
IMPERATIVES OF SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS FOR NIGERIAN ARMY EDUCATION COMMAND SCHOOLS AND UNITS

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Abstract

Nigeria has witnessed a rising spate of insecurity in recent times. There have been cases of banditry and kidnapping in the Northwest region, herders-farmers in the North central region and renewed militancy attacks in the South-South region. The quest for secession which was prominent in the Southeast has extended to the Southwest raising tension in the regions. The effects of intense pressure of the Boko Haram and Islamic States of West African Province became prominent with the abduction of students of Government Girls Secondary School Chibok and Dapchi in April 2014 and March 2018 respectively. There has been other several abduction of school children with serious security implications. Research has shown implicit neglect in making stringent preparations in terms of physical measures and others to protect and secure school children against adversaries. This attempt is wake up counsel for Nigerian Army Education Corps to take pragmatic measures in preventing the adversaries from intrusion and abduction of command school children.

Introduction

The threat of terrorism, espionage, cyber-attacks and organized crimes have become ubiquitous feature of African societies, and consequently the demand for research on how to mitigate and protect society from intentional and malicious threats is stronger than ever. During the last couple of years, African countries especially in West and East Africa, have witnessed an increase in terrorist attacks stemming from Islamic terrorism, and the prospect of similar attacks to occur in the future seems alarmingly likely. Consequently, security, meaning protection from intentional and malicious harm, is on the rise as a pressing research topic. In Nigerian, the threat posed by Boko Haram and Islamic State of West African Province (ISAWAP) have expanded from Northern Nigeria to other hinterlands. The permeation is so intense that all parts of Nigeria is experiencing the heat of insecurity.

The Nigeria's national security interests are defined in terms of strengthening the Federal Republic, advancing her interests and objectives, containment of instability and improvement of the welfare and quality of life of every citizen. It is in recognition of this that former President, Olusegun Obasanjo GCFR in his Grand Strategy for National Security stated that "Nigeria's national security is the aggregate of security interests of all individuals, communities, ethnic groups and political entities that inhabit Nigeria" (Wolfers,1999). The Armed Forces being the most visible

expression of a nation's sovereignty must be prepared at all times not only to secure its place in the comity of nations, but also to safeguard the citizens against all forms of threats, be they external or internal.

These roles have been, in the case of Nigeria, duly stated in Section 217(2) of the 1999 Constitution (as amended). Its provision saddles the Armed Forces of Nigeria with the responsibilities of defending the nation from external aggression, and maintaining its territorial integrity and securing the borders from violation by land, sea and air. The ultimate aim is to guarantee the protection of our cherished values, national interests in order to promote meaningful development (Nwolise, 1999). It should be noted that our national interest extends beyond the shores of Nigeria. Nonetheless, the series of abductions and kidnapping of school children in various parts of Nigeria have exposed the weakness of the state in protecting the students and also the need to bring the subject for research and public discourse. This paper, is intended to first make some definitions of security. This will be followed with brief discussion on security challenges confronting the nation Nigeria and the Nigerian Army in which Nigerian Army Education Corps (NAEC) is to also show some concerns. Thereafter, peculiar security threats in NAEC Schools and Units will be discussed before highlighting tips that will help units to secure their establishments. I am of the firm conviction that through this presentation today,

the understanding of the subject matter would arouse the importance of handling security matters in the establishment.

Defining security

The concept of security implies the feeling of being safe and secure, the lack of threats, and the management of future risks. However, the concept of security does not only evoke such positive connotations as being safe and free from danger. Generally summarised security is taken to mean freedom from risk or danger or fear; safety; confidence and the ability of a nation to protect and defend itself; promote its cherished values and legitimate interest and enhance the well-being of its people (Jarvis and Holland 2014). Thus, internal security could be seen as the freedom from or absence of those tendencies which could undermine internal cohesion and the corporate existence of the nation and its ability to maintain its vital institutions for the promotion of its core values and socio-political and economic objectives, as well as to meet the legitimate aspiration of the people.

