



---

# The Impacts of Nigeria's Military on National Development

**Aderogba, Ademola A.**

Lagos State University of Science and Technology  
Ikorodu, Lagos State, Nigeria

E-mail: [molaaderogba2019@gmail.com](mailto:molaaderogba2019@gmail.com)

ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1732-1997>

## ABSTRACT

In most of the discussions on the military-society relations in the third world countries, attempts were made to conclude that military involvement in politics; the role outside its statutory role was part of the causes of instability of democratic governance. In those countries, sooner after overthrowing the legitimate regimes, findings show that they were unable to perform better. The focus of this study however, was to look at it differently by examining the non-traditional military positive impacts on the Nigeria's national development. Although, despite its undemocratic involvement in politics and contribution to bad governance, there are evidence that shows its contribution to development. The conclusion is that these avenues must be properly harnessed. To improve the military-society relations for the purpose of creating enabling environment that can facilitate more positive contributions to nation building, autonomy, adequate funding, and professionalism are suggested

**Keywords:** Democratic governance, Military, National development, National security

---

## Journal Reference Format:

Aderogba, A.A. (2020): The Impacts of Nigeria's Military On National Development. *Humanities, Management, Arts, Education & the Social Sciences Journal*. Vol. 8 . No. 2, Pp 79-90.

DOI: [dx.doi.org/10.22624/AIMS/HUMANITIES/V8N2P5](https://doi.org/10.22624/AIMS/HUMANITIES/V8N2P5)

---

## 1. INTRODUCTION

There are variations in the political perception of the national armed services. In some societies, the armed forces strive to exert dominant political influence, in others, it remains a mute servant of the government in control; in yet others, it periodically pressures the government to carry out the armed forces' will. The armed forces, or factions within them, may be aligned with existing political or social groups; they may stand aloof from partisan strife to protect their own organizational integrity; or they may be solicited by contending groups for support in struggles for power (.Nicole, 1989; Feaver, 1996; Howard, 1957). Professionalism, as applied to African military officers, is an ambiguous concept and in many cases ambivalent in impact. One can point to features that parallel those of Western armies; education, training, corporate identity, and, to a certain degree, lifestyles (Bletz, 1972). In the developing societies of Africa, Asia and Latin America, civilian supremacy is rare.



The military's role in politics knows no bounds. Major period of post-independence Nigeria was under military rule and there seems to be divergent views on the role and impacts of the military on present state of the country. This paper therefore, intends to examine contextually the military-society relations in Nigeria, and to identify positive impacts of the military on Nigeria's national development. Also, it intends to suggest ways of improving military-society relations for the purpose of compartmentalizing roles of the military. Therefore, the structure of the paper includes concept of military, characteristics of the military elites, nature of the Nigerian Army, constitutional role, involvement in governance, impacts of the military on national development of Nigeria, challenges, conclusion and recommendations.

### **1.1 The Concept of Military**

The concept of military, also known as armed forces, is a complex and multidimensional subject that has been explored by scholars from various disciplines such as political science, international relations, sociology, history, and military strategy. It is a broad field that covers the study of the organization, training, and deployment of armed forces for state purposes, including defense against external threats and maintaining internal security. The concept of military refers to a group or organization that has been established by a government or state to protect its citizens from external threats and enforce its laws and policies. The military has various roles, including defending the territorial sovereignty of a country, maintaining internal security, responding to natural disasters, and carrying out peacekeeping operations (Halvorson, 2010).

The history of the military can be traced back to ancient times, where it was often composed of a warrior class or nobility. The modern military is usually composed of trained professionals who are highly skilled in combat, warfare, and other specialized fields. These professionals are organized into various branches, such as the army, navy, air force, and coast guard. Each branch is tasked with specific roles and responsibilities, although they often work in collaboration with each other to achieve a common goal (Swain & Pierce, 2017).

The military is an important institution in society, as it helps to maintain law and order, protect citizens from external threats, and maintain peace in times of crisis (ICRC, 2002). However, the use of military force is often controversial, particularly in instances where it involves the use of violence or force against civilians. There have been various debates over the years regarding the role and scope of the military in society. Some argue that the military should be used more selectively, only in instances where there is a clear and present danger to national security or human life. Others argue that a strong military is necessary to maintain deterrence and prevent attacks from potential adversaries.

