

► **SPECIAL EDITION – OCTOBER 2025** **THEME: OPERATIONAL RESILIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND LEADERSHIP IN CONTEMPORARY SECURITY OPERATIONS**

In today's rapidly evolving security environment, the boundaries of warfare, peacekeeping, and law enforcement are being continuously reshaped by technology, innovation, and the demands of complex threat dynamics. From artificial intelligence and cyber defence to information warfare and force protection, the imperative for operational resilience and adaptive leadership has never been greater.

This special edition of the Defence and Security Leadership Newsletter arrives at a pivotal moment in Nigeria's security evolution. It brings together distinguished voices from the military, police, and strategic sectors who share practical insights and tested doctrines on sustaining operational effectiveness amidst uncertainty. Each article — drawn from years of command experience and institutional reflection — addresses the intersections of leadership, technology, ethics, and human capital in contemporary security operations.

Collectively, these contributions reaffirm a critical truth: the strength of any security institution lies not only in its arsenal or technology, but in its capacity to think strategically, act cohesively, and lead with integrity. As Nigeria advances in its pursuit of stability, professionalism, and innovation, the lessons contained in these pages will serve as both a guide and a catalyst for transformation across the defence and security ecosystem. It is my hope that this edition will deepen professional discourse, inspire reform-minded leadership, and strengthen the collaborative spirit essential to our national security architecture.

Mr Kayode Bolaji, Executive Director Peace Building Development Consult



DEFENCE AND SECURITY LEADERSHIP NEWSLETTER

From the Editor's Desk

In an era where warfare, policing, and national security are increasingly shaped by technology, intelligence, and hybrid threats, the importance of adaptable leadership and integrated strategy cannot be overstated. This special edition of the Defence and Security Leadership Newsletter presents insightful reflections from some of Nigeria's finest security professionals, offering doctrine-grounded, experience-driven perspectives on Operations Security (OPSEC), Force Protection (FP), Information Warfare, and Leadership in Complex Operations. Each contribution provides critical lessons on resilience, innovation, and interagency cooperation, values that define Nigeria's continuing march toward stability and institutional excellence.



Feature 1: Exit strategy in Special Operations

By Lt Gen Lamidi Adeosun (Rtd), Former Chief of Operations (Army)

Lt Gen Adeosun examines the indispensable role of exit strategies in modern military operations. He emphasizes that an exit strategy is not merely an end-state, but a continuum bridging tactical victory and sustainable peace. Drawing from Nigeria's counterinsurgency experience, he argues that early integration of disengagement plans enhances legitimacy, resource efficiency, and post-conflict stability. Key Insight: Strategic foresight and ethical restraint must guide all phases of operations — victory must transition seamlessly into peace.

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Feature 2: Technology and Artificial Intelligence in Unconventional and Irregular Warfare

By Maj Gen A.A. Ayannuga, Director, Army Transformation and Innovation Centre

Maj Gen Ayannuga explores how AI-driven analytics, autonomous systems, and predictive technologies are transforming operational doctrine. He notes that Nigeria's security institutions must adapt by developing indigenous AI capacity, enhancing data-driven decision-making, and integrating cyber defence into field operations.

Key Insight: Future conflicts will be won not by numbers, but by data, adaptability, and intelligent systems synchronized with human judgment.



Feature 3: Analysis of Force Protection and Operations Security in Police and Paramilitary Organizations

By AIG Olatunji Disu, PSC, Assistant Inspector-General of Police

AIG Disu's lecture underscores the synergy between Force Protection (FP) and Operations Security (OPSEC) in ensuring mission success. He presents a systematic model that merges intelligence-led policing, cyber resilience, and procedural discipline.

Addressing Nigeria's 2025 threat landscape — from terrorism and cybercrime to insider threats — he calls for a professional culture rooted in vigilance, accountability, and technology integration. Key Insight: Protecting information is as vital as protecting personnel; the compromise of one imperils the other.

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Feature 4: Information Warfare and Strategic Communications in Operations Security

By Brig Gen S.K. Usman (Rtd), Former Director, Nigerian Army Public Relations
Gen Usman delves into the information battlespace, explaining how narrative control, perception management, and strategic communication are integral to operational success. He stresses that effective communication neutralizes misinformation, reinforces morale, and enhances civil-military relations.

He advocates a “whole-of-society” approach where digital literacy, ethical media engagement, and proactive information campaigns become pillars of national resilience.

Key Insight: Information dominance is the new frontline — winning minds is as critical as winning battles.



Feature 5: Personnel Vulnerabilities in Combat and Field Operations

By Rear Adm Clement Egbinta Afebi, Chief of Naval Training

Rear Adm Afebi examines the human dimension of vulnerability in military and paramilitary operations. He identifies psychological fatigue, poor welfare, inadequate training, and leadership gaps as key factors that compromise operational effectiveness.

He recommends integrating mental resilience programs, rotational deployments, and leadership mentoring into command structures to reduce personnel risk.

Key Insight: The most advanced weapon systems mean little without resilient, motivated, and well-supported personnel.



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Feature 6: Concept of Operations Security and Force Protection: My Command Experience

By Maj Gen V.O. Ezugwu (Rtd), Former Director-General, Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria (DICON)

Maj Gen Ezugwu provides a deeply personal reflection on his command experience, offering lessons in discipline, innovation, and leadership accountability. He highlights the centrality of command philosophy, clear communication, and ethical enforcement in maintaining both security and morale.

His field-tested insights demonstrate that effective OPSEC and FP are not abstract doctrines but living practices shaped daily by leadership behaviour and organizational culture.

Key Insight: True command success lies in foresight, integrity, and the ability to balance security enforcement with human empathy.



Editorial Reflection: Towards an Integrated Security Culture

Taken together, these contributions underscore the need for an integrated security culture — one that harmonizes technology, intelligence, ethics, and human resilience. The Nigerian security architecture must evolve toward a joint, adaptive, and learning-based framework that transcends institutional silos.

The future of national defence lies not merely in superior firepower, but in the synergy of minds, machines, and moral purpose.

Acknowledgment

This special edition was curated to promote knowledge sharing, interagency learning, and professional discourse among Nigeria's security leadership community.

Appreciation goes to the contributing officers and institutions whose insights continue to inspire innovation, discipline, and patriotic service.

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

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