in what we have and experience greater satisfaction with our lives. It allows us to find happiness in the little things and not rely solely on external achievements or possessions.

**3. Better relationships:** Contentment helps us build healthier and more meaningful relationships. When we are content, we are less likely to seek validation or fulfilment from others. This allows us to form connections based on genuine connection and mutual support, enhancing the quality of our relationships.

**4. Reduced materialistic tendencies:** Contentment encourages us to focus on what truly matters in life, rather than constantly seeking external validation or material possessions. This can lead to a more sustainable and fulfilling lifestyle and reduce the pressure to constantly accumulate more.

**5. Increased resilience:** Contentment helps us develop resilience and cope with life's challenges. When we are content, we are better equipped to face adversity with a positive mind-set and find the strength to overcome obstacles.

**6. Better physical health:** Contentment has been associated with improved physical health. It can reduce stress levels, promote better sleep, boost the immune system, and lower the risk of chronic diseases.

**7. Improved productivity and creativity:** When we are content, we are more focused, motivated, and open to new ideas. This can lead to increased productivity and creativity in various aspects of life, including work, hobbies, and personal growth.

**8. Enhanced self-acceptance and self-esteem:** Contentment fosters self-acceptance and self-esteem. It allows us to appreciate and value ourselves as we are, promoting a healthier self-image and reducing the need for constant comparison or perfectionism.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, contentment is a powerful mind-set that brings numerous benefits to our lives. It promotes mental well-being, happiness, and stronger relationships. By reducing materialistic tendencies and enhancing resilience, contentment allows us to lead more fulfilling lives. It also has positive effects on our physical health, productivity, and self-esteem. Cultivating contentment requires conscious effort, but the rewards are worth it. By embracing contentment, we can find greater joy in the present moment, appreciate what we have, and live a more meaningful and satisfying life.



# THE SAHEL REGION OF AFRICA AND THE AXIS OF EVIL: REVERSING THE TREND

- COMMODORE IGBANI U AGWU

## 1.0. Introduction

History has demonstrated that certain states and regions of the world have offered violence or threatened the use of violence to advance national interest and ideology, undermining national and regional peace and stability. In the same vein, several states and regions have been known to suffer significant violence, humanitarian crises, adverse socio-economic and/or political instability which often led to large-scale suffering or promoting crimes and violence that impede peace and development within the state of the region. In either case, the term 'Axis of Evil' has been used particularly by the United States to describe the impact or level of threats the states/region poses to other regions or global peace and security. As such, these states and regions are usually characterized by a high level of violence or threats from terrorist groups or other transnational crimes that could undermine regional and global peace and security.

The term "Axis of Evil" was famously used by former U.S. President George W. Bush during a State of the Union address in 2002 to refer to North Korea, Iraq and Iran. The term was used to describe countries that were believed to be developing Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs) and supporting terrorism, thereby threatening international

peace and security. Also, the Middle East has been referred to as an "Axis of Evil" due to its long history of conflict, political instability, and terrorist activity (David & Haas, 2013). In terms of the socio-economic situation in these countries, Iran, Iraq, and North Korea faced significant challenges. For instance, Iran was faced with severe economic sanctions and political instability that had a significant impact on her economy, high unemployment rates and widening inequality. Similarly, Iraq, after the US-led invasion in 2003, was being plagued by political instability and conflict, resulting from widespread poverty and economic hardship. In the same vein, North Korea was enduring international sanctions and isolation, leading to a stagnant economy and widespread poverty.

Resultantly, the relatively tense and harsh economic and political conditions created an environment with high rates of violence and crimes, constraining growth and development. While Iran was alleged to support terrorist groups and engage in state-sponsored terrorism, Iraq has faced sectarian violence and insurgent attacks (CRS, 2021)

North Korea has been accused of engaging in human rights abuses and acts of aggression, including developing nuclear weapons

(Mueller, 2006). Though the label "Axis of Evil" is a political term, several security and political concerns are common to the nations. For example, the Global Peace Index ranks Iran, Iraq, and North Korea among the least peaceful countries in the world while the US Department of State has issued travel advisories for all three countries, citing concerns about terrorism, crime, and political instability (Boroujerdi & Rahimkhani, 2018). To this end, the branding of these nations as axis of evil may not be unconnected to relatively high rates of violence, crime and terrorism as well as economic and political instability amongst other socio-political vices that could undermine regional and global security.

The Sahel region of Africa is not typically referred to as the "axis of evil." The Sahel region is a vast semi-arid area stretching from the Atlantic Ocean in the west to the Red Sea in the east, and from the Sahara Desert in the north to the savannas and rain forests of West Africa in the south. It spans across 10 countries, namely Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Chad, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Gambia, Guinea, Nigeria, and Cameroon (Sinn, 1988). The Sahel region holds significant geostrategic importance due to its location and resources. It serves as a bridge between North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa, connecting

the Mediterranean world to the West African coast. The region also serves as a transit zone for migration and trade routes that connect West and North Africa. Moreover, the Sahel region is home to vast reserves of natural resources, including gold, oil, and uranium, making it an area of interest for foreign countries and companies (United Nations, 2019). Additionally, the region's agricultural potential is significant, and it is the main source of livelihood for millions of people in the region.