Scholars from different disciplines have contributed to our understanding of military organization, strategy, and deployment. Sun Tzu and Carl von Clausewitz laid the cornerstone for the study of military strategy. Martin van Creveld and Hew Strachan provide insights into the changing nature of warfare and the impact of logistics on military outcomes. Anthropologist Marysia Zalewski examines the role of gender in military culture, while Richard Betts highlights the importance of civilian control over the military and the challenges of strategic decision-making.



These debates and perspectives help us understand the complexity of military action and the need for careful consideration of its context, moral and ethics.

## 2. CHARACTERISTICS OF MILITARY ELITE

Regardless of the training and experience during the colonial period, most armies of new states quickly develop their own styles. This was evident in the pre-coup Nigerian army as well as in the Ghanaian military. Differing political perspectives and tribal loyalties are still characteristics of the African military. As society modernizes and subdues tribal and ethnic loyalties, the military will probably also rise above parochial considerations. However, the African military tends to be modernistic in outlook but still exhibit local peculiarities.

In view of this consideration, armies in black Africa are likely to develop a high propensity for political involvement. The need for armies was obvious, yet there was a distinct difference between the purposes of colonial armies and those of independent Africa. In addition, colonialism stimulated the development of a modern military institution before the political modernization of society. The nature of modernization in developing societies creates social tensions and power struggles within a political culture undergoing transformation, which usually aid the military in becoming a highly effective political institution. As Lee (1979) points out, the military of each African state is likely to develop its own perspective, if it becomes the military government; it is likely to develop its own distinctive style of rule (DeCalo, 1976). In any case, as it is true in other states, African military systems generally reflect their societies.

### 2.1 Nature of Nigerian Military

Nigerian military evolved during the colonial era to satisfy the interest of the British. The military was used to check radical nationalist and subsumed communist influence in order to ensure that the interest groups opposed to British governance did not gain a strong foothold within the country. These in the final analysis ensured that the British core interests were firmly secured. From the above, it is inferred that from the inception of the Nigerian military, one of the basic reasons for its establishment was to ensure that the development of the nation was in line with the interest of the colony. Nigerian military comprised of army, navy and air force.

**Nigerian Army:** The visit of Queen Elizabeth II to Nigeria in 1956 led to the renaming of the previous Northern and Southern Regiments as the Queen's own Nigerian Regiment (QONR), which was renamed the Nigerian Military Force (NMF) after autonomy, to the Royal Nigerian Army after independence and finally, the Nigerian Army, after gaining Republican status in 1963. **Nigerian Navy:** By 1956, there was policy statement by the government for the establishment of the Nigerian Naval Force. This issue was presented to the House of Representatives via Sessional Paper No.6 of 1956 which was approved on 26 March 1956. By 1964, the Navy Act was passed which gave birth to the Nigerian Navy. The Act therefore approved the Navy's roles to include the protection of the country's territorial waters and the seaward protection of Nigeria.



Nigerian Air Force: By 19 April 1964, Nigeria and Germany signed an agreement for the German Air Force Assistance Group (GAFAG) to assist in building the nation's air force. This marked the genesis of the birth of the present NAF. However, the formal establishment of the NAF took place on 18 April 1964 with the passage of the Nigerian Air Force Act No.11 of 1964 by the Nigerian Parliament.

### **3. CONSTITUTIONAL ROLE OF THE MILITARY IN NIGERIA**

The role of the military in Nigeria has been a subject of intense debate and scrutiny since the country gained independence in 1960. The military has played a prominent role in Nigeria's political history, including several coups and military rule. However, since the country's returned to civilian rule in 1999, the role of the military has been redefined within the framework of the country's constitution. The Nigerian Constitution recognizes the role of the military in safeguarding the territorial integrity of the country, maintaining law and order, and protecting the lives and property of citizens. According to Section 217 of the Constitution, the Nigerian Armed Forces consist of the Army, Navy, and Air Force, which are responsible for defending Nigeria against external aggression and maintaining its territorial integrity. The Constitution also empowers the military to aid civil authorities in maintaining law and order, particularly in times of emergency or when called upon by the President.