However, increased focus on protection from terrorism, espionage, cybersecurity and other malicious crimes has led to increased academic interest in the topic of security, especially in risk and safety studies. Security can be defined as the perceived or actual ability to prepare for, adapt to, withstand, and recover from dangers and crises caused by people's deliberate, intentional, and malicious acts such as terrorism, sabotage, organized crime, or hacking. A new definition of security that incorporates elements associated with the current security research field is proposed. Security can be defined as the perceived or actual ability to prepare for, adapt to, withstand, and recover from dangers and crises caused by people deliberate, intentional, and malicious acts such as terrorism, sabotage, organized crime, or hacking (Jore 2017). Security is a serious business world-over and is the primary responsibility of any responsible government. There is no gainsaying the fact that terrorism is a growing threat to global, regional and national peace. It is a headache even for the advanced countries because of its unconventional nature. Akin to guerilla warfare, the masterminds are unpredictable, fluid and faceless. The political, social and military rules of engagement have been altered. An enemy who has nothing to lose is indeed a dangerous enemy.

General Security

The concept of security is as varied as the thoughts of one defining it. It encompasses all aspect of personal life, humans and nation in terms of collective effort or what is called collective security. Security simply means to secure something, it entails safety, freedom from danger and embarrassments. Security is to protect, guard, and watch over a place or a property. Security is the total awareness of what constitute security hazards in our environs. For example, dumping of refuse in the middle of the town, keeping a dirty environment, breaking of law and order. To be secured is wearing of clothes, saving money in the bank, working, farming, sending our children to a good school, having a personal shelter, locking of our doors when going out or when we want to sleep, saving money and security is to avoid bad habits. Without these in our minds, it becomes obvious that we will continue to live in fear of the unknown. If some Very Important Personalities (VIPs) were victims of assassinations and kidnappings because they were not sufficiently protected, it will be very difficult for an ordinary civilian or unarmed soldier to survive the wrath of the terrorists. If places like the Police Force Headquarters Abuja, Bayero University Kano, University of Maiduguri, religious places of worships such as churches and mosques were attacked, then what could be the faith of our offices and homes where we spend most of our time? Most at times, we do not take security serious until when something happens; then we would realize that the cost of repairs is always higher than the cost of prevention. That is why it is said "If you think Security is expensive, then try insecurity for a second".

Collective Security

Collective security refers to various types of arrangements for security. Strictly speaking, collective defence involving mutual commitments of member states could be considered a form of collective security, albeit one limited geographically to military defence eg NATO. More often, however, collective security is thought of as a regional and global concept represented by such international institutions as the African Union and European Union. Often, such arrangements are buttressed by concepts of international law and international aid and governance. Their distinguishing characteristics is their hybrid character between collective action at the international level and the acceptance of nation-states being ultimately

responsible for their own security. On the local level for instance, command Schools can collaborate with immediate communities to share information that could enhance harmony and security.

Security and Development

Security establishes the order for development. There are many definitions of security but Robert Mc Namara (1966) cited in Dunmony, 2011. "In all definitions, the summary is that security is development. Security is not military hardware, though it may include it. Security is not military force, though it may involve it. Security is not traditional military activity, though it may encompass it. Security is development. Without development, there can be no security. A developing nation that does not in fact develop simply cannot remain "secure." It cannot remain secure for the intractable reason that its own citizenry cannot shed its human nature" ().

SECURITY CHALLENGES CONFRONTING NIGERIA

Threats to Nigeria for which the military are called out are from both the external and internal sources. These will now be discussed.