Though the Sahel region has 25% young population making it one of the most youthful regions of the world, the region also faces significant security challenges that have ramifications for its geostrategic significance. For instance, the region is plagued by a range of issues, including terrorism, insurgency, inter-communal conflicts, and transnational crime (Conkar, 2020). These challenges are compounded by weak governance structures, poverty, and environmental degradation and inequality (Hadebe, 2022; Amnesty International, 2021). Terrorist groups, such as Boko Haram, the Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (ISGS), and al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), are active in the region and pose a significant threat to regional and global security. These groups have been responsible for numerous attacks on civilian populations, military personnel, and government installations (Thompson, 2021; Roux, 2019). Additionally, inter-communal violence between pastoralists and farmers has increased, leading to deaths, injuries, displacement and instability. The violence from terrorists in the Sahel has continued to rise due to the

inability of several Sahelian governments to provide adequate security. As a result, between 2007 and 2021, deaths from violence increased by 10 times, with overall mortality in Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger growing to 732, 574, and 588 persons respectively in 2021. The Sahel region therefore accounts for 35% of all terrorist-inflicted deaths worldwide in 2021 rising from 1% in 2007 due to the numerous violent campaigns carried out by organizations such as the Islamic State (IS) in the region (Global Terrorism Index, 2022). The strategic environment in the Sahel region is further complicated by foreign military interventions. Foreign countries, including France and the United States, have deployed military forces to the region to support the fight against terrorism. However, these interventions have also led to criticism and backlash from local populations.

The security challenges in the Sahel region have significant implications for the countries in the region by threatening stability and development, increasing the risk of state failure and exacerbating humanitarian crises (United Nations, 2023). Additionally, the challenges have implications for regional and international security, given the potential for spillover effects and the transnational nature of the threats. Hence, the Sahel region's geopolitical location and resources make it a significant area of interest for foreign countries and companies while the region's security challenges pose a significant threat to its geostrategic significance, adversely affecting the countries in the region. It is against this background that this paper seeks to analyze the Sahel region to determine if it could be qualified

as an axis of evil. The purpose of this paper is to analyze the Sahel region with a view to determining if the region could be referred to as an axis of evil.

## 2.0. Scope

To properly analyze the Sahel region in the geostrategic, political, socio-economic and security contexts, the paper will cover the following:

- a. Contextual clarification.
- b. Overview of the Sahel Region.
- c. Challenges of the Sahel region and implications for regional and global security
- d. Justification of findings: The Nexus

## 3.0. Contextual clarification

The term 'axis of evil' was first used by President George W. Bush's administration in 2002 to describe Iran, Iraq, and North Korea, which he considered to be states that sponsored terrorism and threatened international security. However, the term has since been used loosely by political scholars and institutions to describe other countries and regions that are perceived to be a threat to global stability. In the context of the Sahel region, the term 'axis of evil' was used to refer to the nexus between terrorism, organized crime and insurgency that has plagued the region in recent years. The vast area of the Sahel region that spans across West and Central Africa, has experienced a growing security crisis in recent years, fueled by a range of factors such as poverty, ethnic tensions, climate change, political instability and weak governance among others. These challenges continue to undermine the significant growth and development of the countries within the region, despite vast reserves and varieties of natural

resources such as cobalt, diamonds, lithium, gold, nuclear materials and hydrocarbons domiciled within the region.

Nevertheless, the region has significant geostrategic importance due to its location at the crossroads of Africa, the Middle East and Europe, which made it a transit route for migrants, drugs, and weapons, often providing an illegal corridor for human and drug trafficking, arms smuggling and proliferation as well as money laundry and terrorism financing among other transnational crimes that could impinge regional and global stability. As a result, the insecurity in the region has been exacerbated by the activities of various violent extremist groups, including Boko Haram, AQIM, and the ISGS among others. These groups have established the region as a hub for organized crime and use the proceeds to finance their operations.

Similarly, the groups have over the years launched a series of attacks against civilians, security forces, and government institutions, causing widespread deaths, injuries and displacement of persons, resulting in panic and humanitarian crises, ultimately causing further destabilization of the states and region. In response, several international and regional organizations have been working to address the security crisis in the Sahel region. These include the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), and the G5 Sahel Joint Force, which is a joint military force comprising troops from Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger as well as Operations Bakane, conducted by the Armed Forces of France and Chad.

Conclusively, while the term 'axis of evil' was originally used to describe a group of states, it has since been redefined to describe other regions and entities that pose a threat to global stability. In the context of the Sahel region, the term is used to describe the nexus between terrorism, organized crime and insurgency that has led to a growing security crisis in the region, negatively impacting national, regional and global peace and stability.