The Constitution also provides for the establishment of the National Defence Council (NDC), which is responsible for advising the President on matters relating to national security and defence. The NDC is composed of the President, the Vice President, the Minister of Defence, the Chief of Defence Staff, and the Service Chiefs. The NDC is charged with developing policies and strategies for national defence and security, as well as ensuring the coordination and integration of the various security agencies in the country. The Nigerian Constitution also grants the military the power to arrest and detain individuals suspected of committing crimes against the state or national security. This power is derived from Section 217(2)(c), which states that the Armed Forces shall have "such other functions as may be prescribed by an Act of the National Assembly."

However, the exercise of this power has been a subject of controversy in Nigeria, with some critics arguing that it has been abused by the military in the past to suppress political dissent and violate human rights. The Nigerian government has acknowledged these criticisms and has taken steps to address them, including the establishment of a National Human Rights Commission and the adoption of a National Action Plan on Human Rights. Therefore, the Nigerian Constitution recognizes the role of the military in safeguarding national security and maintaining law and order. However, this role is subject to the rule of law and the protection of human rights. The Nigerian government has taken steps to ensure that the military operates within the framework of the Constitution and respects the rights.

### **4. MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN GOVERNANCE IN NIGERIA**

Military involvement in governance in Nigeria can be traced back to the first military coup in the country in 1966, which overthrew the civilian government led by Prime Minister Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa (BBC News, 2016). Since then, Nigeria has experienced several military coups and interventions, which have had a profound impact on the country's politics and development.



The military's involvement in governance has been characterized by a tendency towards authoritarianism and a disregard for democratic principles. During military rule, Nigeria experienced widespread human rights violations, including arbitrary detention, torture, and extrajudicial killings, as well as widespread corruption and mismanagement of the country's resources (Zwanbim, 2017). One of the most significant periods of military rule in Nigeria was the period between 1983 and 1998, when General Ibrahim Babangida and General Sani Abacha ruled the country. During this period, Nigeria experienced a significant decline in economic development, with the country's per capita income declining from an estimated \$1200 in 1981 to about \$300 in 1998 (Ucha, 2010). The military also clamped down on political opposition, civil society organizations, and the media, leading to a significant deterioration in human rights (Iyaniwura, 2014).

Despite the negative impact of military rule on Nigeria's development and democracy, some argue that military intervention was necessary to address the challenges facing the country at the time. Some literature have argued that the military's intervention in Nigeria was necessary to restore order and stability in a country that was on the brink of collapse due to corruption, ethnic tensions, and political instability (Ehwareme, 2011). However, others argue that military intervention has only worsened Nigeria's problems, and that the country's democratic institutions are still struggling to recover from the impact of military rule. The military's interference in Nigeria's politics has only served to undermine the country's democratic institutions, and many of the problems that the country faces today can be traced back to the legacy of military rule (Ojo, 2014).

In essence, the military involvement in governance in Nigeria has had a profound impact on the country's politics and development. While some argue that military intervention was necessary to address the challenges facing the country at the time, others argue that it has only worsened Nigeria's problems and undermined its democratic institutions. As Nigeria continues to grapple with the legacy of military rule, it is essential to ensure that the country's democratic institutions are strengthened and that the rule of law is upheld.

## **5. IMPACTS OF NIGERIAN MILITARY ON NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

The impacts of the Nigerian military can be classified into two, namely; achievement relating to performance of their traditional responsibilities and achievements relating to the responsibilities outside their traditional constitutional role.

### **5.1 Achievements through the Traditional Activities**

The primary responsibility of the military among others has been to defend Nigeria from external aggression. The Nigerian military is one of the most significant military forces in Africa, with a long history of defending the country's territorial integrity and tackling various security challenges that threaten national security. Over the years, the military has recorded significant achievements in various areas, including peacekeeping operations, counter-terrorism, and capacity building. One of the significant achievements of the Nigerian military is its successful peacekeeping operations. The country has always been at the forefront of international peacekeeping efforts, making immense contributions to the United Nations' peacekeeping operations around the world since the 1960s. Nigeria ranks as one of the largest contributors of peacekeeping troops to the UN, with over 5,000 Nigerian troops currently deployed in several countries worldwide.



The Nigerian troops were the military backbone of the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) from 2003-2018 (UN, 2018). The country's peacekeeping forces have been instrumental in restoring and maintaining peace in regions such as Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Darfur in Sudan. Furthermore, the Nigerian military has played a significant role in the fight against terrorism, insurgency, and other threats to national security. In recent years, the country has been grappling with the rise of Boko Haram, an armed militant group that seeks to establish an Islamic caliphate in Northern Nigeria. The Nigerian military, along with its allies, has been at the forefront of the fight against Boko Haram, with significant successes being recorded.