EXTERNAL THREATS

Nigeria is surrounded by friendly countries though all Franco-phone countries of Benin Republic to the West, Niger Republic to the North West, Tchad to the North East and Cameroun to the East. Nigeria's friendly disposition towards her neighbors readily help to douse tensions when they arise. However, border demarcation issues, which are major fallout of the arbitrary colonial delineation of boundaries at the Berlin Conference of 1884 led to crises around the Bakassi Peninsular with Cameroun and almost resulted into a full blown war. Our nation's peaceful and big brotherly posture eventually led to the Green Tree Agreement which had resolved the conflict. There is also the issue of strategic economic interest around the Gulf of Guinea, with the huge deposit in oil and gas which some writers imagine could be a source of conflict in the future.

Nigeria is however prone to other security challenges due to the vast and porous borders, which are not well manned. The porous nature of the borders is exploited for arms, drugs and human trafficking from all the neighbouring countries. The rebel activities against the governments of Tchad, Niger and Sudan also

impact on national security (Mohammed, 1986). There is a direct route between Nigeria and Sudan through Tchad, which is being exploited by criminal elements to perpetrate armed banditry in the country.

Another dimension to this particular challenge is the threat of terrorism championed by the Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), which is actively supporting Boko Haram Sect in Nigeria. Activities of Boko Haram Sect in the Northern part of the country has become a major security threat as the Sect pursues an extremist ideology seeking to establish an absolute Islamic State starting with Borno State. The militant wing of the Sect has continued to pose serious threat to security and occasionally, attack law abiding citizens and members of the armed forces, the police and other security agencies.

On the economic front, the high rate of smuggling of goods into the country from our neighbours has contributed to the high rate of unemployment as local manufacturing entities cannot compete favourably with those imported and are cheaper, thus further exacerbating the socio-economic challenges in the country.

INTERNAL THREATS

Nigeria is a multi-faceted nation with plurality in religion, culture, ethnic and political differences. These differences are sometimes exploited by unscrupulous politicians to threaten the corporate existence of the nation. There have been serious ethno-religious crises this decade alone leading to unacceptably huge loss of lives and property. A few of the factors responsible for the escalating internal threats in the country are treated in subsequent paragraphs. Recent threats to security include the activities of Boko Haram in the North East region, banditry and kidnapping in the North Western states and herder-farmers clashes in the North Central region. Others are surging interest of agitation for secession in the West and Eastern region and militancy in the South-south regions of the country

Proliferation of Dangerous Weapons: Arms proliferation in Nigeria originates from trans-border trafficking in arms notably from the North East and North West Zones. These arms as mentioned earlier originate from crisis areas in Niger and Tchad Republics. There is also a thriving business of local arms manufacturing industry in some parts of the country especially in Plateau State and the South East Zone. These

illicit arms business have collectively fueled the ethnic and religious crises as well as communal conflicts and armed banditry being witnessed in some parts of the nation. The outcome of the fall of Libya resulted in increase of small arm proliferation in the country.

Kidnapping and Sabotage of Oil Installation: The intractable problem of kidnapping and armed robbery in the South East Zone reached its crescendo in September 2010 particularly in Abia State. Kidnapping business also thrived in the Niger Delta, targeted at expatriate oil workers with huge sum of money being demanded as ransom by the kidnapers. Kidnapping also contributed in drastic reduction of the level of economic and social activities in these areas.

Subversion: Subversion has to do with a calculated move or series of move, usually clandestine, designed to undermine a nation's governmental set-up. It includes all those subtle actions meant to undermine not only the military, but also the economic, political, psychological and moral strength of the nation. As a threat to internal security, subversion is particularly effective in Nigeria due to the way and manner elections are being rigged in Nigeria and the bad leadership style of our successive governments.

Sabotage: As the name implies, sabotage is the deliberate destruction of an industrial process, including the human and natural resources, or public utilities, as well as sensitive military installations in order to slow down their operations or bring them to a halt. Sabotage is however, not limited to the destruction of public property; it could also cover acts of obstruction such as refusal to work and preventing others from working, as well as deliberate distortion and violation of working and professional ethics. Sabotage is usually one of the techniques used by subversive and revolutionary elements, as well as radical and opposition groups who want to discredit the incumbent regime in order to wrest political power from the latter. Nigeria is prone to sabotage not because of the political intolerance that is widespread in the society.

