THE STRATEGIST

NEWS MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL COLLEGE OF DEFENCE STUDIES

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PUBLISHED BY THE DIRECTOTRATE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, NCDS

NANA ADDO DANKWA AKUFO-ADDO

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC
AND
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE GHANA ARMED FORCES

Programme of Activities

Graduation of the National College of Defence Studies Course 1-23

Ser	Time (Hrs)	Event	Responsibility	Remarks
1.	0900	Arrival of Invited Guests	DG HR/DG PR	
2.	0915	Graduands Seated	Chief Coord/ Registrar	
3.	0930	Arrival of Guest of Honour	DG HR/DG PR	Guard of Honour
4.	0945	Academic Procession	Chief Coord/ Registrar	
5.		National Anthem	Band	All Stand
6.		Prayers	Clergy	
7.		Congregation Constituted	Rector, GIMPA	
8.		Commandant's Report	Commandant	
9.		Conferment of "fncds"	Commandant	Participants rise. Fanfare after Conferment
10.		Presentation of Participants	Dean	
11.		Conferment of MSS	Rector, GIMPA	Graduands rise. Fanfare after Conferment
12.		Cultural Performance	Ghana Dance Ensemble	
13.		Presentation of fncds and MSS Certificates	Guest of Honour	Comdt/ Chief Coord to Assist
14.		Presentation of Prizes to Award Winners	Award Sponsors	Comdt/Chief Coord to Assist
15.		Valedictory Speech	Valedictorian	Course President
16.		Award of Dagger	Guest of Honour	CDS to Assist
17.		Cultural Performance	Ghana Dance Ensemble	
18.		Conferment of Honorary Fellowship	Chairman CAB	CDS/Comdt to Assist
19.		Graduation Address	Guest of Honour	To be preceded by Appellation
20.		Dissolution of Congregation	Rector, GIMPA	
21.		Announcement	MC	
22.		Prayer	Clergy	
23.		National Anthem	Band	All Stand
24.		Academic Recession	Registrar	
25.		Group Photograph	DG HR/DG PR	Guest of Honour, Ministers of State, CAB, Graduates and Faculty
26.		Refreshment	Dir Admin	Nicholson Stadium
27.		Guest of Honour/VIPs Depart		

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Editorial

Air Cdre F Odoi-Wellington

It is with immense pride and purpose that we present The Strategist, the first-ever publication of the National College of Defence Studies. This magazine is not just a reflection of our institution's commitment to fostering intellectual discourse, but also a response to the growing need for informed and nuanced discussions within the realm of strategy and policy-making. In an era where geopolitical shifts are frequent, where security threats manifest in unpredictable ways, and where technology constantly disrupts the status quo, the need for a strategic publication has never been greater.

At its core, The Strategist seeks to bridge the gap between academic theory and real-world strategic applications. Through this platform, we aim to offer critical insights, timely analysis, and forward-thinking perspectives that can aid decision-makers, both within our country and in the broader strategic community. The challenges we face today—whether in global security, cyber warfare, military innovation, or international diplomacy—require a constant flow of new ideas, grounded in deep research and strategic foresight. This magazine will serve as a dynamic space where participants, faculty, and thought leaders converge to explore and propose solutions to these evolving challenges.

The National College of Defence Studies is a bastion for cultivating the minds of future leaders

THE DAWN OF STRATEGIC DISCOURSE

in defence and security strategy. Our graduates will go on to apply critical thinking skills to influence national security strategies, development policies and shape defence diplomacy across the globe. They represent the nexus between the intellectual rigour of the classroom and the practical demands of global security. The Strategist is an extension of this mission, offering a medium through which their ideas can reach a broader audience—including policymakers, military practitioners, and academics, who are shaping the policies that will define our collective future.

The name, The Strategist, was chosen with great care, reflecting not only our institutional values but also the broader implications of strategic thinking. Strategy is not merely a concept tied to military engagement, it is a mindset that permeates decision-making at every level of government and society. In an increasingly interconnected world with challenges ranging from terrorism, climate change, economic instability, to pandemics, strategy must evolve beyond traditional approaches. The Strategist is designed to explore these new dimensions of strategy, offering interdisciplinary insights that can benefit policy formulation, national security, and global cooperation.

One of the most significant gaps in today's strategic discourse is the disconnect between theory and practice. While academia excels in research and theoretical frameworks, policy-makers often operate under the pressure of immediate needs, relying on accessible and actionable intelligence to solve complex problems. The Strategist is intended to fill this gap, offering content that is not only academically oriented but also practically inclined and relevant for real-time policy application. We believe that a well-informed strategy, built on a foundation of robust analysis, can lead to better outcomes—whether in conflict resolution, national defence, or international diplomacy.

Moreover, the publication is also a reflection of the changing nature of warfare and global security. Gone are the days when conflicts were confined to borders, involving only traditional military forces. Today, warfare is asymmetric, hybrid, and multi-dimensional, involving state and non-state actors alike. Cyberattacks, economic warfare, and even the weaponization of information have emerged as new frontiers of conflict. Leaders navigate these complex terrains, often with little precedent to guide them.

This is where The Strategist steps in. Through thoughtful contributions from the participants at the National College of Defence Studies, this magazine will provide cutting-edge perspectives on the challenges of modern warfare and defence policy.

Additionally, this publication will serve as a collaborative space for strategic thought. Contributions will range from participants' write-ups that challenge conventional thinking to seasoned professionals offering their field experiences to bridge the generational gaps in strategic thinking. By facilitating such a rich exchange of ideas, The Strategist aims to be a repository of knowledge that serves not only our academic community but also a broader readership, extending to defence professionals, analysts, and those in the policymaking arena.

For policymakers, this magazine will be an indispensable resource. We live in a time where decision-makers must contend with threats that are multifaceted, fast-evolving, and often difficult to predict. This requires not only tactical responses but long-term strategic foresight. Publications such as The Strategist play a crucial role in shaping the strategic dialogue necessary to confront these complex realities. By providing fresh, informed perspectives from emerging thinkers, it offers policymakers access to innovative solutions and insights unburdened by the constraints of entrenched interests.

Furthermore, this publication underscores the role of strategy as a continually evolving practice. The challenges we face today will not be the same as those we face tomorrow, and therefore, the strategies we employ must be adaptable, innovative, and responsive to global shifts. As the world becomes more interconnected and interdependent, strategies that embrace diplomacy, multilateralism, and a focus on global stability will become increasingly vital. The Strategist will ensure that these elements remain at the forefront of defense and security discussions.

In conclusion, as we embark on this exciting journey, we invite you — our readers, our contributors, and our critics—to join us. Engage with the ideas presented here, challenge the status quo, and collaborate with us to push the boundaries of strategic thought. The future of defense and security is being shaped today, and we believe that The Strategist will be a key player in influencing the direction it takes. Whether you are a student, a scholar, or a seasoned policymaker, this magazine will offer you insights, provoke debate, and inspire action.

Welcome to The Strategist, where *Ingenuity and Strategy* are anchored.

Profile of National College of Defence Studies - Ghana

INTRODUCTION

The Ghana Armed Forces established the National College of Defence Studies (NCDS) in May 2023 to offer Strategic Courses for senior military officers of the rank of Colonel or equivalent and relevant national agencies of the same status. This was based on the directive of the President of the Republic of Ghana, pursuant to section 29(1) of the Education Regulatory Bodies Act 2020 (Act 1023).

The College is a Tri-Service Institution that will impart skills in strategic leadership, contemporary management thought, concepts and practices, that lead to effective decision making, enlightened leadership and efficient resource management in a knowledge-centric environment to the senior leadership of the Armed Forces and relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) as well as international participants at the conceptual, directional and functional levels.

The establishment of the NCDS will thus enable the GAF and Ghana to harness its full benefits of providing the best environment to produce a good number of strategic leaders from Ghana and allied countries, capable of marshalling the instrument of national power to meet the security and other developmental needs of their countries. It will also equip strategic leaders with the requisite knowledge and skills to take up high level policy, leadership and staff positions in any environment.

VISION

To be a preferred destination in Africa and the world for nurturing strategic leaders to marshal the instrument of power to meet the security and developmental needs of their countries.

MISSION

To prepare selected military officers, senior officers from other security agencies and government officials for strategic leadership and management roles.