For instance, in December 2016, the military successfully took over the Sambisa Forest in Borno State, the stronghold of Boko Haram and rescued numerous captives. Additionally, the military has successfully countered several attacks by the group and managed to retake control of several towns and territories previously held by the terrorist group (BBC News, 2016). Besides, the Nigerian military has been proactive in building its capacity and developing the necessary skills and strategies for effective national defense. In recent years, the military has embarked on various capacity-building initiatives, including training and retraining of personnel, equipping its forces with modern technologies and weaponry, and the establishment of new military bases in strategic locations across the country (Ajibola, 2015). These initiatives have significantly increased the military's operational efficiency, and contributed to a stronger and more secured Nigeria.

Therefore, we can adduce that the Nigerian military has made significant achievements in various areas, including peacekeeping operations, counter-terrorism, and capacity building. These achievements demonstrate the military's commitment in protecting the country's territorial integrity, maintaining peace and stability, and promoting national progress. As Nigeria continues to grapple with security threats, the military's unwavering determination and dedication remain crucial to addressing these challenges and ensuring a safer and more prosperous Nigeria.

## 5.2 Non-Traditional Activities

**It provides conducive environment to national development:** Its roles, particularly in the Third World countries have almost extended beyond involvement in combat. Indeed, most governments view a powerful military force as being essential to attract respect from neighboring countries and maintaining peace within its own population. The military as an instrument is now increasingly being used as a protective shield to national development. The Nigerian Military in conformity with national objective is able to achieve an acceptable collective security regime within the West African sub-region and beyond. This has generated confidence building and good neighbourliness with countries that are contiguous to our border such as Chad, Niger, Benin, Equatorial Guinea and Sao Tome and Principe.

The peaceful co-existence has brought about bilateral cooperation between Nigeria and the contiguous countries. For example, Nigeria and Benin have a joint venture in the cement company in Cotonou, with the bulk of the workforce being from Nigeria. Also, the French University in Badagry, Lagos is owned by the 2 countries. The peaceful atmosphere provided by the Nigerian military has contributed to the inter-boundary economic activities. Presently, the contiguous countries relied on finished products of goods from Nigerian industries like Unilevers, Nigerian bottling Company, Nigerian Plastics industries, ANAMMCO, to mention just a few.



These are indirect ways by which the military has contributed to national development.

**It enhances national integration:** The last decade has witnessed an increasing manifestation of religious fanaticism as evidenced by the communal crisis in Shagamu in 2003, between the members of the Oodua People's Congress (OPC) and the Hausa Community. Many lives and properties were lost. In Lagos, the OPC equally took on Ijaw youths at Ajegunle. At the end of the clashes, 23 lives were lost. The last communal clash between the youths at Odi village near Yenogoa, the Bayelsa State capital over the environmental problems of the area and resource sharing brought about the murder of some policemen on official patrol duties.

Similar incidents were recorded in Kano, Kaduna, Bauchi, Taraba and recently Jos, Plateau State. In most cases, when the police whose duty is to provide and maintain security within the states cannot cope with the handling of the situation, the armed forces were drafted in line with the constitutional role of suppressing and acting in aid to civil authorities to restore order when called upon to do so by the President, but subject to such conditions as may be prescribed by an Act of the National Assembly. The military performing such roles bring about normalcy and restores atmosphere conducive for peace, stability and economic activities and by extension to national development.

**It provides health support:** The military hospitals, medical reception centre and sick bays in the formations and units of the 3 Services all over the country have continuously contributed to national development through its Healthcare Development Programmes. Military hospitals, serve as centres of excellence for health services to the military personnel, their families and the public by their facilities and qualified personnel. The military hospitals have contributed to raising awareness about the HIV/AIDS pandemic through public enlightenment campaigns, posters, seminars and symposia. They have also stemmed the pandemic within the military and other segments of the population nationwide through preventive and control measures. The military medical support facilities have been used to looking after the infected patients through distribution of necessary anti-retroviral drugs to affected patients while ensuring that the stigmatization of infected patients are eliminated by the caring attitude of the medical personnel. The military hospitals all over the nations also serve the civilians around the barrack.

