

Inter-Agency Security Synergy in Nigeria: An Evaluation of Counter Terrorism Operation in the Northeast

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Submitted: 2025, Jun 30; **Accepted:** 2025, Jul 21; **Published:** 2025, Aug 14

Citation: Okorundu, C. I., Ali, S. M., Ogbu, J. C., Adebayo A. A., Ogbu, G. (2025). Inter-Agency Security Synergy in Nigeria: An Evaluation of Counter Terrorism Operation in the Northeast. *Curr Res Traffic Transport Eng*, 3(1), 01-05.

Abstract

This study entitled "Inter-Agency Security Synergy in Nigeria An Evaluation of Counter Terrorism Operation in the Northeast" discusses the evaluation of Inter-Agency synergies on National security and counter-terrorism operation in insurgency ravaged Northeast Nigeria. The collaboration between security agencies will enhance National security in strengthening counter-terrorism operation in the region. The study identified lack of synergy among security agencies operating in Northeast which have impacted negatively on Nigeria National security. This research adopted the field work and survey approach design which integrated both quantitative and qualitative data analysis. Data were collected from both primary and secondary sources through structured and unstructured interviews. From findings the Nigerian Army(NA), Nigerian Air force (NAF), Nigerian Police Force (NPF), Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps(NSCDC), Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS), Nigerian Custom Service (NCS), National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) and have been involved in one way or the other but seen operating without cohesion.

The data collected were analysed quantitatively and qualitatively using statistical methods (SPSS). The research also revealed that the platform for Inter-Agency synergy existed in the constitution of the federal republic of (as amended) [1]. The synergy or collaboration between security agencies is achieved through institutional mechanism such as National security council, National defense council, office of the National security adviser and other special services office. The institutional mechanism facilitates Inter-Agency synergy which is highly intelligent driven as identified in the counter terrorism operations in Northeast Nigeria. The challenges of Inter-Agency synergy was identified as poor cooperation among security agencies, lack of common intelligence doctrine, inadequate training and support for ongoing counter terrorism operations in the Northeast.

The establishment of counter terrorism center, emerging technology and increase media campaign and security seminar were identified as prospect. This study recommends that there should be enactment of national security policy, formulation of joint intelligence doctrine, joint counter terrorism training and provisions of logistics support and enhancement of public perception as strategies, finally the study the issues, effects, challenges, prospects and strategies on Inter-Agency collaboration and National security leads to enhanced counter terrorism in the Northeast. Hence, recommends that MOD should produce intelligence doctrine for counter terrorism operations by second quarter 2022. Federal Government should enact a national security policy, the DHQ should formulate a joint logistics doctrine by second quarter 2022, and office of the National security adviser should ensure consultation with stake holders on training of Inter-Agency synergy.

1. Introduction

The need to ensure security of the society led to the establishment of security organisations to protect citizens, the state and its infrastructure. The most common threat to National security includes: insurgency and terrorism coupled with joint planning in conduct and tackling them, piracy, armed robbery and kidnapping amongst others. The employment of military power either jointly or singly is often regarded the last option to the crisis's domain. The possibilities of government to create congenial and peaceful environment without breach by the terrorist becomes a big issue. This shows that NS is a major concern of every government. It is a critical element in development, stability and preservation of Nation's sovereignty.

Therefore, NS must be broad based. NS is that part of government policy which seeks to create favors strategic environment for promotion, protection and flourishing of National values and interests against any form of threat. Due to modern trends of threat, one agency cannot tackle them, hence, the need for Inter-Agency collaboration. This is achieved through clear guidance and accountability. In transformation of her institutions and legal frame works, the USA enhanced her Inter-Agency synergy against counter terrorism [2]. In Nigeria, precisely January 2009, terrorism activities started by a group called JAAMATUA HLIL SUNNALIDDA WATI WALJIHAD also known as Boko Haram (BH) established by Mohammed Yusuf in the Northeast part of Nigeria. BH carried out an uprising in July 2009 which led to the death of 1000 and resulted to series of insecurity and violence in parts of Borno, Yobe and Adamawa States respectively and some other parts of Northern Nigeria (12) [3].