OBJECTIVES

To help the participants:

a. Recognise the difference between leadership and command and, as appropriate, differentiate between the differing behaviours and requirements needed for both public and private sectors.

b. Describe the characteristics of the strategic environment and identify the requisite characteristics of leadership and accountability at the strategic level in national and multinational settings.

c. Understand strategy development training to enhance the capacity of defence, security, and government leaders in Ghana and beyond.

d. Conduct training and research to aid in policy formation, policy analysis and decision-making at the strategic level in national security, national development and international relations.

e. Understand the impact of science and technology, environment, economics, politics and foreign policy on national security and national development.

f. Recognise and analyse how leaders emerge or are selected at the strategic level.

g. Balance the need to take a longer, more strategic, view with the demands of dealing with the urgent.

h. Understand the key attributes of a strategic leader working at the highest levels in the public and commercial contexts.

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National College of Defence Studies - Ghana

Commandant's Message

Maj Gen Irvine Nii-Ayitey Aryeetey

The dream to establish the National College of Defence Studies (NCDS) was on the drawing board for a long time. Although there was the desire and implicit capability to take the bold step, it was only in the last couple of years that this vision was put into action. The NCDS was therefore established in May 2023 on the instruction of the President of the Republic of Ghana and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces. He charged the Military High Command to prepare selected senior military officers, qualified civil servants and military personnel from allied African countries in the related fields of defence and security for strategic-level leadership and staff appointments.

The objective of the course is to inculcate in participants, critical thinking and problem-solving skills required at the highest level of leadership. Additionally, it was to build capacity and the ability to support decision-making with scientific research in strategic studies. We thank the Commander-in-Chief for his vision that made this a possibility and the Minister of Defence and the entire College Advisory Board for the clear guidance and support they have offered so far. Even though strategy development, through critical thinking, is the core of the course, the package includes rich academic disciplines, notably, international relations, strategic leadership, strategic management of defence, defence diplomacy, war policy and national decision-making. In this regard, the College has recruited a very experienced and motivated faculty of both military and civilian staff to bring this dream to fruition and already the first fellows of the College are ready for their new and enhanced roles. NCDS is not simply a place of learning, but a symbol of our commitment to safeguarding Ghana's sovereignty and ensuring the safety and security of our people. It is here that the future leaders of our Armed Forces and civil service will be nurtured and equipped with the knowledge, skills and values necessary to protect, and serve Ghana.

This remarkable milestone signifies a new era in our nation's defence education and training, and it is with great admiration that I particularly acknowledge the invaluable role played by the former Chief of the Defence Staff, Vice Admiral Seth Amoama, in the establishment of this esteemed institution. His commitment to ensure that this project was successful has been sustained by his successor, Lieutenant General Thomas Oppong-Peprah. It is true to mention that without the full commitment and the preferential attention these leaders gave to the College, this would not have been a success. I would like to also extend sincere appreciation to those who in diverse ways contributed to the success of this seemingly impossible task of establishing a tertiary institution with quite limited resources and within a very limited time. I also want to extend deep appreciation to Major General Affram and his team of War/Defence College qualified Generals who put the broad concept together and drafted the curriculum that we relied on to develop our modules.

I owe the biggest gratitude to my faculty and administrative staff who have worked to make all this possible in this first academic year. They will confess that the journey often seemed volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous. It required a motivated team to bring together their immense ingenuity and strategic thinking abilities to work this out. I envision how they will bring this experience to affect the next course and the vision of making the College a center of excellence in the shortest possible time. It is more than appropriate to use this message to thank Ghana Tertiary Education Commission (GTEC) for their guidance through the process of accreditation and Ghana Institute of Management and Public

Administration (GIMPA), for accepting to mentor us and doing so very well throughout the year.

Finally, I wish to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the graduates of NCDS Course 1-23. We hold you in high esteem for being our first product. Your success in the field is ours too. Our sincere hope is that we were able to achieve the objectives we set out together and that we have made an impact in your professional careers and personal lives. Being our first fellows and first ambassadors, we will be very interested to see how you transfer what you took from here to the field. Let me again remind you that the College is your reference point, therefore, you can always return to seek guidance or collaborate so that you can effectively affect policy and strategy in your new environment. Remember the intrinsic meaning of the College's Motto; 'Ingenuity and Strategy', as you take up future strategic roles.

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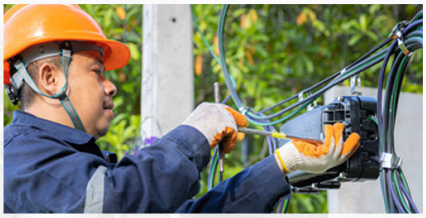

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Abstracts of Participants' Dissertations

Assessing Civilian-Military Relations in the Fourth Republic of Ghana: Challenges and Prospects for the Ghana Armed Forces

Col Abednego E Shooter

The study assessed the state of civilian-military relations in the fourth Republic of Ghana, identified the challenges affecting civilian-military relations for the Ghana Armed Forces (GAF), and determined the prospects for improving civilian-military relations for the GAF. The study employs a quantitative research approach, utilising structured questionnaires distributed to 400 respondents within the Greater Accra Region. The sample includes personnel of the GAF and civilians. Data was analysed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 25 to conduct descriptive statistical analysis. Additionally, the study used the Relative Importance Index (RII) to rank and prioritise various factors influencing civilian-military relations. The findings revealed a generally positive perception of civilian-military relations, highlighted by respect for civilian rights and overall relationship quality. However, significant challenges persist, including political interference, lack of public awareness, human rights abuses, and inadequate communication channels. These issues undermine trust and necessitate strategic interventions by policymakers. The study also identified key prospects for enhancing good relations, such as establishing feedback mechanisms, supporting educational programmes, promoting regular dialogues, and increasing military involvement in community projects. These prospects are seen as critical for fostering trust, transparency, cooperation and improved relationship. The results underscore the importance of robust democratic oversight, improved communication, military professionalism, and public education in strengthening civilian-military relations in Ghana. The study provides a comprehensive framework for policymakers to understand the state of the relationship which provides the key to addressing existing challenges and leveraging opportunities to improve the dynamics between civilians and the military in Ghana.

Keywords: Civilian-military relations, Ghana Armed Forces, public perception, political interference, human rights

Community Engagement and Maritime Security in Ghana: A Bottom-up Approach

Capt (GN) Albert A Kpesenu

This study is distinct in its focus on the role of community engagement in enhancing maritime security in Ghana. The study primarily assesses the role of littoral communities in safeguarding Ghana's maritime domain, considering that issues of piracy, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing have become topical in Ghana's Exclusive Economic Zone and the Gulf of Guinea region. The research offers insights and provides actionable solutions for improving maritime security governance in Ghana and the Gulf of Guinea region. It achieves this through a comprehensive analysis of stakeholder relationships and community engagement. The study used a qualitative research approach to understand the complex interplay between maritime security and perceptions within littoral communities in Ghana. Data was collected through interviews and questionnaires from 52 participants purposefully selected from fisherfolks, community leaders, and maritime law enforcement officials from Ghana's four (4) littoral regions. Data was analysed using thematic analysis, which revealed a significant gap in current state-centric security frameworks overlooking the contributions of local knowledge of littoral communities and community-based approaches to maritime security. The findings underscore the need for a collaborative approach integrating littoral communities' input into maritime security policies and practices. The study recommends the systematic inclusion of littoral community members in decision-making to improve collaboration between security agencies and communities to enhance Ghana's maritime security. With its unique bottom-up approach, this research significantly contributes to understanding how community engagement can enhance inclusive maritime security in Ghana.

Keywords: Maritime security, community engagement, littoral communities, Ghana, bottom-up approach

Abstracts of Participants' Dissertations

The Role of Intelligence Agencies in Preventing Violent Extremism in Northern Ghana

Col Forster O Okae-Yeboah

The growing threat of violent extremism in West Africa, particularly in Ghana, has highlighted the critical role of intelligence agencies in mitigating such threats. This study examines the role of intelligence agencies in preventing violent extremism in northern Ghana, using a qualitative research approach that incorporates interviews, document analysis, and qualitative surveys. Twenty-five (25) respondents comprising twenty (20) from intelligence agencies and five (5) from Civil Society Organisations in Northern Ghana took part in the study. By employing a triangulation method, the research provides a comprehensive understanding of the strategies implemented by these agencies and explores the challenges they face. Comparative analyses with other regions are included to offer broader perspectives on counter-extremism efforts. The study also addresses the dynamic nature of violent extremism, emphasizing the importance of ongoing monitoring and evaluation. The research contributes to the academic discourse on security studies by filling a gap in the evaluation of intelligence agencies' roles in northern Ghana. Key findings include limited resources, lack of community trust, and weak inter-agency collaboration. The need for stronger community engagement and the integration of advanced technology to enhance intelligence operations was emphasised. Socio-economic deprivation was also identified as a key driver of extremism. The study recommends that intelligence agencies should collaborate with sociologists and anthropologists to address socio-economic drivers of extremism. Additionally, investments in technology, staff training, and inter-agency collaboration are crucial. Strengthening community partnerships, professional development, and securing additional funding will also enhance operational effectiveness and address socio-economic grievances through community development initiatives, fostering trust and transparency.