**In addition, it provides educational support:** Presently, there are the Nigerian Military School (NMS), Zaria, the Air Force Military School, Jos, and the Navy Secondary School in Abeokuta. Also, the Nigerian Army established five Command Secondary Schools (CSS) with full boarding facilities within 1 Division, Kaduna, 2 Division, Ibadan, 3 Division, Jos, 81 Division, Lagos and 82 Division, Enugu Area of Responsibility respectively. There are at least 5 Command Day Secondary Schools in each Division. These schools are administered by Defence Headquarters (DHQ) through the various Services Education Corps and Departments. President Buhari added Airforce University, to the Nigeria Defence Academy (University)

While the military schools have military officers as Commandants, the Vice Principals and other teachers are mainly civilians of different academic disciplines employed by the Ministry of Defence (MOD). There are other administrative staff members employed to serve these schools. From the above, it could be deduced that the military contributes to national development through the employment of civilians from the larger society.



**Furthermore, it generates substantial employment of labour:** the statistics of employment within the period of 10 years (1994-2003) indicate that 46,798 were employed into the military; 41,257 into Army, 4,622 employed into the Navy, and 3,931 into the Air Force (Data from DOAA, MS(A), NHQ and NAF, 2005).

**It facilitates career development:** The members of the larger society on enlistment/recruitment undergo training to make them fit for the purpose they were employed. Such training inculcates the ideals of nationalism and patriotism into them as they gradually become military personnel. These values make the military to be the symbol of national development. On completion of initial military training, some of these men and women as qualified doctors are posted to military hospitals to render services to the people. At times, they render assistance to patients during emergencies and crises. Others become engineers in various fields and contribute to national development with their participation in the relevant fields of specialization.

Some of the women too are nurses, caterers, and teachers. The military played a critical role in the 1980s when the Federal Civil Servants went on massive strikes to protest the government policies then. The military took control of all the important public utilities such as NEPA, Water Corporation, Railway Corporation, NITEL and prevented total collapse of services to the members of the public. Doctors and nurses among the military officers and soldiers were drafted to public hospitals to render services to Nigerians. This exercise was code named second eleven and it was a major contribution to national development as the country was saved from the great sabotage planned by the Civil Servants.

**It contributes to the infrastructural development:** The Nigerian Army, through the Nigerian Army Engineers (NAE), undertook the construction of roads and bridges in Ikom, Cross River State. Also, between 1963 and 1964, the 1<sup>st</sup> Field Squadron of NAE located in Kaduna was given an uphill task of constructing roads leading to Mambilla Plateau, which no contractor was willing to undertake due to its geographical terrain. Mambilla Plateau is very fertile for cultivation, livestock rearing and tourism. The location has since been generating revenue accruable from the agro allied/tourist businesses yearly. The military's ability to open up the area for development at inception was its contribution to national development.

In the same vein, the NAE in 1971, reconstructed a service road along Western Avenue, Lagos and rehabilitated the Port Harcourt-Aba-Oron Road. It saved ₦24,000 then on a new road, linking Ojuelegba and Idi-Oro Round About in Lagos. As at date, the NAE has advanced in its chosen profession and gone beyond ordinary roads and bridges construction to the provision of houses, barracks construction, maintenance/repairs of barracks and providing potable water for troops in Bakassi, among others.

**Constructing the Nigerian army housing scheme:** The Nigerian military has a branch of the NAE named Post Service Housing Directorate (Army) (PHD(A) established through the Army Memorandum No. AC (95) 42 dated March 1996. The PHD(A) has constructed, renovated, modified over 1,500 houses of various types and shapes for members of the Armed Forces and civilians alike, while about 144 units are under construction in 13 States and Federal Capital Territory (PHA 2005 Record).





The NAE had also undertaken construction and rehabilitation of major army barracks in the country. For example, the Engineer Construction Regiment (ECR) Ede was designed and constructed by the Nigerian Armour Corps Centre and School (NACCS) Barracks, Bauchi in 1996. This project was a display of excellence, competence and professionalism by the NAE personnel. It saved huge sums of money for the government and the job was favourably compared in quality with any other barracks contract awarded to the civilian construction companies.