#### 4.0. Overview of the Sahel Region.

The Sahel has a rich history that dates to the time of the empires of Ghana, Mali and Songhai, which controlled the trans-Saharan trade routes. These empires were known for their wealth, their sophisticated governance structures and their promotion of Islam. The region was an important trade route between North and West Africa with the trans-Saharan trade route bringing wealth and power to the region controlled by powerful empires. The region was also a center of Islamic scholarship and culture, with important centers of learning in Timbuktu and other ancient cities (Thomas, 2020). However, the arrival of European colonial powers such as the French, Portuguese, German, Belgians and English amongst others in the late Nineteenth Century. The Europeans subjected the Sahel region to colonization, which resulted in the division of the region into artificial borders that separated ethnic groups and created tensions largely due to the non-homogeneous composition of divisions. The colonial powers that ruled the Sahel region created artificial borders that separated ethnic groups and created tensions (Miles, 2013). The division

of the region into different territories led to a fragmentation of ethnic groups, which made it difficult to create strong and unified states after independence. These divisions, known as states, continued to clamour for independence and this became more intense after World War II in 1945, leading to the granting of independence to most of the states with diverse ethnic groups, cultures and values (Adebiyi, 2008). The quest for resource control and dominance by several ethnic groups within the states created tension and ultimately created divides across ethnic lines, undermining the collective security of the region.

After independence in the 1960s, the Sahel countries experienced political instability, military coups, and civil wars, which led to economic stagnation and poverty. The inability of the various ethnic groups and states to work together in promoting trade and development largely through the sale of cash crops, livestock farming and precious stones (Niang, 2014; Walther, Leuprecht, & Skillicorn, 2016). In the 1980s, the region experienced a series of droughts, which caused famine and forced millions of people to flee their homes for greener pastures. Furthermore, the rapid industrialization of Europe and the Americas contributed significantly to global warming and climate change resulting in extreme and harsher weather conditions, causing severe droughts, overflowing rivers and drying up of sources of water. One of the prominent impacts of climate change in the Sahel region was the rapid and steady shrinking of the Lake Chad Basin which shrank to about 5% of its original size, depriving inhabitants of the region of a source of water for

irrigation and livestock (Mayans, 2020). The impact of desertification further forced herders and farmers to migrate to more favourable lands, with an attendant increase in population density and struggle for resources and dominance.

In the 1980s and 1990s, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank imposed structural adjustment programs on Sahel countries. These programs compelled governments to cut social spending, privatize state-owned enterprises and deregulate their economies which eventually resulted in a reduction in government services, job losses and increased poverty (Karreth, 2015). The economic hardship and ethnic tensions in the Sahelian states created a tense political situation with myriads of challenges as well as mistrust and grievances of the government by the population. This usually led to political unrests, violent protests and coup de tat, undermining political stability that could bring peace and development. In recent years, the Sahel has experienced a rise in violence and insecurity, as a result of a complex interplay of factors, including weak governance, poverty, environmental degradation, ethnic tensions, and the proliferation of armed groups (Annan, 2014) (Maiangwa, 2013). The most prominent of these groups is Boko Haram, which operates in the Lake Chad Basin, and the ISGS, which is active in Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso. In response, the international community has become increasingly engaged in the Sahel. For instance, the United Nations has established a peacekeeping mission in Mali (MINUSMA), and France has launched a major

military operation (Barkhane) to combat extremist groups in the region. However, despite these efforts, the security situation in the Sahel remains fragile as the challenges facing the region are complex and multi-faceted (Emmanuel, Schwartz, & Schwartz, 2019; Bouquet, 2013). Conclusively, despite the geostrategic significance of the Sahel, the region faces a range of challenges that threaten regional and global peace and stability. These challenges include political instability, poverty, food insecurity, and conflict as well as the growing threat of extremism and transnational crime, raising a key concern for the international community. Addressing the root causes of these challenges would require a coordinated and sustained effort from governments, international organizations, and civil society groups. With the region spanning about 5,400,000 square kilometers and having over 100 million inhabitants, most of whom live in poverty, these crises highlight the vulnerability of the Sahel region and the need for long-term development strategies to mitigate the challenges for regional stability.

### 5.0. Challenges of the Sahel region and implications for regional and global security

The Sahel region faces a myriad of issues and challenges that have significant implications for both regional and global security. Some of these issues and challenges as well as their implications are discussed subsequently.

**a. Terrorism and Insurgency.** The Sahel region has become a hotbed for terrorism and insurgency in recent years. Groups such as Boko Haram, AQIM and

ISGS have established a presence in the region and carried out attacks on civilians and military targets. According to the Global Terrorism Index, deaths from terrorism in the Sahel region increased by 590% between 2013 and 2019 (Global terrorism Index, 2021). These attacks have caused widespread fear and instability in the region and have forced thousands of people to flee their homes, ultimately resulting in one of the worst humanitarian crises that has undermined global stability and necessitated global concern.

### b. Climate Change and Environmental Degradation.

The Sahel region is one of the most vulnerable regions in the world to the effects of climate change. The region has experienced recurrent droughts, desertification and land degradation, which have impacted agricultural productivity and increased food insecurity. According to the World Bank, climate change could lead to a reduction in crop yields of up to 50% by 2050 in the Sahel region (World Bank, 2022). Environmental degradation has also led to conflicts between farmers and herders over access to land and water resources, exacerbating the security situation in the region. To this end, climate change created food insecurity, poverty and a contest for resources worsening the crises in the Sahel region and impinging global peace.