Keywords: Violent extremism, intelligence agencies, Northern Ghana, community engagement, inter-agency collaboration

Sustainable Performance of Ghana Armed Forces in Maintaining National Security: The Role of Equipment Standardisation

Col Francis Sasu

The Ghana Armed Forces (GAF), like many military institutions in tropical Africa, faces challenges related to equipment procurement. This somehow hinder efficiency, interoperability and maintenance practices. This study explored the lack of uniformity in military equipment within the GAF. The objective of the study was to examine the mediating role of equipment standardisation on the relationship between sustainable performance of GAF and the maintenance of national security. Focusing on the challenges posed by the procurement of non-standardised military equipment, the research analyses how uniformity in military equipment influences the operational efficiency, resilience, and logistical sustainability of the GAF. Utilising a quantitative approach and correlational design, data was collected through simple random sampling and analysed using SPSS. The study revealed that sustainable performance has a positive impact on national security and equipment standardisation. Furthermore, equipment standardisation was found to mediate the relationship between sustainable performance and the maintenance of national security. The findings emphasise the operational, economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainability and highlight the importance of integrating equipment standardisation into GAF's strategic frameworks to improve operational readiness and efficiency. The research offers insights into how standardisation can serve as a critical tool for military effectiveness and preparedness, particularly in the context of complex security challenges. Ultimately, this study contributes to the discourse on military logistics and national security, recommending the adoption of standardised procurement practices to enhance the long-term resilience of the GAF.

Keywords: Equipment Standardisation, Sustainability, National Security, Ghana Armed Forces

Abstracts of Participants' Dissertations

An Assessment of Stakeholder Collaboration on Value for Money in Works Procurement in Ghana: A Case Study of the Tamale Metropolitan Area

Mr Frank O Kpodo

Stakeholder collaboration plays a crucial role in the successful implementation of projects. Furthermore, understanding the value derived from stakeholder collaboration is essential for effective decision-making. Despite its importance, theoretical knowledge and empirical evidence is scarce. The study assessed stakeholder collaboration on value for money in the procurement of civil works projects by identifying end-user needs, balancing interest groups and managing inter-relationships during project planning, processing and implementation. Poor stakeholder collaboration can significantly impact procurement decisions. However, appropriate stakeholder collaboration can enhance transparency, fairness and competitiveness while achieving value for money. By exploring stakeholder theory, this research will contribute to a better understanding of how stakeholder collaboration influences procurement outcomes in Ghana. The implementation and determination of value creation through stakeholder collaboration play a crucial role. Stakeholders refer to professionals who represent government in civil works procurement in Ghana. Their involvement impacts project outcomes, cost-effectiveness, and overall success. The primary purpose of this study is to explore the impact of government as a stakeholder collaborator in civil works procurement. By analysing the interactions between stakeholders, it will focus specifically on works procurement within the Tamale Metropolitan Area where it will investigate stakeholder dynamics, decision-making processes and value creation mechanisms. The geographical context ensures relevance to local practices and challenges. Understanding stakeholder collaboration on value for money has practical implications for policymakers, procurement professionals and project managers. By identifying best practices and potential pitfalls, the research will contribute to informed decision-making and improved project outcomes.

Keywords: Stakeholder collaboration, value for money, civil works procurement, Tamale Metropolitan Area, public procurement

Influence of Changing Trends in Professionalism of Security Services: A Case Study of Selected Private Security Organisations in Ghana

Col Glover A Annan

This study investigated the influence of changing trends in professionalism within private security organisations (PSOs) in Ghana. The study explored how professionalism, influenced by evolving technological advancements, regulatory changes, and globalisation has impacted the effectiveness, performance, and overall development of private security personnel in Ghana. The study employed a qualitative research design, utilising semi-structured interviews and document analysis to gather data from interviewees including security personnel, managers, and policymakers. The study highlights the crucial role of continuous professional development in enhancing the skills, morale, and job satisfaction of security personnel. The research also underscores the need for a standardised regulatory framework to ensure consistency in the professionalism of PSOs. Technological advancements, while enhancing operational efficiency, have introduced new challenges, including cybersecurity risks and the need for specialised training in handling modern security equipment. The findings reveal that professionalism within Ghana's private security sector is increasingly shaped by external factors such as technological integration, international best practices, and the growing importance of ethical standards and accountability. The study also underscores the need for a standardised regulatory framework to ensure consistency in the professionalism of PSOs. Additionally, the study identified the impact of changing trends on the effectiveness and public perception of PSOs. The study recommends that PSOs in Ghana should adopt more rigorous training programmes, embrace technological innovations, and collaborate with public security agencies to improve service delivery.

Keywords: Professionalism, private security organisations, technological advancements, regulatory framework, training, security personnel, cybersecurity, public perception

Abstracts of Participants' Dissertations

Evaluating the Effectiveness of Governance Frameworks in Preventing Violent Extremism and Terrorism in Ghana

Col Joseph K Merdiemah

Violent extremism and terrorism have emerged as significant national security threats globally, prompting global and regional bodies and countries to devise various measures to address the challenge they pose. West Africa has been described as the epicentre of violent extremism and terrorism. Given the global threat and Ghana's proximity to some countries affected by this phenomenon, the country has similarly developed governance frameworks to prevent violent extremism and terrorism. Notable among these are the Anti-Terrorism Act, 2008 as amended in 2012, the Anti-Money Laundering Act, 2020, National Framework for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Terrorism and the National Security Strategy. However, significant gaps and challenges have been associated with implementing these frameworks, including cooperation and coordination. This study evaluated the effectiveness of Ghana's governance framework in preventing violent extremism and terrorism, the level of knowledge, challenges, and concerns about the country's violent extremism and terrorism levels. This study explored the stakeholders' knowledge level about the governance framework for preventing violent extremism and terrorism in Ghana, the influence of the existing governance framework in preventing violent extremism and terrorism in Ghana, and the governance challenges to the frameworks preventing violent extremism and terrorism in Ghana. It also explored the effectiveness of the governance framework in preventing violent extremism and terrorism in Ghana and the concerns about violent extremism and terrorism levels in Ghana. The exploratory qualitative research design used a case study and collected data using purposive sampling. It applied the Governance Theory to analyse the issues thoroughly. The study found that stakeholders in Ghana are familiar with key governance frameworks like the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2008 but have limited knowledge of the National Framework for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Terrorism. These frameworks positively influence the prevention of violent extremism and terrorism but face challenges like financial constraints, corruption and political interference. There are concerns that youth bulge, high unemployment, and neighbouring terrorism activities increase vulnerability. The study emphasised the importance of a collective (all-inclusive) effort to reduce the challenges that affect the effectiveness of the governance frameworks and efforts to resolve protracted chieftaincy and land disputes to reduce their effect on Ghana's vulnerability to violent extremism and terrorism with the National Peace Council playing a lead role

Keywords: Violent extremism, terrorism, governance framework, Ghana

An Assessment of the Effectiveness of Maritime Security Legal Frameworks and Operations in Ghana

Col Joshua Amanor

Maritime resources play a crucial role in the development of coastal nations, including Ghana, which faces significant challenges in managing these resources effectively. The study highlights the inadequacies of Ghana's legal frameworks governing maritime operations and security, particularly regarding the implementation of the Law of the Sea Convention (LOSC) related to piracy and the protection of submarine infrastructure. Despite efforts to safeguard its maritime domain, Ghana grapples with threats such as smuggling, drug trafficking, illegal migration and maritime terrorism, exacerbated by ineffective ocean governance. The research utilised qualitative methods to identify operational challenges and gaps in legal frameworks. It found that logistical constraints, insufficient training and a lack of advanced technology hinder maritime security operations. The study underscores the necessity for inter-agency collaboration to enhance the effectiveness of maritime operations. It advocates for the adoption of innovative technologies, including maritime surveillance systems and blockchain, to bolster security measures. To improve maritime governance, the study recommends several actions: harmonising existing laws, establishing specialised maritime courts, enhancing international cooperation, creating a centralised Maritime Security Coordination Centre and investing in advanced technologies like Automated Identification Systems and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles. Additionally, comprehensive training programs for personnel and adequate funding are essential. By implementing these recommendations, Ghana can enhance its maritime security operations and efficiency, ensuring the nation's robust maritime security.