2. Materials And Methods

2.1. Time Boundary: the study covers from June 2008 to June 2019. This time frame witnessed increase in terrorist attack such as armed attacks on military and police installations, suicide bombing, and kidnapping amongst others, which posed challenge to Inter-Agency synergies among security agencies [4]. It was also within this period that counter terrorism operational challenges were across borders, thus, collaboration and coordination among security agencies became necessary in dealing with counter terrorism operational issues.

2.2. Space: the study focused on Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States, which were the main areas of BH activities.

2.3. Content Boundary: the content of the study is limited to conduct of counter terrorism operations as well as how it could be improved by Inter-Agency collaboration for enhanced NS in the NE.

3. Methodology of the Study

3.1. Type of Research:

Nature of Research: the nature of Research is applied, employing empirical approach. The data applied forth in this research were an integration of qualitative and quantitative data [5]. This was achieved through the collection of data from primary and

secondary sources.

3.1.1. Level of Research: the level of Research was descriptive. This was used to access the current effects of Inter-Agency synergies for enhanced NS in the Northeast.

3.1.2. Research Design: the study employed survey design using unstructured interviews, questionnaires and archives. This approach allowed the collection of in-depth and extensive information about counter terrorism operations in the Northeast [6].

3.2. Sources of Data:

3.2.1. Primary Sources of Data: they were obtained using questionnaires and structured interviews. The questionnaires were used to obtain the views of respondents on various questions relating to Inter-Agency collaboration and NS in the Northeast Nigeria [7]. The sample of questionnaires and the detailed explanation of the various section was explained.

3.2.2. Secondary Sources of Data: they were obtained from books, seminars, workshops, newspapers, unpublished materials, magazines, internet and conference papers considered relevant to the study.

3.3. Method of Data Collection:

3.3.1. Primary Data Collection: they were collected using the field method. The researcher administered questionnaires on the respondents from the security agencies and other relevant stakeholders [8]. Primary data were also collected through structural interviews conducted one on one and through telephone discussions.

3.3.2. Secondary Data Collection: they were generated through document analysis of materials on Inter-Agency synergy in the Northeast as well as related published and unpublished materials.

3.4. Sampling Techniques:

The study adopted probabilistic purposive sampling Techniques which targeted particular persons.

3.4.1. Population of the study: the population of the study for the structured interviews consisted of senior officers of the Nigerian Security agencies in Abuja, Bauchi, Damaturu, Maiduguri, and Yola [9]. Persons from MDAs, NA, NAF, NPF, NCS, DSS, and relevant stakeholders were included in the target population. The total figures of the target population was about 5000.

3.4.2. Sample size: the sample of persons whose views represented the larger population was collected from different stakeholders. The Yamane simple size calculator was used to calculate the sample size for the study. A total of 500 respondents were used as sample for the study.

3.5. Method of Data Analysis:

Data generated from questionnaires administered were analysed

quantitatively and qualitatively. Similarly documents analysis was carried out using SPSS to determine correlation of variables. Qualitative data collected were analysed logically based on facts with a view to make valid decisions [9].

3.6. Method of Data Presentation:

Data generated were presented using tables, graphs, and charts. Some were presented in descriptive form

3.7. Limitations

The research was limited by non-availability of some officers intended to be interviewed. Some of the officials ought to be interviewed were reluctant. The research encountered dearth of data on the subject matter as a result of non-availability and poor archival records [10]. However, efforts were made to overcome these limitations through elaborate and wide consultation, interviews and discussions with several competent sources.

4. Results

Serial	Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
a	b	c	d
1	High	100	21
2	Fair	174	37
3	Low	200	42
4	Total	474	100

Table 1: How do you Rate Intelligence Gathering and Sharing Among Security Agencies Involved in Counter Terrorism Operations in the Northeast Nigeria?

Serial	Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
a	b	c	d
1	Very	57	12
2	Satisfied	195	41
3	Not	222	47
4	Total	474	100

Table 2: Are you Satisfied with the Level of Joint Training Among Security Agencies with Regards to Inter-Agency Synergy in Counter Terrorism Operations in the Northeast?