Espionage: Espionage is simply the business of spying on one another by nations. It has to do with using secret agents who operate under various pretences to secure information about another state that is not usually available through normal channels. Due to the vital nature of such strategic information, actual and

potential enemies are prepared to go to any length to obtain such information. In this regard, their secret agents will be prepared to bribe their way through, use violence, or various forms of threat and blackmail to get nationals of the targeted state to divulge such information. They could even infiltrate the relevant establishments and steal such information to undermine Nigeria's developmental efforts.

Insurgency in Nigeria: The insurgent group **Boko Haram** is opposed to the **Westernisation** of **Nigeria**, which they maintain is the root cause of criminal behaviour in the country. Thousands of people have been killed in attacks perpetrated by the group, and the Nigerian federal government declared a state of emergency in May 2013 in **Borno State** in its fight against the insurgency. Boko Haram's attacks have intensified since 2014 with devastating effects.

PERCULIAR SECURITY THREATS FOR CONSIDERATIONS IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF NAEC SCHOOLS AND UNITS

NAEC Order of battle (ORBAT) established units spread across the country for ease of administration. The units range from Directorate of Command Schools Services, to Institute of Army Education and Directorate of Nigerian Army Library Services. We also have the Division Education units which support the Divisions, Brigade Education units to Education support Centres. In another line of the organogram constitute the command schools.

Threat analysis on NAEC units not located in the barracks shows that additional efforts are needed to secure the units. These are mainly in terms of physical, personal/personnel, cyber/espionage and collective security. It therefore becomes expedient that efforts are made to put up policy/regulations that will ensure security of lives and property in the units.

SECURITY CHALLENGES IN COMMAND SECONDARY SCHOOLS (DAY AND BOARDING)

At present NAEC has 15 Command Day Schools and 30 Command Secondary School Boarding. The newly established schools inclusive. It is important to note for instance that apart from the schools cited in the barracks,

most of the schools are yet to be completely fenced. This could make the schools vulnerable to external attacks. The attack could be in form of terrorism, bush burning and other fire outbreaks. Let me recall my experience in CSS Makurdi in 2014 when a group of youths were hunting for rats during dry season. The fire which was set at night somewhere far off from the school gradually generated into big fire that nearly engulfed the premises. In another occasion, the cattle herders infiltrated the location, during weekend, broke into the kitchen to eat up food stuff. Again Issues of kidnapping, abduction and other forms of terror were on the increase. The case of a gruesome murder of our own general, Brig Gen AE Okeyim, Comdt CSS Ibadan within the premises of the School in 2016 is still fresh in our minds. In the same vein, Boko Haram insurgents in their characteristic manner warned the Commandant, of the newly established Command Girl Secondary School Miringa of an impending attack and abduction of the students. The school was immediately relocated to Biu Town in order not take chances while other precautionary measures were taken to reinforce the school.

In command day secondary schools, transportation and issue of accidents as well as theft are becoming concerns of worry. Considering the threats discussed above, it has become expedient that the commandant of schools is to establish school-community intelligence sharing committees which could be used in intercepting information on premeditated attacks. The committees could also help in resolving occasional frictions between schools and host communities when such problems occur. Equally very important is the need for fencing school premises. The fences act as measures of delay and means of buying time for guards to adequately engage the intruders. In modern security, technology has expanded as a means of acquiring information. Mounting of security gadgets such as cameras on the fences have aided in detecting intruders and apprehending them.

The challenge of physical security could manifest in form of fire outbreak due to electricity power surge. Record of fire outbreak due to electricity power surge and outage abound. Recent example include damage to hostel accommodation at Command Secondary School, Mbiri due to electricity surge in 2015. Inspecting facilities regularly would prevent

such incidents. In all, it is important, to always revisit the operational rules or standing orders with a view to strengthening their efficacy.