**c. Weak Governance and Corruption.** Weak governance and high levels of corruption have contributed to the insecurity in the Sahel region. Many governments in the region are unable to provide basic services, maintain security or address the needs of their citizens. Corruption is also widespread,

with public officials often embezzling public funds and engaging in other forms of financial malfeasance (Gyimah-Brempong, 2002). According to Transparency International, most countries in the Sahel region rank low on the Corruption Perceptions Index, indicating high levels of corruption (International Anti-Corruption Day, n.d.). The weak governance and corruption are impediments to the ability of constituent states in the Sahel to implement robust security sector reforms, regulate borders and deliver good governance to curb terrorism and transnational crimes, undermining regional and global security.

**d. Poverty and Economic Inequality.** The Sahel region is one of the poorest in the world, with high levels of poverty and economic inequality. The region has one of the lowest human development indices in the world, with limited access to education, healthcare and other basic services. Poverty and economic inequality have contributed to the rise of extremist groups, as disenfranchised youth are more likely to join these groups as a means of economic opportunity and an avenue to channel grievances. Accordingly, these societal ills promote the recruiting of terrorists from communities, increasing terrorist attacks and activities within and outside the region.

**e. Migration and Refugee Crisis.** The Sahel region is facing a migration and refugee crisis, as people flee conflict, poverty, and environmental degradation. Many of these migrants are vulnerable to exploitation and abuse and have become targets for human traffickers and criminal networks.

The refugee crisis has also strained the resources of host countries, contributing to social and economic instability in the region while promoting the illegal migration of inhabitants of the Sahel across regional and continental lines, encumbering other nations and regions.

The heightened issues and challenges have significant implications for regional and global security. The instability in the Sahel region could spill over into neighboring countries and create a wider security threat. The rise of extremist groups in the region has also increased the risk of terrorism and insurgency, which could have global consequences. The migration and refugee crisis in the Sahel could further contribute to instability in other regions, as refugees seek to move to other countries. Institutions such as the United Nations, the African Union, and the European Union have launched initiatives to address these challenges in the Sahel. However, more needs to be done to address the root causes of these challenges and to build sustainable solutions. This will require a coordinated effort from governments, international organizations, and civil society groups to address the underlying drivers of insecurity in the Sahel region.

#### **6.0. Justification of findings: The Nexus**

There is no direct nexus between the Sahel region and the perceived "axis of evil" countries such as Iran, Iraq, and North Korea. However, there are some indirect connections between them. One of the main connections is through the global arms trade. The Sahel region is a hotbed of arms trafficking due to its porous borders, weak governments and

widespread poverty. These weapons often come from countries like Iran, which has been accused of supplying weapons to militant groups in the region. Similarly, North Korea has been accused of supplying weapons to the governments of Chad and Sudan, both of which are in the Sahel region. A similar connection is through terrorism. The Sahel region has been plagued by various terrorist groups, including AQIM and Boko Haram. These groups often receive support from other terrorist organizations around the world, including those in Iran and Iraq. For example, in 2013, the US government accused Iran of providing financial and material support to AQIM (The Guardian, 2013). Moreover, Iran has been accused of using proxy groups to destabilize other countries in the region. For example, Iran has been accused of providing support to the Houthi rebels in Yemen, who are fighting against the Saudi-backed government. This conflict has spilled over into the Sahel region, with the Houthi rebels being accused of supporting militant groups in the region (BBC, 2019). Lastly, there have been reports of North Korean and Iranian involvement in illegal gold mining in the Sahel region. This mining is often done by using child labor and has been linked to financing terrorist groups (Reuters, 2017). Hence, the country violates international laws on child labour which impedes the rule of law and undermines global security. Overall, while there is no direct nexus between the Sahel region and the perceived "axis of evil" countries, there are some indirect connections. These connections are primarily through the global arms trade, terrorism, and illegal gold mining. However, it should be

noted that these connections are not unique to the Sahel region and are also present in other parts of the world. Hence, this paper concludes that though there is no direct nexus between the Sahel region and countries such as Iran, Iraq and North Korea described as the Axis of Evil, the region shares common characteristics and challenges with these countries. It has been alleged that the Sahel region and these countries participate and support terrorism, face socio-economic and political crises as well as deal with challenges of poverty, human rights violation, inequality and ethnic tension, with negative impacts on regional and global peace and security. Thus, the Sahel region could be loosely referred to as an axis of evil within the African continent.

## 7.0. Conclusion

Security challenges in the Sahel region have had adverse implications for the countries in the region by affecting stability and development, risk of state failure and exacerbating humanitarian crises as well as the likelihood of spillover to other regions. Despite the geostrategic significance of the Sahel, the region faces a range of challenges that threaten regional and global peace and stability. These include political instability, poverty, food insecurity, terrorism and conflict as well as transnational crimes, raising a key concern for the international community. To resolve the root causes of these challenges would require a coordinated and sustained effort from governments, international organizations, and civil society groups.

