

LEGAL AND STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR MILITARY OPERATIONS AGAINST ARMED CONFLICTS: CHALLENGES AND FUTURE TRENDS IN NIGERIA*

Abstract

Armed Conflicts is a global issue which affects the security of many nations but for different reasons. The belief however is that, it has political undertone and is motivated by injustice and struggle for power. It is synonymous with terrorism because it involves killings and destruction of properties whether individual or institutional. This may not necessarily be so. Some terrorists take arms and claim religious reasons while others are motivated by seeking money to procure more arms and ammunition for economic activities especially where mineral deposits are found. Whatever reasons provided, the consequences of terrorism and armed conflicts are multi dimensional, destruction of lives and properties, which impact on the human rights, economic and social structures of States. This paper examines the legal and strategic roles of the military in fighting terrorism. This is because the assumption, often misplaced is that military operations and missions are enough to stop acts of terrorism. While it has a great impact, it is puzzling to note that fighting terror takes longer period to accomplish despite military operations. This means that there are challenges in the military mission, this paper further examined these challenges and made recommendations on the way forward. In this regard, doctrinal research and internet methods were involved.

Keywords: Terrorism, Armed Conflicts, Military Operations, Military Missions, Special Operations

1. Introduction

Fighting terror or armed conflicts requires an unconventional method because the non state actors, whether terrorists, bandits, insurgents by whatever name called, are not the conventional enemies known to everyone including the state actors.. Your next- door neighbor may be one; your co-worker may be another. They mix with the crowd although they have a secret base of operation. They have informants within the civilian populace who they used for intelligence gathering, so how can the military fight and confront such challenges?. There are two types of armed conflicts: International Armed Conflict (IAC) and Non International Armed Conflicts (NIAC). Military operations or missions are believed to be the only way in preventing armed conflicts/terrorism because of their training and exposure to armed conflict and war situations. However, there are legal issues and code of conducts attached to armed conflicts/ warfare, primarily to prevent collateral damage on innocent civilians. The United Nations Organization, through the National Security Council has passed resolutions to that effect. There have been more than 250 armed conflicts since the United Nations charter was signed in 1946¹. Examples of these have been seen in American intervention in Cuba, Panama, Afghanistan to mention a few and Russia intervention in Afghanistan, Crimeria, Poland and of recent, Ukraine. This of course refers to armed conflict between two States. What of in International Armed Conflict (IAC)? But what happens where the armed conflict is within the internal boundary of a State for instance, in internal terrorism between insurgents or armed militia and the government? What of in Non international Armed Conflict (NIAC). Can the military intervene especially having regard to the United Nations charter? One of the challenges associated with fighting terrorism or armed conflict lies in the propaganda of genocide or extra judicial killings by the military. In most cases, the military tend to be over cautious in tackling terrorist for fear of the propaganda of crossing all limits. Some Media outlets and their sponsors are known to petition the United Nations especially when they start losing the war on their terrorist acts. Some groups even go to the ridiculous extent of petitioning the United States of America, United kingdom and some European countries calling on sanctions against the legitimate governments.

This fear has been addressed by Article 2 (7) of the United Nations Charter which States that the United Nations has no authority to intervene in matters which are within the domestic jurisdiction of any state². The Nigerian military's intervention in terror acts has been going on for several years right from the country's independence political crisis to the civil war, Maitatsine insurgency, Boko haram and ISIS/ ISWAP, IPOB/ ESN. While the war on terrorism has reached appreciable level, the war is yet to be won. More has to be done in strategy, equipment, training and fundings.

2. Meaning, Types, Kinds of Military Operations

Military Operation is the coordinated military action of a State or a non-state actor in response to a developing situation. It is focused on deterring war, resolving conflicts, promoting peace and supporting civil authorities in

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¹ 'Nothing in the present charter shall impair the inherent rights of individuals or collective self defense, if an armed attack occurs against a member nation. Armed forces shall not be used save in the common interests'