Keywords: Maritime security, legal frameworks, operations, Ghana, LOSC, surveillance, technology

Abstracts of Participants' Dissertations

Strengthening the Defence Sector of Ghana: The Role of Defence-Related Think Tanks

Col Kingsley KK Affrifah

The defence sector is a vital aspect of national security which offers structural and operational capabilities required to safeguard a country's territorial integrity, sovereignty and internal stability. This study explored the Think Tank landscape in Ghana to understand the extent to which defence-related Think Tanks can impact policy formulation and strategic decisions within Ghana's defence sector. The study analysed the contribution of these Think Tanks in addressing contemporary security challenges and their influence on defence policy formulation. Furthermore, it examined the challenges these Think Tanks face and investigated the existence of legislation that support their operations. This study was grounded on a qualitative research approach using purposive sampling from the public and private sectors, the defence sector, and policy experts from KAIPTC, CDD-Ghana, IDEG, Parliament of Ghana, NCDS and WANEP alongside secondary data. The findings revealed the absence of legislation to guide the operations of defence-related Think Tanks. Additionally, the findings indicate a divided opinion over the existence of defence-related Think Tanks with those recognised focusing more on security related matters than defence. Other challenges identified as affecting the work of defence-related Think Tanks include limited funding, political influence and limited access to vital data on defence. The study recommends establishing dedicated Think Tanks focused exclusively on defence and military strategy. Also, government, along with private entities and international partners, should institute sustainable funding models that support the operational independence of these institutions, and introduce legislative framework to enhance the credibility, transparency and operational scope of defence-related Think Tanks.

Keywords: Defence, Think Tanks, Ghana

The Effect of Electoral Violence on Security in Africa: A Case Study of Ghana's Fourth Republic (1992 - 2020)

Col Alfred K Botsoe

This qualitative study investigated the multifaceted impact of electoral violence on security dynamics in Africa, focusing on Ghana's Fourth Republic (1992-2020). The research, centred in Greater Accra, employed purposive sampling and semi-structured interviews with 25 key stakeholders. Thematic analysis of primary data revealed various types of electoral violence occurring at different stages, targeting multiple stakeholders, and serving distinct objectives, predominantly at the micro-level. The effects of this violence are extensive, politically undermining democratic processes, socially fragmenting communities, and economically hindering growth. Despite multifaceted security measures, including preventive, reactive, and collaborative efforts, their effectiveness remain insufficient due to political interference and public mistrust. The study suggests that mitigating electoral violence requires integrating technology, community engagement, and policy reform to address both symptoms and root causes. While electoral violence in Ghana has not reached the widespread severity witnessed in other African nations, it poses significant political, social, and economic threats.

Keywords: Electoral violence, security dynamics, democracy, Ghana, Africa

Abstracts of Participants' Dissertations

Assessing the Role of the Military in Combating Illegal Gold Mining Activities in Ghana

Col Kwesi Ayima

The phenomenon of illegal Gold Mining (IGM) activities in Ghana has had a detrimental impact on the country's ecosystem, posing a threat to socio-economic development. Despite numerous measures implemented by successive governments to curb this menace, no viable solution has been found. Even the utilisation of the military as a last resort strategy to enhance previous approaches has not yielded the anticipated outcomes, as the issue persists. This study aims to assess the role of the military in addressing IGM in Akwadum, located within the Abuakwa Municipality of the Eastern Region of Ghana. Grounded in the theories of Securitisation and Civil-Military Relations, the study investigates how the Ghanaian government has characterized IGM as a national security concern and examines the interaction between the military and members of the mining community, with an emphasis on maintaining a balanced relationship that prevents maltreatment and ensures effective enforcement operations. By employing a qualitative phenomenological approach, the study utilised questionnaires and unstructured interviews to gather data from 37 respondents from diverse backgrounds, including military and national security personnel, local community leaders, government officials, environmentalists, academics, CSOs and subject matter experts. The findings indicated that while military interventions have served as a deterrent to some extent, the desired outcomes have not been realised. Furthermore, the study identified shortcomings in the current deployment of the military to combat IGM activities, especially the lack of a holistic strategy for the anti-IGM effort. The study also highlights the potential advantages of integrating advanced technologies, such as drones and satellite imagery to enhance operational efficiency in combating IGM. Additionally, the research underscores the significance of collaboration among stakeholders, particularly the involvement of local communities in decision-making processes, to foster trust in achieving sustainable outcomes. The implications of this study are that it establishes an empirical foundation for redefining the role of the military in the IGM endeavor and provides actionable recommendations to enhance the efficiency and ethical behavior of the military in combating IGM.

Keywords: Illegal gold mining, military intervention, national security, Ghana, community engagement.

Promoting Ghana's National Security Interests Through Effective Media Campaigns

Capt (GN) Michael A Larbi

This research examines the role of media campaigns in promoting Ghana's national security interests, focusing on the effectiveness, challenges, and collaboration between media outlets and security agencies. The study utilises a qualitative approach by gathering data through interviews using thematic data and analysis to explore how media narratives influence public perception of national security issues. The framing theory serves as the theoretical framework, guiding the analysis of how media shapes the public's understanding of key security concerns. Key findings revealed that while media campaigns have the potential to enhance national security awareness, they often face challenges such as bias, lack of accurate representation, and limited collaboration with security agencies. The study identified economic and cyber security as the most pressing national security issues in Ghana, and underscores the need for stronger partnerships between media and security institutions to improve the effectiveness of media campaigns. Recommendations include enhancing training for journalists on security issues, increasing transparency between media and security agencies, and promoting balanced narratives to foster public trust. This research contributes to the understanding of how targeted media campaigns can serve as strategic tools for safeguarding national security.

Keywords: Media campaigns, national security, public perception, Ghana, security agencies, collaboration

Abstracts of Participants' Dissertations

Harnessing Science and Technology for Effective Communication in Air Power: A Case Study of the Ghana Air Force

Gp Capt Nii A Aryeetey

This dissertation explores the potential of Science and Technology (ST) in enhancing communication systems within the Ghana Air Force (GHF). The research aims to bridge the gap between ST theory, methodology, and practical application in Air Power (AP) communication, thereby contributing to AP effectiveness, operational safety, and overall national security. The study is motivated by the critical role of effective communication in military operations, particularly in AP delivery. Communication forms the backbone of any military operation, and its effectiveness directly impacts operational success. In the context of GHF, this research seeks to assess how ST can improve communication, examine the current state of communication systems, and understand the implications of obsolete systems on AP delivery. The study employs a mixed-methods approach, to provide a comprehensive analysis. The findings are expected to provide valuable insights into the current state of communication systems in GHF, the potential benefits of harnessing ST, and the implications of not doing so. By highlighting the potential of ST in enhancing communication systems, the study could guide policy decisions and strategic planning in GHF and other similar institutions. Furthermore, the research could serve as a reference for future studies on the subject. Through a case study of GHF, it provides a roadmap for how ST can be leveraged to improve transmission among aviation stakeholders for effective and reliable AP delivery. The findings of this research could have far-reaching implications for GHF, the broader field of military communication and national security at large.

Keywords: Air power, science and technology, communication systems, Ghana Air Force, military operations

Urban Household Sanitation and Public Health in Ghana: Impact Assessment of Adentan Municipal Assembly

Col Richard K Mensah

Sanitation and public health have been worsened by the increasing rate of urbanisation in Ghana. It is therefore essential to evaluate the current sanitation practices and their effects. This study aims to assess the impact of sanitation interventions and their outcomes on public health within the Adentan Municipality. Using a cross-sectional descriptive research design, the study seeks to determine the sanitation status of urban households, the efficiency of municipal sanitation programmes and the health impact. The study uses thematic analysis to analyse the data collected from the municipal assembly officers, sanitation companies and residents. The results show that although sanitation amenities, including clean and private water closets, are well maintained, there is a lack of consistent waste disposal and unreliable water supply. There is a general lack of public knowledge about sanitation and an even lower uptake of participation in sanitation-related initiatives, pointing to a gap between the work done by the Municipal Assembly and the community. Sanitation interventions have been mixed in their success, particularly for waste management and public enlightenment campaigns, which are also characterised by the problems of communication and program implementation. From the study, malaria has been established to be a significant health problem associated with poor sanitation, and thus, there is a need to enhance sanitation standards. Some of the recommendations include increasing public awareness, increasing the effectiveness of waste disposal services, and imposing penalties for violations of the set rules and regulations. To this end, these areas should be dealt with through education, community awareness, and legal measures to enhance sanitation standards and, hence, the public's health.