While there seems not to be a direct connection between the Sahel region and the perceived

"axis of evil" countries, there are some indirect common denominators for both groups. These connections are primarily through the global arms trade, terrorism, and illegal gold mining. However, it is noteworthy that these connections are present in other parts of the world. Hence, it was concluded that the Sahel region and countries such as Iran, Iraq and North Korea, labeled as the Axis of Evil, share similar characteristics and challenges, as the region and countries participate and support terrorism, face socio-economic and political crises as well as deal with challenges of poverty, human rights violation, inequality and ethnic tension, with negative impacts on regional and global peace and stability. Thus, the Sahel region could be loosely referred to as an axis of evil within the African continent. Overall, improving conditions in the Sahel region requires a multi-faceted approach that addresses the root causes of conflict and insecurity. Addressing low human capital development, terrorism and insecurity, ethnic tension, crimes, and other vices requires political will, regional cooperation, and sustained investment. In this regard, the collective intervention by Sahelian states and external nations/regions/organizations in evolving strategies to mitigate the inherent challenges of the Sahel region to promote regional and global peace and stability.

## 8.0. Recommendations

The Sahel region faces several challenges that pose a threat to both regional and global security, including low human capital development, terrorism and insecurity, ethnic tension, and crime. It is envisaged that some of these broad recommendations and strategies would improve the

conditions in the Sahel.

a. **Sustained investments in education and capacity building.** Education is a critical tool for human capital development, which is necessary for economic growth and stability. Governments, donors, and NGOs should invest in education to improve literacy rates and access to education. Emphasis could be placed on technical and vocational skills to drive local content development for sustainable growth. This could be achieved in partnership with UNICEF and USAIDS among other international agencies.

b. **Emplacement of good governance through accountability and transparency.** The emplacement of good governance through accountability and transparency would mitigate the impact of corruption and public mistrust towards obtaining the support of people. This could be achieved by implementing policies and programmes that encourage transparency and accountability in governance.

c. **Implement inclusive policies and programmes to reduce ethnic tension.** Ethnic tension is a significant driver of conflict that undermines peace and stability in the Sahel region. Governments and leaders should work towards promoting inter-ethnic harmony, inclusivity and social cohesion through programmes that are unbiased and inclusive. This could be achieved through public engagement/dialogue, emplacing conflict resolution mechanisms and inclusive governance, where all groups have a say and stake in state and

regional affairs.

#### d. **Development of regional cooperation framework.**

Regional cooperation is crucial in addressing transnational security threats such as terrorism and organized crime. Countries in the Sahel should collaborate to share intelligence, resources, and expertise to improve security.

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## ONE-ON-ONE WITH THE PIONEER FOC NAVDOC

### Rear Admiral AN AYABA (RTD)

GSS psc (+ +) fdc MRIN FIIPS FOSHA ATC Bsc (Hons) Msc



Sir, Can you share some of the most memorable moments from your tenure as the pioneer Flag Officer Commanding Naval Doctrine Command ?

My tenure as the pioneer FOC NAVDOC was marked by shaping the future of the Command. These memorable moments and contributions not only defined my tenure but also set a strong foundation for the future of NAVDOC. Highlights of some of the most memorable moments and impactful contributions include:

#### First Major Exercise:

The Command Team of Observers oversaw the conduct of Exercise



Anti-Piracy Ex during  
OBANGAME Ex 2022

OBANGAME EXPRESS 2022, marking the first major naval

exercise under the new command. This exercise was a significant milestone, as it demonstrated the effectiveness of the newly established Command. The successful observation of this Exercise validated the operational capabilities of the Command and reinforced the importance of rigorous training. The insights and lessons learned from this exercise provided valuable feedback for further refining and strengthening the Command's operational strategies.

#### Visit to Pakistan Navy:

My visit to the Pakistan Navy on 2 occasions during my tenure as FOC is considered memorable. The first visit was to the Pakistan Navy Flag Officer Sea Training in June 2022, and the second was as Team Leader of the NN Delegation at Exercise AMAN 2023. These visits were



**FOC NAVDOC R/Adm AN Ayafa with  
PN Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Amjad Khan Niazi  
during Ex AMAN-23**

significant because they culminated in a Pakistan Navy Training Team visiting Nigeria to train NAVDOC personnel in doctrine and policy development, as well as honing their skills in conducting workups for ships. These engagements not only enhanced the professional capabilities of our personnel but also underscored the importance of international collaboration in achieving shared maritime security objectives. The strengthened ties and exchange of knowledge between the Nigerian and Pakistan Navies exemplify how cooperation can lead to mutual benefits and



**Ariel View of some sections  
of the renovated office blocks**

advancements in naval operations. **Commissioning Ceremony of Renovated Office Blocks:** Although there was no official inauguration of the NAVDOC, the commissioning of the renovated office blocks was a significant and memorable event for the Command. This event marked the culmination of extensive efforts to modernize and improve the working environment for naval personnel, showcasing the Command's commitment to operational excellence and resource management. It symbolized a new era for the Command, reflecting both progress and dedication to its mission.

**Institutionalizing the Command:** The successful transition from the Naval Doctrine and Assessment Centre (NDAC) to a full-fledged command was a transformative achievement that significantly enhanced the Navy's operational capabilities, organizational clarity, and readiness to face future challenges. It underscored the critical role of doctrine in modern naval warfare and the importance of having a dedicated command to develop and implement these strategies.

**Building a Cohesive Team:**

Forming a highly competent and motivated team within the Command, fostering a culture of excellence and innovation, was a key priority during my tour of duty. Significant efforts were made to develop personnel with the necessary skills and dedication. This included continuous professional development and an emphasis on the importance of teamwork, accountability, and a forward-thinking mindset. By encouraging open communication, creative problem-solving, and a commitment to high standards, the Command succeeded in building a highly motivated team that not only met but often exceeded operational expectations. These efforts were instrumental in creating an environment where excellence and innovation could thrive, ensuring the Command remained agile and effective in carrying out its tasks.