²Art 2 (7)

response to domestic crisis. There are three basic types of military operations: (i) *Military Operations in Peace time*: Peacetime is a state in which diplomatic, economic, informational and military powers are employed in combination with each other to achieve national objectives; (ii) *Military operations in Conflicts*: Conflict is a unique environment in which the military works closely with diplomatic leaders to control hostilities while the national objective is focused on the goal of returning to peacetime conditions; (iii) *Military Operation in War time*: This occurs when a full scale war erupts with or without declaration of hostilities. The military are deployed on a full scale war situation with the aim of subjugating and destroying the enemy at all cost. There are four kinds of military operations: (i) *Offensive Operations*: These are mainly used during war time. The purpose of offensive operations is to change the course of events in favour of the State actor (the military). This type of operation usually includes violence or force. However Offensive Operations can be used to deter future conflicts for example deployment of soldiers at check points in conflict zones. In Maduguri, Borno State, Zamfara, Kaduna and other volatile States, such check points exist; (ii) *Defensive Operations*: This is designed to prevent military casualties on the part of the State actors while setting the stage for future offensive operations. In Defensive operations, military will protect themselves, their areas of operations (AO) and any property contained in the (AO). Whenever the military comes under attack, Commanding Officers normally instruct their officers and men to form a defensive corridor to avoid enemy infiltration. Field Commanders usually plan ahead for these situations using experience and strategy to turn the tables on the enemy; (iii) *Stability Operations*: This strategy holds the military together during strenuous situations, using a psychological operation. It is a show of force and cooperation between local forces and the military. Stability operations prevent the military from having to take the offensive; (v) *Support Operations*: Support operations involve supporting troops from being overrun or those wounded in military operations. Use of re enforcement to tackle any threat or would be threat. This also includes supply of food and medical equipment and logistics to help win the war. There are also military operations other than war (MOOTW). Features of these operations include deterring war, resolving conflicts, promoting peace, and supporting civil authorities in response to domestic conflicts.

3. Difference between War and Special Operations

Special operations are military activities conducted according to NATO by specially designed, organized, selected, trained and equipped forces. Special operations warfare differs from conventional warfare on the basis of three criteria: (i) Economical way in which force is used, (ii) Different considerations and calculations of political and operational risks, (iii) The arm of military forces that conduct them. Special operation forces specialize in unconventional warfare, foreign and internal defense, training and advising partner militia. Military mission is a situation where the armed forces are sent to perform some designated roles in a given situation. There are three kinds of military missions: Observer Mission, Peace keeping Mission and Peace Enforcement Mission. Military Operations other than war (MOOTW) include the use of military capabilities across a range of operations that falls short of war because of political consideration, while military operations have more restrictive rules of engagement than in war situations

4. Types and Nature of Armed Conflicts

Legally, there are two types of armed conflicts:

International Armed Conflict (IAC)

This exist where there are two or more States are engaged to arm force against another regardless of the reason of intensity of this confrontation³. No formal declaration of war or the conflict is required to kick start it. It is also irrelevant whether the party attacked resist or not. Thus it is any use of force by State against the territory of another State.

Non International Armed Conflict (NIAC)

This is determined by the intensity of the hostilities and the organization of the parties involved. In the case of *Prosecutor v Tadic*⁴ on the issue of Organization, this can be seen in the decision of *Prosecution v Milosevic*⁵ which highlights conditions indicative of the level of organization required for an armed group to qualify as organized under the *Tadic*'s definition

In this case, the level of organization in the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) was found to have sufficient evidence pointing out that KLA was an organized military force with an official joint structure, headquarters, designated zones of operation and the ability to procure, transport and distribute arms. In the case of *Prosecutor*

³ICRC Opinion paper (2008) page 1

⁴(1995) case no, IT 94- AR 72; See also Cullen A, *The Concept of Non- International Armed Conflict in International Humanitarian Law* (Cambridge University Press, 2010) p 122

⁵(2001) Case No. IT-99-37 PT Para23

*v Limaj*⁶, emphasis was laid on the considerable role of the general staff as the main governing body of the KLA. The functions of the body include the appointment of zonal commanders, the supply of weapons, the issuance of political statements, the distribution of regulations to units, the authorization of military action. Other factors that determine organization include the presence of command structure and level of logistics among others. On the intensity of hostilities recognized in non international armed conflicts, in the case of *Prosecutor v Boskoski*⁷, the criteria include the seriousness of the attack and whether there is an increase in such armed attacks, the spread of the attack over a period of time, the distribution of weapons by both parties to the conflict and whether the conflict has attracted the attention of the United Nations Security Council as well as whether any Resolution on the matter has been passed. Another issue that has to be addressed is whether the armed conflict is an isolated one or a protracted conflict. Article 3 introduced different threshold for NIAC, The Article is applicable whenever there is protracted armed violence between government forces and the organized armed groups or even between armed groups within a state⁸. Whether an armed conflict is protracted or not, is assessed by reference to the entire period to the beginning to the cessation of hostilities