**It contributes to the pharmaceutical productions:** The Nigerian Army Small Scale Drug Manufacturing Unit (NASDMU) Ltd project began in 1995 and was commissioned on 22 September 1998. The company has the capacity of producing 760 million tablets and 80 million capsules per annum. The company presently produces tablets and capsules dosage forms, with enough floor space to produce other dosage forms like liquid, semi-solid, inject tablets and others in the near future. The list of products range from NASDMU is in Table 1 below.

**Table 1: List or Product Range Produced by NASDMU**

SERIAL	NAME OF PRODUCT	GENERIC
1.	TAB NACEMOL	Paracetamol 500mg
2.	TAB NASMOPRIN	Aspirin 300 mg
3.	TAB NASMOQUIN	Chloroquine Phosphate 150nmg base
4.	TAB NARAMINE 4mg	Chloropheniamine malaste 4mg
5.	TAB NABCO	Vitamin B-Complex (B1, B2, B6)
6.	TAB NAVIC	Vitamin C-100mg
7.	TAB NACOTRIM	Trinmethoprim/sulphatemethoxazole 1:5
8.	TAB NADAZOLE 200mg	Metronidazole 200mg
9.	CAP NACYCLINE 250mg	Tetracycline 250ng
10.	CAP NAMPICILIN 250mg	Ampicillin Trihydrate 250mg
11.	CAP NAMPHENICOL 250mg	Chloraphenicol Powder levogyre 250mg

Source: NASDMU Ltd

The Managing Director confirmed that the NASDMU drugs are manufactured under stringent Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP), This guarantees quality, reliability and availability. NASDMU Ltd is duly registered with relevant control agencies, such as National Drug Regulatory Agencies, National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC), Pharmacists Council of Nigeria (PCN) and Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Group of Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (PMG-MAN). It was also confirmed that the products met the highest standard achievable worldwide.

**The Nigerian military also invents the Medical tools:** The present system of transfusing stored blood to patients is ineffective, sometimes it gets the patient depressed. Brigadier General Oviemo Ovadje of Military Hospital, Lagos, thought of the need for a device that allows for antilogous transfusion. That mechanism allows the patient's own blood to be re-cycled back to his body system, while ensuring 100% purity. That led to the invention of the Emergency Auto Transfusion Set (EAT-SET) in 1989. It prevents blood wastage and the patient's blood could be saved and re-infused without contamination. It has undergone experimental stages and found suitable for its purpose. Undoubtedly, Brig. General Ovadje has made the Nigerian military proud.



**Specialized contribution by the Nigerian Navy:** The Nigerian Navy established the Naval Dockyard (NND) in 1965, located at Victoria Island, Lagos. It was established to acquire the capabilities for designs, construction and integration maintenance of workshops, to provide the strategic hubs for development of the maritime industry that has become vital to Nigeria's economic survival. The Dockyard has capacity for the repair of ship's main engines, generators, electric motors, guns, Mooring Buoys, galvanization of ship parts and electronic.

The NND also engaged in building and repairs of tug-boats, fuel and water barges for oil and gas companies in the Niger Delta. The military contributions to this sub-sector amount to over N30 million per annum as revenue generated to the government. It is capable of producing certain categories of ships like trawlers, boats for inshore and offshore patrols and other similar craft for security of offshore economic assets of the nation. The NN has equally reduced illegal bunkering of crude oil and refined petroleum products. Between 2000 and 2005, the NN arrested 49 Tankers, 6 Tug Boats and 180 Barges for illegal bunkering. This saved the country huge foreign exchange that could have been carted away while national development suffers.

**Specialized contribution of the Nigerian Air Force:** The Nigerian Air Force through the 333 Logistic Group is responsible for third and fourth line maintenance of aircraft used for flying training operations in NAF. Its coordination of training programmes for NAF engineers and technicians locally has saved huge amount of foreign exchange for the NAF. It also has a Research and Development (R&D) for the production of various aircraft components which the civil aviation industries have taken advantage of. This is a source of revenue generation to NAF and contribution to national development.

The NAF has a liquid oxygen hanger which provides cheaper maintenance and services to the aviation industry. This is additional to the motor vehicle refurbishment plant at the Group Technical Unit that serves the public for their vehicle maintenance needs. These services generate revenue for NAF. Also, the Engine Overhauling Centre is capable of maintaining the Bulldog and Air Beetle aircraft engines. This is cost saving for NAF.