#### **Mentorship and Leadership:**

One impactful achievement during my tenure was mentoring young officers and establishing a leadership legacy within the Command to ensure its continued success and growth. The frequent reassignment of officers necessitated fostering a culture

of continuous improvement and high standards. This approach created a sustainable pool of qualified officers capable of seamlessly assuming responsibilities, thereby ensuring long-term stability and success for the Command.

**Sir, What was the most challenging aspect of leading a Command like NAVDOC, and how did you overcome it?**

Leading the then newly created NAVDOC, transitioning from NDAC, presented several challenges to me as the pioneer FOC. Here are some key aspects and strategies we employed to overcome them.

#### **Structural Reorganization:**

The Command began as the Sea Training Unit in 1993 and was subsequently renamed the NDAC in 2012 before its upgrade to the NAVDOC in 2022. Prior to its upgrade to a Command, the defunct units operated under a unique organizational structure at the Directorate level. Transitioning from a Centre to a full-fledged Command required significant structural changes, including hierarchy adjustments, resource allocation, and role redefinition. This was particularly

challenging as the Command had commenced operations without an established Nigerian Navy Order (NNO).

To address this challenge, we worked diligently on the structural reorganization process under the guidance of Naval Headquarters (NHQ). This effort led to the eventual promulgation of the Establishment NNO for the Command, which outlined the organizational structure and responsibilities of the principal officers. It is anticipated that this document will undergo reviews over time to address any shortcomings and ensure it remains effective.

### **Resource Management:**

Ensuring that the new Command had adequate resources (personnel, equipment, funding) was difficult, especially during the initial phases. The upgrade from NDAC to NAVDOC required experienced and skilled personnel to perform command functions effectively. Sourcing such personnel to man critical offices essential for administrative and operational exigencies was a significant challenge. However, the Command continued to liaise with NHQ and Command Naval Drafting to address the issue of

inadequate resources. Over time, funding for the Command was reviewed to be on par with other commands, and a reasonable number of personnel were also posted to the Command, albeit non-skilled. The Command made continuous efforts to train and develop these personnel to meet the Command's operational needs.

### **Training and Capacity Development:**

Personnel of the Command required additional training to adapt to new roles and responsibilities. This was a major challenge, as most of the key officers were newly appointed and had no prior knowledge of the



**During the NN-PN Work-up Skills Acquisition Training**

Command's roles and responsibilities. The Command addressed this aspect using a two-pronged approach. Firstly, tailored training programmes were developed to equip personnel with the basic skills and knowledge for their new roles. This process was, of course, time-

consuming and resource-intensive. Secondly, through NHQ, the Command leveraged the NN's training package with the Pakistan Navy and secured a mobile training team from the Pakistan Navy, which provided in-country training for NAVDOC personnel. Additionally, personnel were encouraged to seek continuous professional development to further enhance their capabilities. These efforts ensured that the Command's staff was well-prepared to meet operational demands and excel in their new roles.

**Sir, How did you perceive the role and importance of Naval Doctrine evolving during your tenure as the FOC?**

During my tenure as the FOC NAVDOC, I perceived the role and importance of Naval Doctrine as increasingly critical to the effectiveness



Rear Admiral AN AYafa (RTD)

and strategic direction of naval operations. Initially, doctrine served as a foundational guideline

for operations and training. However, as maritime threats and technologies advanced, the doctrine increasingly became a dynamic tool for strategic planning and decision-making.

Shortly before I was appointed as the FOC, I played a pivotal role in promulgating the first edition of the Nigerian Navy Doctrine. This foundational document provided a comprehensive framework for operational standards, strategic planning, and training, ensuring consistency and cohesion across all levels of command.

It is important to emphasize the need for continuous review and updating of our doctrines to reflect lessons learned from exercises and real-world operations. This adaptability helps maintain our operational effectiveness and readiness.

Overall, Naval Doctrine has evolved from a static set of guidelines to a vital, living document essential for modern naval warfare, underpinning our strategic initiatives and operational capabilities.

**Sir, What do you consider to be your most significant achievement or contribution to the Navy during your tenure as the FOC NAVDOC?**

One of the high points of my tenure as the pioneer FOC NAVDOC was overseeing the major infrastructural transformation of the command office blocks through direct labour after about 32 years. This significant project not only revitalized the facilities but also demonstrated effective resource management and a commitment to improving the working environment for naval personnel. I consider this one of my major achievements, reflecting my dedication to enhancing operational efficiency and contributing to the long-term sustainability of the Command. I remain eternally grateful to the then Chief of Naval Staff, Vice Admiral AZ Gambo, CFR AM, who approved and promptly funded the project.

Furthermore, although the First Edition of the Nigerian Navy Doctrine was published shortly before I assumed command of the NAVDOC, I consider it a significant contribution to the Navy, having overseen the entire production process. This document set the standard for future naval operations.