Keywords: Sanitation, Urban, public health, Ghana, Adentan, Municipal Assembly

Abstracts of Participants' Dissertations

An Assessment of the Effects of Sea-Level Rise on Human Security Along the Coasts of Ghana: The Case of the Keta Municipality in the Volta Region

Gp Capt Sophia A Jiagge

This study aims at exploring the perceptions and experiences of residents in the Keta community regarding sea-level rise, its impacts, and the effectiveness of current mitigation measures. Grounded in Human Security Theory and Environmental Possibilism, the research employs a qualitative methodology, collecting data through interviews and focus group discussions with forty (40) respondents. The key findings revealed significant effects on daily life, infrastructure, health, and the economy, with frequent flooding and coastal erosion causing widespread damage and disruption. Though current measures provided some relief to the Keta community, they are considered insufficient for long-term resilience. Recommendations include the government strengthening coastal defences, enhancing community education, and improving coordination between government and local initiatives. These strategies aim to address both immediate and future challenges posed by sea-level rise, ensuring the well-being and security of the Keta community.

Keywords: Sea-level rise, human security, coastal erosion, community resilience, environmental adaptation

Gender Mainstreaming for Effective Military Operations in the Ghana Armed Forces

Capt (GN) Veronica A Arhin

Gender mainstreaming has been promoted globally for several decades. However the extent to which mainstreaming translates into effectiveness of military operations remains underexplored. Using the qualitative case study approach, the study assesses "Gender Mainstreaming for Effective Military Operations in the Ghana Armed Forces." Findings from the study reveal that, gender mainstreaming approaches in the Ghana Armed Forces include developing and implementing a gender policy, initiating regulations that promote female representation at various levels of the Force, gendered decision making particularly during peacekeeping and other military operations as well as opening up all branches of the Force to female and male personnel. Further findings indicate significant progress in gender integration with increased female participation in leadership positions has contributed to enhancing operational effectiveness in the Ghana Armed Forces. Overall, the findings imply that while gender mainstreaming has positive implications for operational effectiveness, its effect is moderated by the extent to which the barriers to full implementation are addressed. The research established that cultural resistance, institutional inertia, and leadership commitment affect gender mainstreaming in the Ghana Armed Forces. It recommends strengthening policy frameworks, enhancing training, and increasing the visibility of female role models to consolidate gains made and address existing gaps in the gender mainstreaming efforts. The study contributes to policy development and strategic planning within the GAF. It aims at fostering a more inclusive and effective military force, and underscores the necessity for continued efforts to address both the structural and cultural barriers to gender mainstreaming.

Keywords: Gender, Armed Forces, Ghana, Main-streaming, Military, Operations

Abstracts of Participants' Dissertations

Border Porosity and Illicit Weapons Proliferations in Ghana: A Case Study of Gakli (Border) Town in the Ketu South Municipality of the Volta Region

Col W Attipoe-Dumashie

This study examines the complex interplay between border porosity and illicit weapons trafficking in an important border town in the Ketu South Municipality of Ghana. Against a background of the upsurge of transnational organised crime, this research investigates the socio-economic drivers and security implications of weapons smuggling, aiming to inform effective policy interventions. The study brings to the fore the significant problem of weapons trafficking in border areas, establishing its relevance in the broader context of regional security challenges in West Africa and the Sahel. It underscores the need for an enhanced understanding of border management and governance. The methodology is supported by the differential opportunity theory, which provides a lens to examine the opportunities and constraints faced by individuals involved in unlawful activities. The justification for selecting Gakli as a case study and a detailed description of data collection methods are articulated. The preliminary findings reveal a significant correlation between high border porosity and the prevalence of illicit weapons. Factors such as unemployment and economic dependence on neighbouring countries are key drivers. The analysis connects these socioeconomic factors to broader security and developmental implications, offering an understanding of the challenges and opportunities for intervention. The study's findings on policy and practice are carefully examined, with suggestions for strengthening regional cooperation and local capacity building. The challenges posed by border porosity and illicit weapons trafficking in Gakli underscore the importance of comprehensive policy reforms, enhanced stakeholder collaboration, and continuous monitoring to mitigate security risks. Recommendations for future research are proposed to deepen the understanding of cross-border criminal dynamics and its impact on national and regional security.

Keywords: Porosity, Ghana, Gakli, illicit weapons

Ghana's Defence Diplomacy: A Post Independence Assessment

Col William K Abotsi

This study seeks to interrogate Ghana's Defence Diplomacy (DD) in the post-independence period to assess its effectiveness in assuring the country's security and promoting its foreign policy. The main objective of the study was to refocus Ghana's DD as a deliberate and purposeful foreign policy tool of soft power. The study argued that deliberate conceptualisation and use of DD as a security and foreign policy tool would assure attainment of Ghana's security and foreign policy goals. The study adopted qualitative methodology. The research found that Ghana's use of DD as a security and foreign policy tool was ad hoc, and not clearly defined in any national policy document. Broad frameworks for conceptualisation of DD were however grounded in Ghana's Foreign Policy and the 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana. The National Security Strategy (NSS) 2020 also provided an opportunity for conceptualisation of Ghana's DD but Ministry of Defence (MOD) is yet to seize that opportunity. Though several issues challenged Ghana's DD, the overarching challenge is the lack of conceptualisation of the security and foreign policy tool. Ghana's DD, however, contributed positively to regional peace and security through ECOMOG operations and UN peacekeeping. Officer exchanges and bilateral and multilateral training exercises also reinforced regional cooperation and improved regional stability. The study recommended that the MOD should conceptualise Ghana's DD and promulgate it with a national defence policy. This should be complemented with government white papers. Desks for DA Affairs should also be created at the General Headquarters of GAF to synergise DAs activities and promotion of government white papers to better conceptualize and guide DD activities.

Keywords: Defence diplomacy, national security, foreign policy, Ghana, regional stability

Abstracts of Participants' Dissertations

The Resurgence of Coup d'états in West Africa: A Case Study of Burkina Faso and Its Implications for Ghana's Security

Mr Ebenezer Adjei

The Sahel region of West Africa has witnessed a significant surge in coup d'états in recent years, with military juntas currently governing four countries namely Mali, Guinea, Burkina Faso and Niger. Coup d'etats have made the security situation in the Sahel particularly volatile as violent extremists organisations have increased their activities in the region due to the porosity of state boundaries. This study investigates the causes of recent coup d'etats in Burkina Faso and their security implications for the stability of Ghana. The study employed qualitative research method, utilising primary and secondary sources of data such as interviews, academic articles, government reports and news archives to obtain pertinent information relevant to the study. Major findings of the study indicate that the causes of contemporary coups in Burkina Faso are multifaceted, including political instability, economic hardship, military grievances, ethnic and social tensions as well as external influences. The research further reveals significant security implications for Ghana, encompassing increased border insecurity, influx of refugees, upsurge in transnational crime, heightened terrorism threats and economic disruptions. The study concludes that addressing the underlying causes of instability in Burkina Faso is essential for mitigating its security impact on Ghana. The study recommends that Ghana should strengthen its border controls, enhance intelligence capabilities, foster regional cooperation, promote economic development and bolster its military capacity to address these threats.

Keywords: Coup d'état, West Africa, Burkina Faso, Ghana, regional security, political instability

Graduation Planning Committee

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MCPO Ayelvae LK

SWOII Sintim AM

WOI Mustapha AR

CPOI Augustt H

Lectures by Africa Center for Strategic Studies

Strategy-Making Exercise

In response to a simulated national security crisis facing the fictional country of Verdonia, participants were divided into four syndicate groups as part of a Strategy Making Exercise. Each syndicate was tasked with developing a comprehensive National Security Strategy to address both internal and external security threats while safeguarding Verdonia's national interests. The exercise aimed to reinforce participants' understanding of strategic planning processes and sharpen their critical thinking skills in addressing real-world security challenges. After thorough deliberation and strategy crafting by the groups, the best proposal was selected and presented, reflecting the collective effort of the syndicate teams and their approach to solving Verdonia's security issues.

After rigorous analysis and discussions among four syndicate groups, one proposal emerged as the most comprehensive and adaptable in response to Verdonia's national security challenges. This winning proposal, "A Secure and Prosperous Verdonia with Regional, Continental, and Global Reach and Influence," was selected as the best submission, representing a robust National Security Strategy (NSS) designed to safeguard Verdonia's sovereignty, promote its economic prosperity, and ensure the safety and well-being of its citizens. Crafted with a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, the strategy underscored the necessity of cooperation between various sectors of government and society to effectively address both traditional and emerging threats.

The strategy was praised for its clear articulation of Verdonia's strategic objectives, centered on the preservation of national sovereignty, national cohesion, sustainable development, and the strengthening of regional and global partnerships. The approach acknowledged that Verdonia's security landscape is shaped not only by internal factors like political and social cohesion but also by external pressures from regional instability, transnational organized crime, terrorism and economic volatility. Emphasis on social cohesion, tolerance, and respect for human rights was particularly commended as vital pillars for maintaining national peace and stability. In a diverse country like Verdonia, fostering inclusive governance and equitable resource distribution were presented as non-negotiable priorities for mitigating internal conflicts.