5. Armed Conflicts in Nigeria (NIAC)

Nigeria has its share of armed conflicts few years after securing political independence in 1960. The armed conflict resulting from the 1964 general elections witnessed chaos in the south west region, claiming many lives and properties to such an extent that the then Prime Minister had to declare a state of emergency. The armed conflict was between supporters of rival political parties. The second major armed conflict was the 1966 killings by the military dissidents of some prominent military and civilian northern officers and men. The quest for revenge led to the movement of various tribes to their regions. One of the governors of the regions, specifically, the Eastern Region declared succession naming his region as republic of Biafra. What followed was an armed conflict between the federal government forces and the rebel forces which was translated to the Nigerian Civil War. The third armed conflict took a religious dimension although it was far from religious issue. In the 1980's a group of misguided people headed by their leader took up arms against the citizens declaring them as infidels, in Borno State killing and maiming innocent citizens. The group later migrated to Kano and put up their base. They sacked a whole section of the city, confiscating houses, animals as well as killing any citizen that resisted. The federal government had to call in the army to fight the armed group. The fourth armed conflict was in late 1980 and mid-1990 when another supposed religious conflict took place in Kaduna and its environs, between different religious groups, killing, maiming and destruction of properties, again the government had to call in the army to stop the conflict. The fifth armed conflict began in 2009 to date, the Boko Haram armed conflict. Again in Borno State, the leader of the group was arrested and killed. What followed was the group taking up arms and relocating to Sambisa forest by the second in command. They seized territories and declared them as their caliphate. The federal government has to send the army. The nature and intensity of the Boko Haram armed conflict, its protracted nature and level of organization as an armed group attest to the existence of NAIC. Therefore, Boko Haram armed conflict satisfies the threshold of NAIC under Common Article 3. Under Article 1 (1) of the Additional Protocol 11, this is applicable to armed conflicts between the armed forces of a high contracting party and dissident armed group that are under responsible command and exercise such control over a part of its territory as to enable them carry out sustained or concerted military operation. The United Nation Security Council sanction list⁹ has added Boko Haram this involves travel ban, international assets freeze and arms embargo against the group.¹⁰ It is instructive to note that these sanctions still exist as at December, 2022. The requirement here is that the armed groups or dissidents must have control over a part of the territory in which the armed conflict takes place which must be sufficient to allow them carry sustained or concerted military operations.¹¹ In 2014, Boko Haram were in total control of some local government areas in Borno State, such as, Gwoza, Bama, Mafa, Dikwa, Kala- Balge, Ngala, Marte, Damasak, Abadam and Mobbar while they partially control Munguno, Kukawa, Guzamala, Gubio, Magumeri, Nganzai, Damboa and Chibok¹². However with a sustained military might under the Multinational Joint Military Force, these local governments are now under government control. Boko Haram, according to the office of the prosecutor, International Criminal Court (ICC) determines that allegations of crime against the State and humanity fall within the scope.¹³

⁶ (2005) case No, IT- 03- 66-T

⁷ (2008) ICTY No, IT-04-82-T

⁸ Ishan Jan, M N and Haruna A L. International Humanitarian Law (Malaysia, IIUM Press (2015) page 44

⁹ Under Resolution 1267 (AlQaida)

¹⁰ Human Rights Watch, World Report 2015, accessed on 22/03/2017.

¹¹ Ishan Jan and Haruna A L ibid

¹² Idriss, H and Mutum, R in Fight Against Terror; Troops Recapture 26 out of 29 local governments available at [http://www.dailytrust.com.ng/news/general/fight-against-.](http://www.dailytrust.com.ng/news/general/fight-against-) accessed on 07/05/2017

¹³ Article 8 (2) (C) and (e) of the Rome Statute of the ICC

6. Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) and Eastern Security Network (ESN)