## 6. CHALLENGES OF THE MILITARY

The Nigerian military has faced numerous challenges in recent times, ranging from inadequate funding to poor equipment and corruption. These challenges have had a significant impact on the ability of the military to effectively carry out its duties and maintain national security. One of the major challenges facing the Nigerian military is the issue of inadequate funding. Despite being one of the largest military forces in Africa, the Nigerian military has been plagued with a lack of funding, which has resulted in a shortage of equipment and training for troops. The Nigerian military's budget has been steadily decreasing since 2015 and this has resulted in a lack of funds for critical areas such as intelligence gathering, logistics, and training for troops (Duruji et al, 2018). Another challenge is the issue of corruption within the military. Another challenge facing the Nigerian military is corruption, which has permeated all levels of the military hierarchy. The misappropriation of funds meant for the procurement of weapons and equipment, as well as the embezzlement of soldiers' salaries, has demoralized troops and weakened their fighting capabilities.



In 2016, a report by Amnesty International accused the military of engaging in widespread human rights abuses, including torture, extrajudicial killings, and rape. The report also highlighted the role of corruption in exacerbating these abuses (Amnesty International, 2016). The lack of adequate equipment and training for troops is another major challenge facing the Nigerian military. The military has been unable to acquire modern equipment, which has made it difficult for troops to effectively combat insurgent groups such as Boko Haram. Additionally, the military has been criticized for its poor training methods, which have resulted in lack of discipline and professionalism among troops (International Crisis Group, 2016).

Insurgency is another major challenge facing the Nigerian military, particularly the Boko Haram insurgency in the northeast. Despite the military's efforts to combat the insurgency, it continues to pose a significant threat to the country's security and stability. The military's lack of adequate equipment, training, and motivation has allowed the insurgency to persist, resulting in the loss of thousands of lives and displacement of millions of people. The military has also been accused of human rights violations, including illegal detentions, extrajudicial killings, torture, and rape, which have allegedly eroded public trust and support for the military (Ouedraogo, 2014).

## 7. CONCLUSION

This study set out to determine the role of the Armed Forces in Nigeria. The objective of the study was to examine how these roles, though, not compatible with the traditional roles can be encouraged in the democratic dispensation. It is agreed that the Armed Forces are part and parcel of state formation and is thus a political institution. Civilian control of Armed Forces cannot be achieved without channeling its energy on productivity beneficial to the citizens.

Armed Forces throughout history have claimed the right to exercise autonomy in its internal organization and operations. An end-means separation is easy in theory but difficulty in reality. The dividing line shifts from issue to issue, and clearly differs from country to country. Tasks that are under exclusive military jurisdiction in one society may in another nation be shared between civilian and military authorities and elsewhere reside totally with civilians. However, the Nigerian military faces numerous challenges that have had a significant impact on its ability to effectively carry out its duties. The issue of inadequate funding, corruption, and poor equipment and training for troops are some of the challenges that must be addressed if the Nigerian military is to effectively combat the various security threats facing the country and contributing positively in non-traditional roles.

## 8. RECOMMENDATIONS

The findings reveal that the Nigerian military has potential to contribute positively to national development and democratic sustenance; therefore, the following are recommended:

- a. There must be adequate funding.
- b. Military autonomy in certain aspects must be upheld.
- c. Before civilians can effectively subordinate the military they need to learn about the military.
- d. After years of military involvement in politics, professionalism must be pursued with vigour.
- e. Above all, redefining of societal values and good governance is essential to keep the military away from politics.



