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Strategic Crime Detection and Prevention in Nigeria*



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Advancing Intelligence Analysis and Military History for Strategic Crime Detection and Prevention in Nigeria

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Abstract

Purpose: The purpose of this study was to interrogate influence of intelligence analysis and military history on crime detection and prevention in Nigeria. Specifically, the study was anchored on the following objectives; Public awareness, Capacity building and Policy implementation.

Methodology: The researchers adopted Clarke and Mayhew's Situation Crime Prevention theory and the descriptive design for the study. Primary and secondary data were obtained. Primary data were collected through the 12 key informant interviews held with conducted with personnel of the Nigeria Armed Forces, Peace and Security Scholars, officials of the Federal Ministry of Defense, selected community leaders, and stakeholders in the security sector, as well as relevant Civil Society Organizations on crime prevention process. The secondary source of data included; the existing literatures, relevant journal publications, dailies, magazines and web materials. Data obtained were content-analyzed.

Findings: Findings of the study revealed that the lingering aftermaths of civil war, bribery and corruption, inadequate security gadgets or equipment, absence of motivation for security personnel, inadequate cooperation from the general public and negative perception towards the security agencies, poverty, lack of patriotism, bad leadership, among others were the factors militating against the timely crime prevention efforts by various stakeholders in Nigeria. Findings also indicate that intelligence analysis and military history remain highly imperative in crime detection and prevention in the state, as it is evident that they help in locating and studying the spots or terrains of crime, conflict and war (shaping the battlefields, dictating routes of advancements, and dictating defensive positions). The study recommends that the Office of National Security Adviser through the Nigerian government must be able to integrate a variety of past experiences of military activities, intelligence information sources, determine how relevant they are towards enhancing national security and assess the situations based on context.

Unique Contribution to Theory, Practice and Policy: The study identifies the gap that lies between policy implementation, influence of intelligence analysis and military history on crime detection and prevention in Nigeria. It shows that the stakeholders are not doing enough towards curtailing crimes in the country. There are still gaps to be filled in awareness campaign, capacity building and policy implementation on the deployment of intelligence analysis and military history for crime detection and prevention. The study therefore submits that strategic intelligence analysis and military history need be up scaled to timely identify, analyze, and prevent potential escalation of crime.

Keywords: *Crime analysis and prevention, Security agencies, Intelligence, Nigeria.*

Introduction

Globally, the growing menace of crime has remained a serious concern in all sense, and as it weakens the social structure, safety and security in the system. Crimes have impacted societies in numerous dimensions relative to its extent and nature committed. This becomes a problem when its frequency is becoming so extensive in societies, thereby constituting a threat to security of man and property, and also to solidarity and social order. The outcomes of crimes remain tangible and intangible, socio-economic, indirect or direct, psychological or physical, community as a whole or individual – in short, the consequences of crimes are derivable from the costs (Abiodun and Fejembola, 2022).

No doubts, crimes pose numerous threats to the socio-economic and political security of a state and also with major factor related to under-development of the state as it dampens foreign and local businesses, reducing the qualities of lives, destroying social and human capital, shattering the accord between the state and citizens, thereby jeopardizing democratic setting, rule of law and the state's capacity in enhancing advancement (Boba, 2005). Consequent upon this, military history as a sub-set of history and academic warfare remains indispensable to conflict prevention and management. Also, there exists a great importance in strategic military history which is useful for the science of conflict and crime prevention. However, the magnitude of strategic military history, and intelligence analysis to the science and appreciable comprehension of crime analysis and prevention has remained seriously understudied. Pursuant to the strength at which strategic military history, and intelligence analysis interrogate crime prevention, there is need to inquire into the study.

Defining Intelligence Analysis

For clarity, it should be noted within this context that the term intelligence is used in two-fold modes. First, refers to product of information generated by a state's intelligence agencies. Intelligence at the same time connotes the outcome of intelligence process – usually known to be the intelligence cycle, containing three (3) basic elements which include: collection, analysis, and dissemination. Intelligence in other way means outcome of the information already analysed and transmitted directly to the decision or policy-making bodies; and such information may have been collected from both closed and open sources. In short, it refers to analytical outcome or product of a state's intelligence agencies which serves as the risk assessment meant or intended to guide actions" (Abiodun, 2019).

Crime, Crime Analysis and Prevention

Crime as a social concept has no generally-acceptable definition, but it could be easily defined as an act of doing something that is very wrong or relating to immoralities in all ramifications. Therefore, legally, crime connotes breaking of laws and rules on which the constituted authorities may eventually order a conviction, though through the constitutional means (Nwannenaya and Abiodun, 2017). In the work of Lynn (2007), crimes are seen to be the offences committed, and

transcend beyond the personal into the public space. When crimes are committed, and the prohibitory laws and rules are broken, lawful sanctions and punishments are attached and are brought to the attention of public authority while the punishment or sanctions are enforced via the administrative system and law enforcement agencies (Osakwe, 2011).

Furthermore, crime analysis strictly connotes the law enforcement responsibility involving a systematic analysis towards identifying and analyzing patterns and trends of crimes and disorders in a state. Similarly, crime analysis may take place at different levels which may include: tactical, operational, and strategic levels. In the same vein, crime analysts usually investigate arrest reports, crime reports and police usually calls for more services towards identifying rising trends, series and patterns timely (Ronald, 2007). Crime analysts give analysis of the phenomena, forecast future happenings and roll out alerts to the various agencies. Alternatively, crime prevention refers to an attempt towards reducing and deterring criminals and crimes; and it is in tandem with the efforts undertaken by governments in reducing crimes, enforcing the laws, and maintaining criminal justice in a given state (UNODC, 2010).