This is another armed group in the south east that took up arms and operate like a military outfit killing, maiming and destroying government institutions and structures. Most affected are Independent National Electoral Commission's offices and Police stations. Innocent citizens are molested and prevented from engaging in their economic and social activities. The group also declares Mondays as sit- at- home days, meaning that no one should come out those days or they take the risks of being killed. Initially, the government took police action, thinking that police force can deal with the conflict but the incessant killing, maiming and taking law and order in their hands proved otherwise. The federal government had to declare them as terrorist organizations and subjected them to military action. Their leader fled abroad and opened a broadcasting outfit where a lot of propaganda was issued against the federal government. He also directed his followers to kill and destroy anybody in uniform. The style of operation is guerilla war fare just like Boko Haram. The difference is that IPOB hasn't taken over any territory but they have a command structure as well. Their activities have become very fatal as many indigenes could not travel home for Christmas and those that travelled find themselves in precarious conditions. The federal government in conjunction with the international Police (INTERPOL) had to arrest and bring the leader back to Nigeria for trial. The case is still in court while the military and police are battling with the group. Their activities fall within the framework of Non international armed conflicts (NIAC) all conditions and sanctions also apply to the group

7. State Actors in Military Operation against Armed Conflict

The Army: Armed Forces Act, 2004, 2006, 2020 and 2022

The history of NA dated back to 1863 when Lt Clover of the Royal Navy selected 18 indigenes from the northern part of the country and organized them into a local force known as the Glover Hausas. The small force was used by Glover as governor of Lagos to mount punitive expedition in Lagos hinterland and to protect British trade routes around Lagos. In 1865, the Glover Hausas became a regular force with a name Hausa Constabulary, it performed both police and military duties for the Lagos colonial government, it later became Lagos constabulary. On incorporation into the West African Frontier Force (WAFF) in 1901, it became Lagos battalion in addition, the British Government included the Royal Niger Company Constabulary Force in Northern Nigeria in 1886 and the Oil Rivers irregular in 1891. In 1889, Lord Fredrick Lugard had formed the West African Frontier Force in Jebba, Northern Nigeria in 1890. The new unit expanded by absorbing the Northern Nigeria based elements of the Royal Niger Co Constabulary. At the end of 1901, it had incorporated all para military units in the other British areas into its command. The merger produced the Northern Nigeria regiments and southern Nigeria regiments: the pioneer commanders of the southern regiments of WAFF were Lt CHP Carter (1899-1901) and Colonel J. Wilcox (1900- 1909). The two regiments were later used for expeditions during the annexation of Nigeria by Lord Lugard 1901- 1903. The Origin of the Nigerian Armed Forces therefore lies in the elements of the Royal West African Force that became fully Nigerian.*23 In 1960 In 1956 the Nigerian Regiment of the Royal West African Frontier Force was renamed Nigerian Military Forces*24. In 1958, the colonial government of Nigeria took over from the British War Office Control of the Nigerian Military Forces., The legal framework is the Nigerian Army Act, 1960. Since its creation, the Nigerian Military has fought in a civil war (1967-1970) and had served in several peace keeping missions both with the United Nations and ECOMOG

The Navy

The Origin of the NN could be traced to the Marine Department of the Royal Navy established in 1887 as a quasi – military organization which combined the duties of the present day NPA, NIWA and NN. Elements of the Marine Department took part in military ops against the Germans in Cameroun during the WW1 (1914-1918). The colonial administrators did not consider it necessary to establish a proper navy as they believe it was the duty of the royal navy to give naval protection to Nigeria. Besides, the Marine Department was considered adequate to look after security at the ports and coastal areas and to provide harbour services for royal navy ships on West African patrol. Agitation for the establishment of NN was summarized in the submission of Mr. LL Olakunle, a member of parliament in 1956 'if we must have a NN then we must have something along the pattern of British Navy'

The Colonial Administration disbanded the Marine depart. And 250 members were put together to form the nucleus of Nigerian Naval Force in April 1956. The force was later renamed Naval Defense Force of Nigeria. It is a branch of the Nigerian Armed Forces founded on 1st June, 1956 with the role of Naval warfare. It has a command structure headed by the Chief of Naval Staff supported by Western Naval Command, Eastern Naval Command, Central Naval Command, Naval Training Command, Logistic Command, Nigerian Navy Air Arm and Autonomous Units. The first legislation on the navy was passed by the House of Representatives and was assented to in 5th, September, 1956 by Sir James Robertson, the then Governor General of Nigeria. It was called

the Nigerian Navy Ordinance. The Ordinance was redesignated as NNDF as the Royal Nigerian Navy and on 1st May, 1958, the NDF was legally established as a force and redesignated as Royal NN as a mark of allegiance to the Queen of England. In 1963, when Nigeria became a republic the prefix royal was dropped and the name became NN. The modern day NN was legally created through an act of parliament, No 21 of 1964. The 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and the Armed Forces Act¹⁴, The National Defense Policy, 2006 charged the NN with defending Nigeria's sea. The legal frameworks also expanded the roles of NN to cover full military, policing and diplomatic functions of a modern day navy. The Nigerian Navy is one of the four technical services departments of the ministry of defense. IT provides administrative and support services for the NN to enable it train, equip and maintain a highly professional, versatile and combat ready military that will effectively exert timely response in peace and war situations, to act solely or in cooperation with armed forces or friendly nations for the preservation of territorial integrity of Nigeria