One of the standout features of the strategy was its proactive stance in addressing future threats. The proposal introduced a four-tier response

system, which categorised potential threats based on their probability and impact. This tiered approach allowed for dynamic responses to crises, ensuring that high-probability, high-impact threats like cyberattacks, terrorism, and cross-border crime received immediate attention, while lower-probability threats, such as nuclear threats or climate change-induced instability, were monitored continuously. This system of prioritising threats based on severity not only provided clarity in resource allocation but also set clear metrics for evaluating the effectiveness of responses over time.

Moreover, the strategy emphasized the need for regional cooperation as a critical element in Verdonia's security efforts. Recognizing the nation's strategic location in a volatile region, the proposal stressed the importance of strengthening ties with regional organizations like ECOWAS and the African Union (AU), alongside active participation in United Nations peacekeeping efforts. Stronger diplomatic ties and intelligence-sharing among neighbouring countries were proposed to counter threats such as piracy, transnational organised crime, and terrorism. Such cooperation was deemed essential for maintaining Verdonia's security while contributing to broader regional peace and stability.

Another notable component of the strategy was its vision for sustainable development as a security imperative. By aligning Verdonia's national security with the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the strategy made the case that promoting economic growth, energy security, food security, and environmental protection are all integral to maintaining peace and stability. It emphasised the development of Verdonia's agricultural and energy sectors, which would not only address unemployment and youth disenchantment but also secure the country's long-term economic independence.

In conclusion, this proposal demonstrated exceptional foresight and strategic depth, addressing the diverse range of security challenges facing Verdonia, from internal conflicts such as chieftaincy and land disputes to external threats like regional instability and terrorism. Through a carefully balanced combination of traditional national security measures and human security considerations, the strategy laid the foundation for a secure and prosperous future for Verdonia.

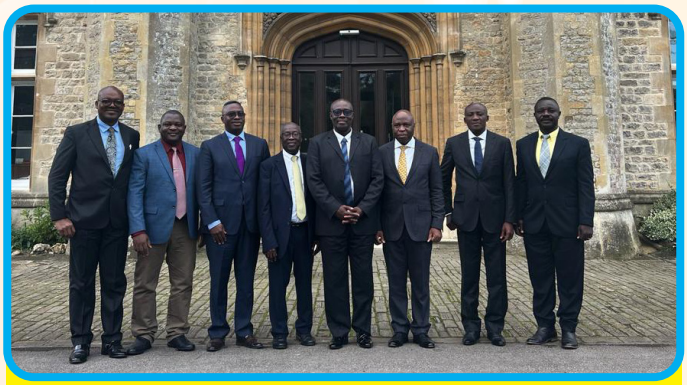
College Activities

Retreat to Start the College

Visit by GTEC

Andragogy Workshop

Induction Service



Benchmarking in UK

Matriculation

High Profile Visits

Former CDS' maiden visit to the College

COAS maiden visit to the College

Commandant interacting with the former CDS

CNS maiden visit to the College

Commandant interacting with CDS on his maiden Visit

CAS maiden visit to the College

Dignitaries' Lectures

US Ambassador to Ghana

ECOWAS Rep in Ghana

Special Advisor to the President
On Accra Initiative

Minister of National Security

EU Ambassador to Ghana

Egypt Ambassador to Ghana

Dignitaries' Lectures

Dr Ishmael Yamson

Chief of Staff - Jubilee House

Chief Director - National Security Ministry

South African High Commissioner to Ghana

Kenyan High Commissioner to Ghana

Ethiopian Ambassador to Ghana

Opening Ceremony of Course 1-23

Former CDS delivering his remarks

Former CDS in a group photograph with Service Chiefs and Participants

Commandant presents a plaque to the former CDS

Participants and Staff Members

Former CDS, former COAS and CAS

Participants of Course 1-23

Seminars

Formulation of National Defence and Military Policies and Strategies

Policy, Strategy and Operation

Security in Africa

Media, Civil Society and National Security

Environmental Degradation and Security

Life After Service

Seminars

Bawku Crisis

Formulation of National, Defence and Military Policies and Strategies

Media, Civil Society and National Security

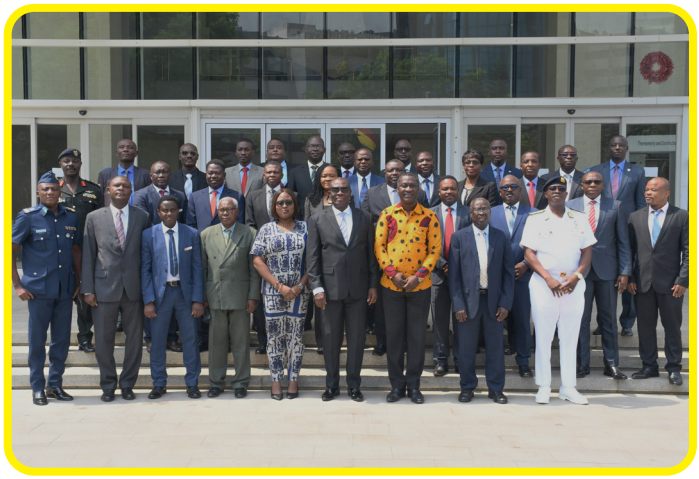
Parliamentary Oversight of Defence

Leadership in Multinational and Multidimensional Peace Operation

Leadership in Multinational and Multidimensional Peace Operation

Participants' Visits to Institutions

World Bank, Ghana



Ministry of Foreign
Affairs and Regional Integration

Ministry of National Security

Ghana EXIM Bank

Ecobank, Ghana

Jubilee House

EXTRACT FROM EXPERIENTIAL RESEARCH STUDY TOUR REPORT - GHANA

INTRODUCTION

The Experiential Research Studies conducted by participants of the National College of Defence Studies (NCDS) focused on the intertwined themes of environmental management and security in the North East and Eastern Regions of Ghana. This report explores the major findings on how environmental challenges contribute to security risks and how security concerns, in turn, impact sustainable development. The report highlights the pressing need for integrated strategies that address both environmental sustainability and security challenges.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Environmental degradation poses significant barriers to sustainable development in both regions under study. The key environmental issues identified include:

1. Land Degradation and Deforestation

In the North East Region, land degradation is a major concern, exacerbated by unsustainable agricultural practices, deforestation, and ineffective land management. In the Eastern Region, illegal mining activities—commonly known as "galamsey"—have led to severe deforestation and the contamination of water resources, which in turn affect agricultural productivity and local livelihoods.

2. Water Resource Management

Both regions face critical challenges regarding water resources. In the North East Region, dam spillages and mismanagement of water resources have negatively impacted both agriculture and household water availability. The scarcity of clean water fuels conflicts between farmers and herders, aggravating existing tensions over dwindling natural resources. In the Eastern Region, illegal mining has polluted rivers, making them unusable for drinking, farming, and fishing, contributing to severe environmental and socio-economic consequences.

3. Renewable Energy Potential

The North East Region holds significant potential for renewable energy, particularly solar and wind energy, which remain largely untapped. Utilizing these energy sources could mitigate environmental degradation by reducing reliance on fossil fuels and providing cleaner energy solutions for the region. However, barriers such as high costs, limited governmental support, and inadequate infrastructure impede their adoption.

4. Community and Stakeholder Involvement
The success of environmental conservation efforts is tied to active community involvement. In both regions, communities are often excluded from decision-making processes. When included, local knowledge and community-driven initiatives have proven effective in monitoring and reducing harmful activities such as illegal mining and deforestation.

SECURITY ISSUES
The security landscape in both regions is deeply affected by environmental degradation, contributing to a range of challenges that hinder sustainable development. The key security issues identified include:

1. Communal and Ethnic Conflicts
In the North East Region, communal and ethnic conflicts are pervasive, often triggered by competition for dwindling natural resources, particularly land and water. The findings indicate that land degradation and poor resource management exacerbate tensions between ethnic groups, particularly between farmers and nomadic herders, whose disputes over grazing lands frequently lead to violent clashes.

2. Illegal Mining and Chieftaincy Disputes
In the Eastern Region, security concerns are primarily linked to illegal mining and chieftaincy disputes. Illegal mining not only causes environmental damage but also fuels social unrest, as local communities compete for control over mining revenues. These activities also lead to increased criminal activities, such as the proliferation of small arms, which further destabilize the region.
Chieftaincy disputes over land ownership complicate security further, as conflicting claims to land rights create fertile ground for armed conflict, impeding both governance and development efforts.