**Sir, What advice would you give young naval officers aspiring to leadership positions in the NN?**

Aspiring to leadership positions in the NN is not just about attaining a rank or title. It is about developing a deep-rooted dedication to service, engaging in lifelong learning, and relentlessly pursuing excellence in every endeavour. To me, dedication, continuous learning, and a commitment to excellence are interconnected and collectively contribute to holistic leadership development. Dedication fuels the motivation to engage in continuous learning, which in turn supports a commitment to excellence. This relentless pursuit of knowledge and improvement demonstrates young officers' unwavering commitment to the Service, making them a role model for others and a strong candidate for leadership positions. Continuous learning ensures that they stay ahead of advancements in naval operations and strategy, further solidifying their value and readiness for greater responsibilities. As JF Kennedy once said during his address at Vanderbilt University on 18 May 1963, 'Leadership and

learning are indispensable to each other.' This sentiment perfectly encapsulates the essence of aspiring to leadership within the Navy - where the pursuit of knowledge and dedication to service go hand in hand, shaping future leaders who are prepared to meet any challenge.

Below are some key pieces of advice for young NN officers aiming for leadership roles. By focusing on these areas, young officers can develop the skills, attributes, and experiences necessary to become effective and respected leaders in the NN.

### **Professional Development:**

Utilize the opportunities provided by the Service for learning and growth through professional military education and specialized training. Excel in all mandatory professional military courses, as your performance in these will significantly impact promotion boards. While career paths can be non-linear, it is important to note that exceptional success or recognition often begins early in one's career. Therefore, work hard from the start and sustain your efforts throughout your career. Hard work does not harm; it rather promotes growth and achievement. Additionally, pursue

advanced degrees to enhance your knowledge and skills as part of your self-development efforts. Maintain a high level of technical expertise in your field and stay updated on the latest technologies. Take advantage of every appointment and assignment to broaden your experience and become a well-rounded leader.

### **Leadership Skills:**

Lead by example, demonstrating integrity, professionalism, ethical behavior, and empathy at all times. In our environment, an empathetic leader is often mistakenly considered weak. However, empathy is crucial for effective military leadership as it improves communication, builds trust, and strengthens unit cohesion. It also enhances motivation and morale. Empathetic leaders are better at resolving conflicts, making informed decisions, and adapting to different situations, ultimately contributing to the overall effectiveness and success of naval operations. Empathy was a core attribute of my leadership style while I served in the NN.

### **Interpersonal Skills:**

Foster a collaborative environment by understanding the strengths and weaknesses of

your team members and leveraging them to achieve common goals. Show genuine concern for the well-being of your subordinates by understanding their challenges and supporting them in their professional and personal lives. Develop skills to manage and resolve conflicts effectively, as a harmonious team is crucial for mission success.

### **Personal Attributes:**

Develop mental and physical resilience. The demands of naval service can be challenging, and perseverance is essential to overcoming obstacles. Regularly reflect on your performance and seek feedback. Understand your strengths and areas for improvement, and take proactive steps to develop as a leader.

***Always act with integrity and hold yourself accountable.***

Trust and credibility are the foundations of effective leadership.

### **Build Relationships:**

Establish and maintain strong relationships with superiors, peers, and subordinates. Whenever you have the opportunity to work with a senior officer, prove your mettle and go beyond what is expected of you. Do this not as mere eye service, but by demonstrating genuine

dedication, initiative, and a commitment to excellence. Let hard work earn you mentors (erroneously referred to as godfathers in our parlance) and advocates, not bootlicking. Strive to create a positive and lasting impression, avoiding any actions that could tarnish your reputation. A solid network can provide support, advice, and valuable opportunities.

### **'Big-Picture Thinking':**

Cultivate the ability to think strategically. Understand how your role and actions at every level of your career, no matter how seemingly insignificant, fit into the broader mission and goals of the NN. If you are not contributing effectively at your current level, the Service will have no place for you at higher command levels. Every position you hold is critical to the Navy's success, and demonstrating your value consistently is essential for advancement.

### **Avoid Being Overly Cunning:**

Remain steadfastly committed to serving your country and fulfilling the NN's mission, prioritizing the needs of the Service over personal interests. Do not try to be 'too smart' by looking for ways to outsmart the system; those who do seldom make it to the top,

as the system tends to weed them out. Avoid the 'get rich quick' syndrome; the system has a way of rewarding those who wait patiently. Success in the Navy requires more than intelligence; it demands resilience, hard work, humility, and the ability to learn from failures. True achievement arises from a balanced combination of wisdom, effort, character, empathy, and faith.

**Sir, What are your thoughts on the current state of the Navy and its readiness to meet future challenges?**

Reflecting on the current state of the NN and its readiness to meet future challenges, I would offer the following observations:

#### **Current State**

##### **Modernization Efforts:**

The NN has continued to make significant strides in modernizing its fleet and infrastructure. The acquisition of new vessels and helicopters, the refurbishment of existing ones, and the incorporation of advanced technologies such as the Falcon Eye Maritime Surveillance System and UAVs are commendable steps towards enhancing operational capabilities.