Airforce

This is the air branch of the Nigerian Armed Forces and the youngest established on 18th April, 1964 with the passage of Air Force Act, 1964 by the Parliament. The Act provided that 'Nigerian Airforce shall be charged with the defense of the federal republic by air and to give effect thereto, the personnel shall be trained in such duties as in the air and as well as the ground.' NAF was formed with the technical assistance from West Germany. It started as a transport unit. The air crews were trained in Canada, Ethiopia and India. The present day Airforce is fully engaged in fighting armed conflicts especially Boko Haram.

Other State Actors: The Para Military Organizations

The Nigerian Police Force

The Lagos Police force was established in 1896. Like the Hausa constabulary, the force was armed and consisted of a Police Commissioner, two assistant Commissioners, one superintendent, one assistant Superintendent, a pay master, a quarter master, master tailor and two hundred and fifty other ranks. The force operated mainly in the Lagos area while the Hausa constabulary operated in the hinterland. They are saddled with the responsibility for the maintenance of law and order. They are not a military force neither are they trained in war. A similar force, the Niger force constabulary was formed in Calabar in 1894 under the newly proclaimed Niger Coast Protectorate. It was modelled after the Hausa constabulary with emphasis on the military role. The force mainly engaged in active service and formed part of the major expedition against Benin in 1896. When the Protectorate of Northern and Southern Nigeria were proclaimed in 1900, part of the Royal Niger constabulary became the Northern Nigeria Police while part of the Niger Coast constabulary became the Southern Nigeria Police. In 1930 however the two forces were merged to form the colony's first police. When Nigeria got independence in 1960, the police were first regionalized and later nationalized. The legal framework for today's police was provided under section 214 to 216 of the Constitution of Nigeria, 1999 as amended. There shall be a police force for Nigeria which shall be known as the Nigerian Police and subject to the provisions of this section, no other police Force shall be established for the federation or any part thereof.¹⁵ The legal framework for the regulation of the police force is the Police Act. Section 4 of the Police Act specified the duties of the force to include-

- a. The prevention and detection of crime.
- b. The apprehension of offenders.
- c. The preservation of law and order
- d. The protection of life and property.
- e. Due enforcement of laws and regulations.
- f. Performance of such military duties within and outside Nigeria as may be required of them by or under the authority of the Police Act.

Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps

It was first established in May, 1967 during the Nigerian Civil War within the federal Capital territory of Lagos for the purpose of sensitization and protection of the civil populace against enemy attacks and how to protect themselves especially during air raids, bomb attacks and how to dive into trenches during bomb blast. It was then then known as Lagos Civil Defense Committee. This later transformed to NSCDC in 1970. It had the objective of carrying out educational and enlightenment campaign in and around the federal capital, Lagos In 1984, the Corps was transformed into a national Security outfit. In 1988, the Corps was restructured leading to the establishment of command throughout the federation. On 28th June, 2003 an Act was promulgated to give

¹⁴ CAP A20

¹⁵ Section 214

statutory legal backing to the Corps. The legal frame work for their creation is the NSCDC Act of 2003. The Act was further amended in 2007 to strengthen and empower the Corps. This is a para military outfit and also whose training is non combatant. They are designed for civil duties. Some of their functions include protection of government facilities, prevention of theft and vandalization of government structures, maintenance of law and order, defending the civilian populace from ethnic and tribal conflicts among others.

Nigerian Immigration Service

This is a government organization responsible for border security and immigration management in Nigeria. It was extracted from the Nigerian Police Force in 1958. It was later formerly first established on 1st August, 1963 by an act of parliament but was repealed in 2015 and replaced with the Nigerian Immigration Act. It is supported by the Immigration Regulations of 2017 setting out its functions and duties. They are responsible for the protection of our land and sea borders including screening foreign persons entering the country legally while ensuring the protection of such borders from illegal entry and smuggling of prohibited and dangerous items especially drugs, arms and ammunition, trafficking of young and vulnerable persons in and across the borders. The legal framework for the establishment of the immigration service is the Nigerian Immigration Act. Their role in preventing armed conflict lies in ensuring the control of arms and ammunition used by the non- state actors in armed conflict. The Service plays a key role in armed conflict by ensuring the non importation of arms into the country.