## REFERENCES

1. Ajibola, A. (2015, Oct 27). Britain Trains 150 Nigerian Army Personnel. *Channels TV*. Available Online: <https://www.channelstv.com//2015/10/27/bitain-trains-150-nigerian-army-personnel/>
2. Amnesty International. (2016). Nigeria: Stories of horror from the North East. Available Online: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2016/05/nigeria-stories-of-horror-from-the-north-east/>
3. BBC NEWS (2016a, Jan 15). How First Coup Still Haunts Nigeria 50 Years On. Available Online: <https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-35312370.amp>
4. BBC News. (2016b, December 25). Nigerian army 'takes Boko Haram stronghold Sambisa Forest.' Retrieved from <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-38421080>
5. Bletz D.F (1972). *The Role of the Military Professional in US Foreign Policy*. New York: Praeger, P. 49.
6. Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (1999)
7. Coplin W.D., O'Leary, M.K & Shapiro H.B (1973). *Case Studies in the Use of Quantitative Techniques of Estimation and Forecasting in Foreign Policy Analysis*. Beverley Hills, Calif.: Sage.
8. Decalo S. (1973). Military Coup and Military Regimes. *The Journal of Modern African Studies*, 11(1), 105-127.
9. Decalo S. (1976). *Coups and Army Rule in Africa*. New Haven: Yale University Press. P. 240.
10. Duruji, M., Idowu, S., Dibia, O. & Duruji-Moses, F. (2018). Military Budget, War Against Boko Haram Insurgency, and Its Impact on Nigerian Politics and Economy. *IGI Global*. DOI: 10.4018/978-1-5225-4778-5.ch022.
11. Ehwarieme, W. (2011). The Military Factor in Nigeria's Democratic Stability, 1999-2009. *Armed Forces & Society*, 37(3), 484-511.
12. Feit E. (1969). The Rule of the 'Iron Surgeons': Military Government in Spain and Ghana. *Comparative Politics*, 1(4).
13. Feaver P. (1996). The Civil-Military Problematique: Huntington, Janowitz and the Question of Civilian Control. *Armed Forces and Society*, 23(2), 149.
14. Finer S.E (1976). *The Man on Horseback: The Role of the Military in Politics*. Baltimore: Penguin Books.
15. Flint R.K. (1991). The Truman-MacArthur Conflict: Dilemmas of Civil-Military Relations in the Nuclear Age. in Richard H. Kohn (ed), *The Constitution and National Security: The Intent of the Framers*.
16. Halvorson, A. (2010). *Understanding the Military: The Institution, The Culture and The People*. SAMHSA. Available Online: [https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/military\\_white\\_paper\\_final.pdf](https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/military_white_paper_final.pdf)
17. Howard M. (1957). *Soldiers and Government: Nine Studies in Civil-Military Relations*. London: Eyre and Spottiswoode, P. 22.
18. International Committee of the Red Cross, ICRC (2002). *The Law of Armed Conflict: Internal Security Operations*. Available Online: [https://www.icrc.org/en/doc/assets/files/other/law11\\_final.pdf](https://www.icrc.org/en/doc/assets/files/other/law11_final.pdf)
19. International Crisis Group (2016). *Nigeria: The Challenge of Military Reform*. Belgium: International Crisis Group.



20. Iyaniwura, W. (2014). Corruption and Military Rule in Nigeria: An Overview 1966-1999. *Global Journal of Human-Social Sciences (F): Political Science*, 14(4), 1-6, ISSN: 2249-460X
21. Kim C.E.I, (1976). The Military-Civil Fusion as a Stable Political Model for Third World Nations. Paper presented at the Seminar on the Military as an Agent of Social Change, August 3-8, Mexico City.
22. Lee J.M.( 1969). Africans Armies and Civil Order. New York: Praeger, p.89.
23. Ojo, E. (2014). The Military and The Challenge of Democratic Consolidation in Nigeria: Positive Skepticism and Negative Optimism. *Journal of Military and Strategic Studies*, 15(4), 9-37, ISSN: 1488-559X
24. Ouedraogo, E. (2014). Advancing Military Professionalism in Africa. Washington D.C: The Africa Centre for Strategic Studies.
25. Swain, R. & Pierce, A. (2017). The Profession of Arms. Available Online: <https://ndupress.ndu.edu/Publications/Books/Armed-Forces-Officer/Article/1153508/chapter-2-the-profession-of-arms/>
26. The United States Military under the Constitution of the United States, 1789-1989, New York: New York University Press, p. 225.
27. Ucha, C. (2010). Poverty in Nigeria: Some Dimensions and Contributing Factors. *Global Majority E-Journal*, 1(1), 46-56.
28. United Nations (2018). Service and Sacrifice: Honouring Nigeria's Contribution to UN Peacekeeping. Available Online: <https://news.un.org/feed/view/en/story/2018/02/1002901/PeacekeepingNews>
29. Zolberg A.R. (1968). The Structure of Political Conflict in the New States of Tropical Africa. *The American Political Science Review* 62, 95.
30. Zwanbim, E. (2017). The Challenges of Transitional Justice in Nigeria: Echoes from The Oputa Panel. *Journal of Language, Technology & Entrepreneurship in Africa*, 8(2), 73-9