##### **Training and Professional Development:**

There has been a concerted effort to improve training programmes and professional development opportunities for personnel. This includes partnerships with foreign navies, hosting and participation in international maritime exercises such as the Regional Maritime Exercise 2024 hosted by the NN in the Gulf of Guinea, Exercise OBANGAME EXPRESS and Exercise GRAND AFRICAN NEMO among others, and the establishment of training institutions such as the recently launched International Maritime Institute of Nigeria.

##### **Operational Efficiency:**

The NN has shown improved operational efficiency in recent years, with successful missions combating piracy, illegal fishing, crude oil theft, and other maritime security threats. The ongoing Operation DELTA SANITY has continued to yield significant successes, leading to the arrest of several suspects and vessels involved in crude oil theft. Enhanced surveillance and intelligence capabilities have also contributed to these achievements.

## Readiness to Meet Future Challenges

### Technological Advancements:

Continued investment in and integration of cutting-edge technologies will be crucial. This includes advancements in cyber warfare, unmanned systems, and artificial intelligence, which can significantly enhance situational awareness and response times.

### Personnel Development:

Ongoing training and development programmes must be prioritized to ensure personnel are equipped with the skills needed to effectively operate new acquisitions and adapt to evolving threats. Focus must continue to be given to leadership development to cultivate the next generation of naval leaders.

### Strategic Partnerships:

Strengthening strategic partnerships with other navies and international organizations will be vital. Such collaborations can provide access to advanced training, shared intelligence, and joint operational capabilities, enhancing overall readiness.

### Infrastructure and Logistics:

Continuous improvement of naval infrastructure and logistics is essential. Efforts should be geared towards modernizing the Naval Shipyard Limited and Naval

Dockyard Limited, expanding maintenance facilities, and ensuring robust supply chains to support sustained operational readiness.

### Doctrine and Strategy:

Regularly updating naval doctrine and strategy to reflect the changing security landscape is critical. This ensures that the Navy remains agile and capable of responding effectively to both traditional and asymmetric threats.

### Resource Allocation:

The Government must adequately and consistently fund the NN to support modernization, training, and operational initiatives. Effective resource management on the part of the NN will ensure that it can maintain and enhance its capabilities.

The NN has made significant progress and is on a positive trajectory towards greater readiness and capability. However, continuous efforts in modernization, personnel development, strategic partnerships, infrastructure improvement, and strategic planning are essential to meet future challenges successfully. With a steadfast commitment to these areas, the NN can continue to discharge its constitutional

roles, protect national interests and contribute to regional and global maritime security.

**Sir, Looking back on your career, is there anything you would have done differently, or are there any decisions you would have made differently?**

Looking back on my career, there are a few areas where I might have approached things differently. For instance, early in my career, I tended to focus heavily on the technical aspects of my roles, sometimes at the expense of building stronger relationships with my peers and subordinates. If I had the chance to do it over, I would have invested more time in cultivating these relationships from the outset, as I have come to realize the immense value of teamwork and mutual support.

Additionally, there were times when I was hesitant to delegate tasks, preferring to handle everything myself to ensure it was done to 'my standards'. Over time, I learned that empowering others and trusting their capabilities not only develops their skills but also enhances overall team performance.

Given another chance, I would

have placed an even greater emphasis on impacting the lives of the men who worked with me, especially in terms of their welfare. Ensuring the well-being and personal development of my team members was always a priority, as I have always believed that a happy and well-supported team is essential for achieving our mission objectives. By focusing more on their welfare, I would have further strengthened the team's cohesion and overall effectiveness, ultimately enhancing our ability to accomplish our goals.

These reflections have been crucial in shaping my approach to leadership. I am now more focused on fostering collaboration, trust, and welfare within my teams. Every decision and experience, whether perfect or imperfect, has contributed to my growth and has prepared me to face future challenges with a more balanced and insightful perspective. Ultimately, I have come to understand that the true measure of leadership lies in the positive impact we have on the lives of those we lead.

**Sir, How do you plan to stay engaged with naval issues and the Navy community now that you have retired from active service?**

I had not given much thought to staying engaged with naval issues and the Navy community post-retirement, as I initially viewed retirement as a time to rest, rediscover myself, and pursue endeavours unrelated to naval activities. However, I now recognize that there are various avenues to remain involved with naval matters. These include consultancy, advisory roles, educational contributions, and advocacy in support of naval interests, among others.

With the recent launching of the International Maritime Institute of Nigeria and my involvement on advisory role, I plan to stay updated on naval issues through continuous learning by attending courses, seminars, workshops, and conferences to keep abreast of new developments and technologies. I also intend to maintain professional networks by connecting with former colleagues through social media groups and online communities dedicated to naval issues, attending naval events when invited, and

participating in industry gatherings where possible.

By leveraging my extensive experience and knowledge, I can continue to make significant contributions to the naval community and stay actively engaged with naval issues. This engagement will not only allow me to stay connected with the Navy but also enable me to mentor and guide the next generation of naval leaders.

**Thank you  
for your time Sir,  
Wish you the best in  
retirement.**



**Rear Admiral AN AYafa (RTD)**  
GSS psc (+ +) fdc MRIN FIIPS FOSHA ATC Bsc (Hons) Msc

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10, Pelewura Crescent, Apapa, Lagos State. Post Code: 101251, Nigeria.  
234 706 1185 234, [admin@brickslimited.com](mailto:admin@brickslimited.com)  
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