8. Challenges in Fighting and Preventing Armed Conflicts/Terrorism

Military operations with a view to fighting armed conflict or terrorism is faced with some challenges.

Political Will

- i. Sometimes the political will to fight the armed conflict/ terrorism is not given the full commitment of the authorities concerned. Policy framework usually affects immediate action. Example can be seen during the Second World War. 1939-1945 when Britain wanted military commitment from the United States of America to join the war but America refused to be drawn into Hitler's terrorism in the occupation of Poland*40 on 1st, September, 1939.. Sir Winston Churchill had to travel to America to meet President Roosevelt. America could only send military hardware to the United Kingdom. It was not until when Japanese bombed Pearl Harbour that the United States of America declared war on Japan and Germany.
- ii. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, The Serbian soldiers massacre one hundred and fifty thousand muslims yet President Bill Clinton had to face criticism from the international Press before sending troops to contain the fighting
- iii. Russia – Ukraine armed conflict is another classical example of lack of political will on the part of the international community to help stop the attack, some countries were sending various weapons to Ukraine to defend herself instead of addressing the real issue
- iv. In Non- International Conflict, the lingering Boko Haram terrorism and kidnappings in Nigeria has been lingering because the government did not take the matter serious, it was not until the government realized that college girls were kidnapped, raped, and forced into marriage that the government became alive of her responsibilities. Nine years, along the line sizable number of the girls are still in captivity. This encouraged the terrorists to embark on further kidnappings.
- v. The armed conflict in south- eastern States where armed militia, IPOB/ESN operate, government buildings are still attacked with impunity, police and other security agents killed but government only issue warnings to them. None were arrested, prosecuted and sent to jail.

Military Strategy

Fighting armed conflict and terrorism require special operation from special forces. The reason is that, fighting terrorism or armed conflict require unconventional approach as opposed to conventional warfare.. The non-state actors in armed conflict or terrorism are not conventional soldiers but mostly indulge in guerilla war. They mix with the crowd or use human shield to frustrate capture. Therefore what is required from the military is special operation, these are military activities by specially designated, organized, trained, selected and equipped forces in the art of guerilla warfare. Example of this type can be seen in the United States of American marines Nigerian military, the police, Department of State Security, Directorate of Military Intelligence must create special forces who specialize in unconventional war, foreign and internal defense.

Defiance Intelligence Agency (Nigerian Army Intelligence Corps)

It is the primary military Intelligence Agency of Nigeria. The DIA was established in 1986 to provide an efficient system of obtaining military intelligence for the Nigerian Armed Forces and ministry of Defense. The DIA promotes Nigeria's defense, protects the lives of Nigerian citizens and maintain the territorial integrity of

Nigeria policy, enhances military cooperation with other countries. The legal framework for DIA is Decree NO. 19,1986. It has Defense Intelligence College as a training arm of the DIA.¹⁶ No military operation or mission can succeed without input from the directorate of Army Intelligence.

Modern Equipment

It is embarrassing for the military to confront terrorist only to find out that the non-state actors possess superior fire arms and ammunitions which the military do not have. In order to succeed in armed conflict and terror fighting, it is a must for the military to have the upper hand in weaponry.

Defense Industry Corporation

It was established by an act of Parliament in 1964. It was not until 2004 that DICON was said to have successfully produced prototype medium range weapons, namely 60mm mortar 81mm mortar and the RPG-7. The Corporation must show cause why it should exist, meaning why it should not be scrapped. Nigeria must begin to manufacture weapons even if they are light weapons. Example should be taken from China, Russia and other countries that do not dictate any terms before selling weapons to Nigeria. The military should do well to start thinking out of the box by dismantling and assembling weapons then gradually manufacturing them. The recent purchase of A-29 Tucano fighter aircraft is a welcome development but it is not enough because the conditions attached to the procurement is cumbersome, There are areas which the Tucano cannot operate in order to avoid ‘ civilian casualties’. However due consideration is not given to the fact that fighting terror and armed conflict require unconventional warfare. The air force must have helicopter gunships, long range missiles as opposed to what they have now, Roland small and medium range missiles. They must possess Rada jamming equipment, Air drones, especially Iranian made used by Russia against Ukraine because of their precision on targets. Alfa F-16 Jet are only effective in conventional war not unconventional dealing with terrorist, The military should also acquire light tanks VP1 TYPES 89 APC Tanks made in China, they have speed and easy to maneuver. They are not heavy. There are other weapons such as M777 Howitzer, M198 Howitzer, U-2 Dragon Lady Air Surveillance Aircraft, B-IB Lancer, GBU-39 smart bomb and ICBM Ballistic missiles which can be guided to their targets and have a minimum range of 3,400 miles. Modern military hard and soft ware can be purchased for the military.