3. Impact on Human Security
The deterioration of natural resources in both regions directly impacts human security. In the North East, the lack of access to essential resources, such as clean water and fertile land, undermines livelihoods and leads to a diversion of resources from development to conflict management. In the Eastern Region, the presence of illegal mining has not only degraded the environment but has also worsened socio-economic conditions, increasing poverty and inequality.

4. Effectiveness of Security Interventions
While certain security measures, such as enhanced law enforcement, have shown some success in addressing illegal activities, they are often undermined by weak policy enforcement and insufficient coordination among government agencies. In both regions, security interventions must be better integrated with environmental and developmental strategies to address the root causes of conflict and insecurity.

CONCLUSION
The Experiential Research Studies in the North East and Eastern Regions of Ghana demonstrate that the challenges of environmental degradation and security are deeply intertwined. In both regions, effective governance, community involvement, and policy enforcement are critical to addressing the dual crises of environmental harm and insecurity. By adopting comprehensive strategies that integrate environmental sustainability with security measures, these regions can work towards long-term stability and sustainable development.

RECOMMENDATIONS
To address the pressing environmental and security challenges in the North East and Eastern Regions of Ghana, the following actions are recommended:

1. Strengthen Policy Enforcement: There is an urgent need for stricter enforcement of environmental regulations, particularly in mining areas, to prevent further degradation and promote sustainable land use.

2. Promote Renewable Energy: Incentives for renewable energy adoption, especially solar and wind, should be prioritized to reduce reliance on harmful energy sources and improve energy security.

3. Enhance Community Engagement: Increased participation of local communities and stakeholders in both environmental and security initiatives is crucial for ensuring that development efforts are effective and sustainable.

4. Integrated Security Strategies: Security interventions must address the root causes of conflicts, such as competition over natural resources, through conflict resolution mechanisms and the promotion of alternative livelihoods.

EXTRACT FROM EXPERIENTIAL RESEARCH STUDY TOUR REPORT - AFRICA

INTRODUCTION

The interconnectedness of environmental sustainability, security, and development has become a major focus for many African nations, including Ethiopia, Nigeria, and Ghana. These countries face significant environmental and security challenges that threaten their developmental progress. The Experiential Research Study (ERS) tour conducted by participants of the National College of Defence Studies (NCDS) in 2024 explored the intricate links between environmental degradation and security threats, analyzing their impacts on national stability and economic viability. This report synthesises key findings and offers strategies for enhancing resilience across these pivotal African nations.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Environmental degradation has emerged as a substantial threat to sustainable development in Ethiopia, Nigeria, and Ghana. The study identified several key environmental challenges:

1. Deforestation and Desertification
In all three countries, deforestation and desertification are critical concerns. Ethiopia and Nigeria, in particular, face accelerated desertification due to over-exploitation of land and natural resources, while deforestation in Ghana is driven by illegal logging and mining. These environmental issues contribute to declining agricultural productivity, loss of biodiversity, and increased vulnerability to climate change impacts, including droughts and floods.

2. Water Scarcity and Pollution
Water scarcity is a pressing issue in Ethiopia and parts of Nigeria, leading to conflicts over water resources. In Ghana, water pollution, particularly from illegal mining activities, has significantly degraded freshwater ecosystems. The contamination of rivers in Nigeria and Ghana poses a threat to both human health and agricultural livelihoods, exacerbating poverty and food insecurity.

3. Climate Change and Its Impact
Climate change is compounding existing environmental stresses in all three countries. Changes in rainfall patterns and increasing temperatures are reducing the availability of arable land, further intensifying conflicts over natural resources. In Ethiopia, climate change has triggered migration and tribal conflicts over shrinking water supplies, while Ghana faces rising sea levels that threaten coastal communities.

4. Policy Gaps and Implementation Challenges
While environmental policies exist in these nations, their effectiveness is often limited by poor enforcement, funding shortfalls, and political interference. In particular, policies addressing illegal logging and mining are not consistently applied, undermining efforts to halt environmental degradation.

SECURITY ISSUES

The research revealed that environmental degradation is deeply tied to security threats in Ethiopia, Nigeria, and Ghana. The following security challenges were identified:

1. Internal Conflicts and Terrorism

In Ethiopia, internal conflicts, particularly in the Tigray region, have destabilized the country and impeded its development efforts. Similarly, Nigeria continues to battle with the insurgent group Boko Haram, which has terrorized the northern regions, exacerbated by environmental pressures such as resource scarcity and desertification. In Ghana, though relatively stable, security threats stem from land disputes and illegal mining activities that undermine governance and social cohesion.

2. Resource Scarcity and Conflict

The scarcity of natural resources, driven by environmental degradation, has become a catalyst for violent conflict in all three countries. In Ethiopia, tribal disputes over water and grazing land have escalated as climate change reduces resource availability. Nigeria's competition over fertile land and resources has led to violence between farmers and herders, further destabilizing regions already impacted by terrorism.

3. Urbanisation and Its Security Implications

The rapid urbanization occurring in cities like Addis Ababa, Lagos, and Accra presents new security challenges. Overcrowded urban areas are experiencing strained infrastructure, increased pollution, and heightened risks of social unrest, all of which threaten national security. As populations grow and resources dwindle, managing urban security will require comprehensive planning and policy enforcement.

4. Impact on Human Security

In all three countries, environmental degradation has directly impacted human security. Soil erosion, deforestation, and pollution have reduced agricultural productivity, leading to higher levels of poverty and food insecurity. In turn, this creates fertile ground for social unrest and undermines efforts to foster stable and secure societies.

CONCLUSION

The experiential research conducted in Ethiopia, Nigeria, and Ghana reveals the critical need for integrated strategies to address the dual challenges of environmental degradation and security. In all three nations, environmental harm is a direct driver of instability, and security threats further exacerbate the degradation of natural resources. The interdependencies between environment and security must be recognized in policy-making to promote sustainable development and regional stability.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To mitigate the combined risks posed by environmental degradation and security challenges, the following actions are recommended:

1.Strengthen Environmental Governance: Governments in Ethiopia, Nigeria, and Ghana must prioritise the enforcement of environmental policies, particularly those regulating illegal mining, logging, and water management. Increased investment in governance and resource management is crucial.

2.Promote Renewable Energy Adoption: Expanding the use of renewable energy technologies can reduce environmental degradation by minimizing reliance on non-renewable resources. Solar and wind energy, particularly in Ethiopia and Nigeria, hold great potential to alleviate pressures on natural resources.

3.Enhance Conflict Resolution Mechanisms: Countries should engage in peacebuilding initiatives, particularly community-based conflict resolution, to address disputes over natural resources. Governments must also work with traditional leaders and local authorities to mediate conflicts and ensure inclusive development.

4.Integrate Traditional Knowledge: The integration of indigenous knowledge systems into formal environmental and security policies can provide sustainable, community-driven solutions to local challenges. Leveraging traditional practices will help foster local engagement and long-term sustainability.

5.Improve Regional Collaboration: Strengthening diplomatic relations and fostering regional cooperation through organisations like the African Union will help address shared environmental and security challenges. Collaborative efforts in resource management, security sector reforms, and capacity building will benefit all countries involved.

By implementing these strategies, Ethiopia, Nigeria, and Ghana can better manage their environmental and security challenges, ultimately leading to more resilient, peaceful, and sustainable societies.

EXTRACT FROM EXPERIENTIAL RESEARCH STUDY TOUR REPORT - WORLD

INTRODUCTION

The comparative experiential research studies conducted in Qatar and Brazil focused on the themes of environment and security, examining how these two critical factors affect sustainable development in both countries. Qatar, a wealthy oil-rich state in the Middle East, and Brazil, home to the vast Amazon rainforest, both face significant environmental challenges but from different contexts. While Qatar deals with air pollution, water scarcity, and biodiversity loss, Brazil confronts deforestation, illegal mining, and climate change-related impacts. This report synthesizes key findings from the tour, providing an analysis of these issues and their implications on national security, with specific recommendations for how Ghana can benefit from the insights gained.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

1. Deforestation and Biodiversity Loss in Brazil
Brazil's Amazon rainforest, one of the largest biodiversity hubs globally, is experiencing accelerated deforestation driven by illegal logging, agricultural expansion, and illegal mining. According to the Brazilian government, deforestation is a critical issue, threatening not only the environment but also the socio-economic health of the region. As forests are cleared, biodiversity suffers, reducing the ecosystem's resilience and impacting local communities who rely on forest resources for their livelihoods. The Plan for the Prevention and Control of Deforestation in the Legal Amazon (PPCDAm), a strategy by the Brazilian government, has shown success in reducing deforestation, but the enforcement of policies remains inconsistent. Illegal mining also poses severe environmental hazards, contributing to water pollution and the destruction of ecosystems.