Serial	Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
a	b	c	d
1	Very	98	21
2	Fairly	163	34
3	Not	213	45
	Total	474	100

Table 3: How do you Assess Logistics Management Support in Counter Terrorism Operations in the Northeast

Serial	Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
a	b	c	d
1	High	125	26
2	Fair	150	32
3	Low	199	42
4	Total	474	100

Table 4: How do you Rate Level of Public Awareness and Support Counter Terrorism Operations in the Northeast ?

5. Discussion and Conclusion

The outcome of the research conducted on Inter-Agency synergy on counter terrorism operations in the Northeast revealed that

there is a direct relationship between Inter-Agency synergy and NS. Issues in Inter-Agency synergy on NS on counter terrorism operations in the Northeast are in the areas of institutional frame

works, intelligence gathering and sharing, capacity building, logistics management and support and public awareness support [10]. The impact of Inter-Agency synergy on NS in Counter Terrorism Operation in the Northeast are conflict management and social wellbeing of the citizens and socioeconomic activities. The challenges of Inter-Agency synergy on counter terrorism operations in the Northeast are in the areas of poor cooperation, lack of common intelligence doctrine, inadequate training inadequate logistics support and poor publicity [11]. The prospects of Inter-Agency synergy on NS in Counter Terrorism Operation in the Northeast are existence of counter terrorism centre, emerging local technology, increase media campaign and security agencies seminar [12].

The strategies for enhancing Inter-Agency synergy on counter terrorism operations in the Northeast Nigeria includes: Promulgation of NS policy, formulation of intelligence doctrine and improved joint counter terrorism training [13]. Others are provision of adequate logistics management support and enhanced public perception management.

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Questionnaire

Section A

1. Gender. Male Female
2. Age 21-30 31-40 41-50 50 and above
3. Agency: Nigerian Army Nigerian Navy Nigerian Air force Department of State Security Nigerian Police Force Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps Civil Society Organisations
4. Years of work experience: 0-5 6-10 11-20 20 and above
5. Academic qualification: Secondary OND/Diploma Graduate/HND Postgraduate

Section B

Inter-Agency Security Synergy in Nigeria: An Evaluation of Counter Terrorism Operation in the Northeast

1. Are you aware of the Inter-Agency synergy efforts in counter terrorism operations in the Northeast Nigeria? Yes No Not sure
2. Do you think that Inter-Agency synergy efforts in counter terrorism operations in the Northeast could be used to enhance National security in Nigeria? Yes No Not sure
3. If yes or no, briefly explain the reason(s).....
.....
4. Do you think the level of institutional coordination within the security agencies is comprehensive to encourage Inter-Agency collaboration for the counter terrorism operations in the Northeast for enhanced national security in Nigeria? Yes No Not sure

5. How do you rate intelligence gathering and sharing among security agencies involved in counter terrorism operations in the Northeast for enhanced national security in Nigeria? High [] Low [] Fair []
6. Do you think this level of intelligence gathering and sharing can be improved on? Yes [] No [] Not sure []
7. If yes or no, briefly explain the reason(s).....
8. Are you satisfied with the level of capacity building among security agencies with regards to Inter-Agency synergy in counter terrorism operations in the Northeast for enhanced national security in Nigeria? Very satisfied [] Satisfied [] Not satisfied []
9. Which other area(s) do you think capacity building could be improved on?
10. How do you assess logistics management support in counter terrorism operations in the Northeast for enhanced national security in Nigeria? Very compatible Fairly compatible Not compatible
11. How can this be improved on?
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12. How do you rate the level of public awareness and support for counter terrorism operations in the Northeast for enhanced national security in Nigeria? High [] Fair [] Low []
13. How can public awareness support be improved on?.....
14. How do you rate the following effects of Inter-Agency synergy on counter terrorism operations in the Northeast for enhanced national security in Nigeria?

Serial	Effects	Response (a)	Response (b)	Response (c)
a	b	c	d	e
1	Critical infrastructure			
2	Crime control			
3	Conflict management			
4	Socioeconomic activities			

15. Do you think there is a relationship between Inter-Agency synergy and national security in Nigeria? Yes [] No [] Not sure []
16. In your own opinion what are the challenges militating against Inter-Agency synergy in counter terrorism operations in the Northeast for enhanced national security in Nigeria?
17. How do you think these challenges could be overcome?
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Thank you for your cooperation.