Funding

It is amazing to observe that year in, year out, the defense budget is always the largest in every budget, yet the military is overwhelmed when it comes to acquisition of modern weapons. The government must ensure that it's military equipment is of best international standard. The co-operation of the legislature in approving security and military funds is passed as at when due.

Training

Special operation forces created can be trained in Iran, Pakistan, China, Israel, Italy and those countries with similar armed conflict and terrorism with Nigeria. The reason is that the special operation forces stand to gain a lot from the experience of such countries. Where funds are short, the military should invite the personnel of such countries to come to Nigeria and do the training. The National Defence College should be saddled with such responsibility.

9. Some Famous Military Operations

Operation Babarossa

German Military operation in the East to invade Russia in 1941, commanded by General Paulus who was later promoted to the rank of Field Marshall by Hitler Adolf. The plan was to capture the western lands of USSR with the aim of taking over the abundant natural resources and people under their control. But winter period set in to frustrate the plan.

Operation Desert Storm

The United Nations Coalition Forces headed by the USA in invasion of Iraq and Kuwait to liberate Kuwait from Iraqi occupation in January, 1990.

Operation Dynamo

Military operation to evacuate British troops in Dunkirk, a French beach in May, 1941 to allow British troops escape massacre or capture by the German army.

¹⁶History of DIA Archive from the original 16th July, 2015

Operation Overlord

This is the allied invasion of Europe on 6th, June, 1944 on the Normandy beach, also called operation D-DAY. The outcome of World War II was settled that day. German army was pushed back out of Europe.

Operation Red Dawn

This is the military mission to capture Iraqi leader, Saddam Hussein alive. He was arrested in December, 2003.

Operation Rolling Thunder

This is the Military bombing mission of North Vietnam. The American Generals believed such bombing to breakdown the backbone of the North Vietnamese military but they were proved wrong. The mission failed and communism succeeded

Operation Thunderbolt

Military operation to rescue 96 Israel passengers and 12 crew members in Air France aircraft grounded in Uganda after hijack by German Palestinian Liberation Army sympathizers.

Operation Urgent Fury

In 1983, American forces invaded a tiny Caribbean Island of just 91, 000 population accused to be flirting with the communist intending to set up pre- soviet regime in American sphere of influence. It was a one week operation.

Operation VITTLES

American military mission to air lift lifesaving foodstuffs for almost a year to Western Berlin when the Soviet blocked access to the area in 1948.

Operation Wrath of God

Military covert operation retaliation on Palestinian attack of athletes in September, 1972 at the Munich, Germany summer Olympic Games killing eleven athletes and coaches.

Operation Magic Carpet

Israel secret military mission that air lifted 50,000 Yemeni Jews from Adan to Israel

10. Conclusion

Fighting armed conflicts or terrorism is a difficult task because the enemy is not always known. It therefore requires unconventional methods of warfare. In this regard use of types of military weapons matter a lot. Bombings may result in collateral damage more so when the terrorists use their captives as human shield. The best option is to embark on special operations by special forces because they are selected, trained, organized, equipped and have the intelligence gathering technology for ultra sound and location even at night. Government must have the political will to bring armed conflict to a stop. There must be synergy among all the arms of the forces, sharing intelligence report. The GSM satellite providers must be made to key in on information exchange. These non state actors make phone calls, text messages using other communication facilities that can be hacked and tapped to locate calls. It must be a coordinated special operation fully funded by the government. One of Nigeria's past military rulers was said to have publicly said that where terrorism / insurgency last more than 48 hours, then government has a hand in it. Whether this is so or otherwise it is a wake-up call on the State actors to be alive to their responsibilities in the fight against terror. Nigerian military must be up to the task for the sake of its integrity