2. Water Scarcity and Air Pollution in Qatar
Qatar, characterized by its arid climate, faces significant environmental challenges, particularly water scarcity. With limited natural freshwater resources, Qatar relies heavily on energy-intensive desalination plants, which contribute to greenhouse gas emissions. Rapid industrialisation and urbanisation have exacerbated the country's environmental issues, leading to increased air

pollution and degradation of coastal ecosystems.
Biodiversity loss in Qatar's marine and terrestrial ecosystems is another concern. The destruction of coral reefs and marine habitats due to industrial activities threaten both the environment and Qatar's long-term sustainable development.

3. Climate Change and Its Impact
Both Qatar and Brazil are highly vulnerable to climate change, though the effects manifest differently in each country. In Brazil, climate change is intensifying extreme weather events, such as droughts and floods, which further exacerbate deforestation and biodiversity loss. In Qatar, rising temperatures and shifting weather patterns pose significant challenges to water resources and agriculture, making environmental management even more critical.

SECURITY ISSUES
1.Organized Crime and Environmental Degradation in Brazil
Brazil's security challenges are closely linked to environmental degradation, particularly in regions affected by illegal mining and deforestation. Organized crime groups, such as the Comando Vermelho and Primeiro Comando da Capital, are involved in illegal logging and mining operations, often engaging in violent conflicts with law enforcement. The profits generated from these activities fuel further criminal enterprises, undermining national security and the rule of law.

2. Geopolitical Threats and Regional Stability in Qatar
Qatar, despite being one of the wealthiest nations in the world, faces significant security threats due to its geopolitical location in the volatile Middle East. The 2017 blockade imposed by neighbouring countries, including Saudi Arabia and the UAE, highlighted Qatar's vulnerability. The blockade caused economic and social disruptions, threatening national security. However, Qatar's diplomatic agility and economic diversification efforts allowed it to mitigate these threats(qatar2) (qatar1). Qatar's reliance on foreign labor and its strategic importance as a global energy supplier further complicate its security landscape. The presence of the U.S. military base in Qatar and its involvement in regional conflicts make the country a target for geopolitical tensions(qatar2).

3. Urban Violence and Crime in Brazil
Brazil's major cities, including Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo, are plagued by high levels of urban violence, largely driven by organized crime. The presence of drug cartels and gang-related activities contributes to insecurity, with violent crime rates significantly higher in impoverished urban areas. These security challenges undermine Brazil's efforts to maintain social stability and foster sustainable development.

CONCLUSION
The findings from the experiential research studies in Qatar and Brazil illustrate the deep interconnection between environmental degradation and security challenges. Both nations face significant threats to their sustainable development, though the nature of these threats differs based on their unique geographical and socio-political contexts. Brazil's battle with deforestation and illegal mining has far-reaching consequences on both the environment and national security, while Qatar's geopolitical location and environmental stressors, such as water scarcity and air pollution, threaten its long-term stability.

RECOMMENDATIONS:
FOCUSING ON GHANA'S INTERESTS
1.Strengthen Environmental Policies and Enforcement in Ghana: Ghana should take lessons from Brazil's efforts in combating deforestation and illegal mining. Like Brazil, Ghana faces significant environmental threats from illegal mining (galamsey) and logging. Establishing stricter enforcement mechanisms, such as Brazil's Plan for the Prevention and Control of Deforestation, would enhance Ghana's ability to curb environmental degradation.

2.Promote Community-Based Resource Management: Brazil has seen some success in involving local communities in conservation efforts through initiatives like (CREMAs) Community Resource Management Areas. Ghana could adopt a similar approach, empowering local communities to manage resources sustainably, which would also address socio-economic needs while protecting biodiversity.

3.Diversify Ghana's Water Resource Management Strategies: Qatar's reliance on desalination and other water-intensive technologies offers important insights for Ghana. While Ghana does not face the same arid conditions, it can invest in innovative water management strategies that incorporate renewable energy solutions to address water scarcity in drought-prone regions. Ghana could explore partnerships with Qatar to learn from their

technological investments.

4.Enhance Security Collaboration with Regional and International Partners: Ghana, like Qatar, must continue to strengthen its diplomatic ties within the ECOWAS region and beyond. Learning from Qatar's diplomatic resilience during the 2017 blockade, Ghana could adopt proactive measures to navigate geopolitical risks and protect its trade and security interests in an increasingly interconnected world.

5.Address Organised Crime and Environmental Crimes: Ghana can benefit from Brazil's experience in addressing organized crime linked to environmental destruction. Strengthening Ghana's law enforcement and regional cooperation, particularly in areas like illegal mining, would not only preserve natural resources but also bolster national security.

6.Bilateral Cooperation between Ghana and Qatar: The two nations share several environmental challenges, including issues related to urbanisation and resource management. Ghana should explore opportunities for collaboration with Qatar, particularly in areas such as water management, renewable energy development, and air pollution control. This partnership could also extend to technological transfers and knowledge sharing in sustainable development.

By leveraging the insights gained from Qatar and Brazil's approaches to environmental and security challenges, Ghana can improve its policy frameworks, enhance regional collaboration, and safeguard both its natural resources and national security.

Empowering Minds in a Digital Age

The NCDS Library's Journey Without Walls

Akwasi Boakye

As a "one man" librarian of the National College of Defence Studies (NCDS), 2024 has been a dynamic and transformative year. Although the institution currently lacks a physical library, we have successfully leveraged the resources of the Ghana Armed Forces Command and Staff College (GAFCSC) and the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC), both of which offer a vast collection of electronic databases. The digital capabilities we have developed have provided invaluable support to our participants, thanks to a strong focus on information and digital literacy instruction. The following are major highlights of the year's activities.

1. Leveraging External Library Resources

NCDS participants have relied heavily on the extensive digital collections available through our partnerships with GAFCSC and KAIPTC libraries. These institutions provide access to a wide range of electronic databases, e-books, and journals, which have been instrumental in supporting the educational needs of our senior military and civilians. This collaboration has ensured that our participants continue to have access to critical academic resources necessary for their studies, despite the lack of an in-house library.

2. Focus on Digital and Information Literacy

As a systems librarian, one of my primary responsibilities has been equipping participants with the skills needed to effectively utilize these external digital resources. Throughout the year, extensive training sessions have been conducted focusing on information literacy and digital literacy, ensuring that participants are well-prepared to navigate and maximize the wealth of electronic resources available to them. These workshops have covered areas such as advanced research techniques, ethical use of information, and effective digital resource management.

By providing participants with a strong foundation in digital literacy, they have been able to make better use of the available databases, thereby enhancing their research and academic performance. Drawing from my experience during a professional development program at the Hobson Library in the UK, strategies have been implemented to improve access to digital repositories and streamline user experiences with the electronic resources of our partner institutions

The lessons learned during this international engagement have helped in the optimisation of digital library services at NCDS, ensuring seamless access to the resources provided by GAFCSC and KAIPTC.

3. Teaching and Learning Support

Supporting the academic endeavors of our participants remains a priority, and the library's role in this has been substantial. In addition to digital literacy workshops, information literacy instructions have been integrated into the strategic military courses offered at NCDS. Participants have received tailored training sessions that align with their academic and professional needs, enhancing their ability to perform in-depth research and apply critical thinking to their studies.

Through one-on-one consultations, group sessions, and online resources training, participants are well-equipped to handle the demands of their academic work, even without a physical library on-site.

4. Conclusion

The National College of Defence Studies has made significant strides in supporting its participants through digital literacy training and strategic use of external library resources. Looking ahead, focus will remain on strengthening our digital services and ensuring that NCDS continues to offer the highest level of academic support to our community.

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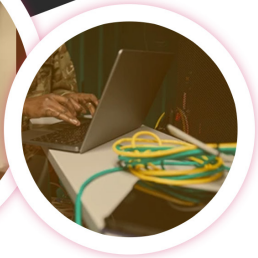

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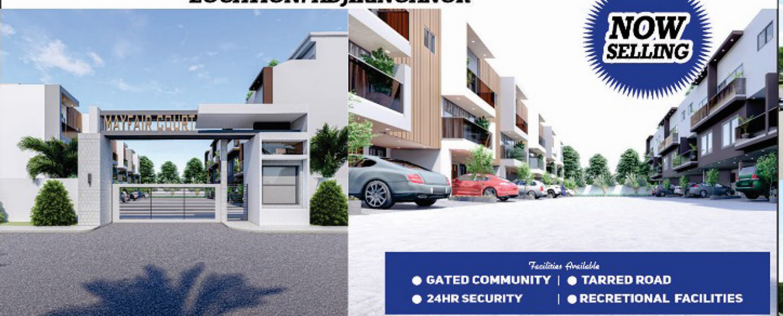

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