There is also the need to be weary of communicable diseases associated with communal living. Questions could be asked; such as how many times have schools changed mattresses in their hostels? This is because more often than not the mattresses may have been infested with bed bugs. Some Mattresses may be bad due to frequent urinating associated with young children. Some diseases may emanate from poor handling of food items by the kitchen staff and the cleanliness of the environment. In same vein, the hostels are to be made to allow flow of air or ventilation. Other areas of concerns are the cleanliness of the toilets. These are challenges that come serious security implications. If the commandant could articulate and factor these challenges in threat analysis, it could guide the administration in tackling the problems.

SECURITY CHALLENGES IN COMMAND CHILDREN SCHOOL

It is obvious that the type of security threats in command secondary schools (Day and Boarding) would be different from those of the command children school due to prevailing age differences existing between them. Analyzing the threats of the command children schools would include challenges of daily transportation, traffic regulation, hygiene and terror as well as kidnapping. Children struggle daily, through transportation from home to school especial those with parents that do not have cars to bring them to school. Apart from the danger involved the challenges of transport and movement, there is always the challenge of crossing roads especially little children.

Most often, children are hit by *Okada* riders or even motorists. Similarly, issues of kidnapping of little children can also not be ruled out. The spate of kidnapping from schools have been on the increase in Lagos general area. There are also instances where children were taken away by transporters pretending to be hired by their parents after school. It is always important to profile and register transporters who take the children home at the close of schools. These are part of major issues school authorities are to factor into considerations when evaluating the threats. On the issue of hygiene, it is a common knowledge that little children sometimes cannot control their urge to urinate and defecate.

However, this challenge could be overcome through proper management.

TIPS FOR EFFECTIVE SECURITY IN THE UNITS

There is a lot that could be done to frustrate the perpetrators of these terrorist acts. Most times we only need to enforce the several security regulations that are part of the civil service. To be security conscious is however the ultimate and what it takes is to know what to expect and to be able to notice anything out of the ordinary. All the same we should go through a few hints that could be of assistance.

Personal/Collective Security Awareness: We must start with the belief that we are created by Supreme Being called God who can also protect us. The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom and so one must be prayerful. Other tips are:

- a. Honour your Parents and obey your teachers
- b. Listen to news and read papers daily
- c. Eat something in the morning before leaving for work
- d. Always remember to carry your ID card wherever you are going, don't say I am not going too far.
- e. Know where you are going; confirm the security situation before leaving home, if you are traveling make sure you have enough transport fare, know which motor park to go.
- f. Communicate with your relation when you are leaving the park and when you have arrived safely.
- g. If possible text the number, make, color of the vehicle to them.
- h. Your Key holder should have an Opener and a Whistle.
- i. Do the right thing at right time
- j. Be careful with friends, know what to say where to say it and how to say it.
- k. Try as much as possible not to disclose your plans to people some may be enemies of progress.
- l. Know your neighbour(s) and your environment
- m. Know your children's friends
- n. Try to overcome your weakness
- o. Associate yourself with your place of worship e.g Church and mosque
- p. Relate well with your kinsmen
- q. Visit home with your family at least once a year

- r. Teach and encourage your children to speak your native language
- s. Have a contingent plan for you and your family
- t. What is your contribution (s) towards your Church Security?
- u. Avoid routine
Avoid constant visit of social places, e.g, Beer parlors, restaurant, hotel, cinema, stadium night clubs etc.
- w. Know how, when, where to make phone calls or to receive calls
- x. Have a written will
- y. Who is your next of Kin?
- z. Wear a short before leaving home
- aa. Have ICE word on your phone
- ab. Mode of dressing
- ac. Disobedient to simple instructions
- ad. Bathing rules

Accommodation Security Awareness: It is very necessary to know the area you are going to live either temporary or permanently. There is need to investigate and ask questions about the locality and crime wave, because robbers, and gangsters may be occupying such areas, barracks or houses. So when moving into a new apartment especially outside barracks considers the followings:

- a. Find out who owns the house?
- b. Why is the house vacant?
- c. For how long is the house vacant?
- d. And why is the house vacant?
- e. Who was the last occupant?
- f. Who are your neighbors?
- g. What are their professions?
- h. Is the location conducive for accommodation?
- i. What is the general Security situation of the area you are about to move in?
- j. Enquire about neighborhood programme.
- k. Ensure you change all the locks in that house, doors and windows should always be locked, when you are going out, even if you will only be out for a short time. All external doors should have 3 locking points. Do not leave window and door keys in their locks. Always draw your curtains at night and make sure valuable items cannot be easily seen from outside.
- l. Lighting: Good lighting and security light to be deterrents.
- m. Perimeter fence and gate
- n. Key care: Do not leave your keys outside or in a garage, shed.

Visitors Threats Awareness: Sun Tzu says if you know yourself and know your enemy, you will win so many battles. Knowledge is power. Therefore, there is the need to think like the enemy in issues of defence and protection. Let us therefore consider the following:

- a. Burglaries: 58% of burglaries take place in the morning and at night, 34 % occur at the weekend. It is advisable that you always leave someone at home or you engage a security guard and radios.
- b. Be careful when engaging the services of any Nannies, House helps or artisans in your house.
- c. Set a standing order for your family, design an evacuation plan in case of emergency and practice it with your family, such as passwords. Parents, carry your children along in all your plans, be close to them.

Office Security: Office security is an aspect of physical security. In this attempt effort is made to deter, gain time or prevent an intruder from gaining access to the facility. The following are to be considered:

- a. Physical Security of unit office premises, lighting, gates, doors, document safes.
- b. Document security procedures.
- c. Access Control is very important in terms of visitors and unauthorized staff habits' unusual lateness, unusual journeys, frequent visitors, sudden change in habits and utterances.

Vehicles Security: How long have we checked the particulars of our vehicles? The following questions are to be asked:

- a. Do you have a driver's license?
- b. Is your vehicle particulars up to date?
- c. Is your vehicle insured?
- d. Who is your mechanic?
- e. Do your vehicle have a repair book?
- f. Is your vehicle Security Kits complete?
- g. Who is your driver?
- h. Where do you park your vehicle?
- i. How do you carry out your first vehicle check?
- j. Be careful with accidents scene
- k. Be careful when giving lift
- l. Be familiar with road language.

CONCLUSION

In the course of this presentation, we were able to define security – Personal, collective and its relationship to development. Security challenges such as small arms proliferation, terrorism, sabotage, kidnapping among others were until recently thought of as a distant phenomenon. Today, it has come upon the country with all its sinister details. It has become the most potent challenges confronting Nigeria today.

These unfortunate developments constrain more than many others, aggravate the suffering of Nigeria. Many are more vulnerable including the military. Criminals, including the murderous Boko Haram elements live among the people and as such, eternal vigilance would be everybody's watchword. Since the current security challenges pose dire threat to the survival of the nation project, there is equally the challenge of rethinking and improving on policy and institutional means of dealing with security concerns arising in the country. It becomes imperative that NAEC units would be conscious of these challenges. Security Tips that can assist NAEC Units in day to day administration were also highlighted. This discussion is meant to enlighten and not to frighten us.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that HQ NAEC should formulate and implement policy for security of command schools and units to encompass:

- a. Threat analysis on the potential dangers in command schools for evaluation and considerations.
- b. Fencing of schools as a major/special project.
- c. Deployment of cameras to aid in environmental/security monitoring.
- d. Schools not located in the barracks to establish School/Community intelligence sharing committee in the community they are cited.
- e. Conduct of document security for the clerks and creating awareness on the dangers of espionage and sabotage.
- f. Ensuring that regular seminars, workshops, paper presentations, publication are conducted on security awareness and communicate made distributed up to NAEC families especially on personal and home security.

- g. Introducing Personal Security Awareness as a subject in Command Secondary Schools.

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