Military History

Conceptualising the military history, Beckett (2016) asserts that the military history connotes the learning the armed conflicts in human history, and effects on the culture, economy, and the society, as also the subsequent impacts on international and local accords. In recent time, certified historians largely direct attention to military matters which impacted the societies that were affected, as well resultant effects of conflicts, while non-professional historians usually adhere to attention to the details of equipment, uniforms and battles being used (Beckett, 2016).

The concept of military history integrates historical awareness and critical thinking skills derivable from historical series of methodology into the training and self-education and subordinate leaders (Chegg, 2019). Similarly, military history is the record of activities of all armed forces across the globe in both peace and war fronts; and it is in four (4) types which include: ***Operational history*** (battles for example the Peloponnesian war, campaigns, and tactics/planning); ***Institutional history*** (focusing on the entire army, not just the active component, and preparations for war an combats); ***Biographical history*** (military history as covered through a biography of a prominent soldier's life, for example, Patton who is always referred as a Genius for War); and ***Social/Technological history*** (the manner at which civilians or other states view the American Army and the various wars or conflicts engaged in, for example, the Vietnam War).

Theoretical Framework

Situation Crime Prevention Theory

Various theories have been developed by scholars to approach crime analysis and prevention and a theory was used for proper analysis in the course of this paper.

Situation Crime Prevention Theory: This theory was propagated by Clarke and Mayhew (1980).

This theory introduces certain managerial and environmental reformations to decrease the occurrence of crime. It presents and illustrates that criminal behaviours can be manipulated in other to prevent crimes through the alteration of diverse institutions and structures embedded around physical, social and managerial avenues for the purpose of reducing opportunities for committing crimes in a society.

According to Clarke, (1980), situation crime prevention theory was implemented and recognized in 1997, and it evolves around the implementation of diverse strategies, to reduce crime commitment through development of measures that makes it difficult for people to commit crime, making crime commission very risky, by enhancement of surveillance, devaluing the reward allocated to committing a crime and by developing institutions that rise criminal free society like educational bodies. The theory is highly relevant to the study in the sense that efforts are being made by the various security agencies to ensure crimes are circumvented, prevented and checkmated in the state.

Review of Relevant Literature

Historiography of the Nigeria's Military

The Nigeria Army history is traceable to 1863 during the period Lt. Glover of the Royal Navy opted for eighteen (18) indigenes from the northern region of Nigeria and converted them into a local force that was named the “Glover Hausas” (Richard, 2000; Abiodun, 2023). This particular small force then was being used by Lt. Glover who remained the Governor of Lagos at that particular time, mounting punitive expeditions in the Lagos hinterlands and protecting the British trade routes in Lagos. Besides, in 1865, the then “Glover Hausas” metamorphosed to a regular force with a new name “Hausa Constabulary” executing military and police responsibilities for the then Lagos Colonial Government which eventually got changed to “Lagos Constabulary” (Richard, 2000; Abiodun, 2023).

Having been incorporated into the West Africa Frontier Force (WAFF) in 1901, the Force later became the “Lagos Battalion”; while the British Government also included the Royal Niger Company (RNC) Constabulary Force in Northern Nigeria in 1886 and the Oil Rivers Irregular in 1891 respectively (Richard, 2000). Nevertheless, in 1889, Lord Fredrick Lugard had already put in place the initial force known as the West Africa Frontier Force, (WAFF), in Jebba, Northern Nigeria in 1890. This particular new Unit was thereafter expanded when the northern Nigeria-based elements of the Royal Niger Company (RNC) Constabulary were absorbed. Towards the end of 1901, all paramilitary units in the other British dependencies had been incorporated into its Command, making it worthy of being designated to be “WAFF” (Frederick, 2002).

Similarly, the organization of West Africa Frontier Force (WAFF) later resulted into the merger of all Units into a Regiment in each of the dependencies. Therefore, the merger in the country gave room for the Northern Nigerian Regiment and Southern Nigerian Regiment. Meanwhile, the Northern Nigerian Regiments later got pronounced to the First and Second Battalions of the

Nigerian Regiment, while the Southern Nigerian Regiment was pronounced to be Third and Fourth Battalions. However, the First Commanders of the Southern Regiments of WAFF included Lt C. H. P. Carter (1899-1901) and Col. J. Wilcox (1900-1909). The two Regiments were thereafter deployed for expeditions for the annexation of Lagos, Nigeria by Lord Lugard between 1901 and 1903 (Richard, 2000; Frederick, 2002; and Abiodun, 2023).

Nigeria having been fully amalgamated in 1914, there was the birth of the Nigeria's Regiments during the period the Southern and Northern Regiments were married together (Frederick, 2002). From the marriage, the Mounted Infantry of the Northern Regiment gave birth to an Ordinary Infantry Battalion immediately the Second World War came to an end with the field artillery in place in the Northern Regiment (Richard, 2000). During the time Queen Elizabeth of Britain visited the country from January 28 to February 15, 1956, the Nigeria Regiment was renamed to become the Queens Own Nigeria Regiments (QONR). And at that particular year, the WAFF became regionalized where each military force was made independent of the other (Frederick, 2002).

Arising from the above, the Queens Own Nigeria Regiments (QONR) later became the Nigerian Military Force (NMF) and on the 1st of June, 1958, the British Army Council (BAC) in London relinquished the control of NMF to the Nigerian Government. Eventually when Nigeria got her independence in 1960, the NMF metamorphosed into the Royal Nigerian Army (RNA) while in 1963 during the time Nigeria became a republican state, the Royal Nigerian Army (RNA) eventually got changed to the Nigeria Army (NA) which has remained in existence till date). In the same vein, the Nigeria Army changed its uniform, instruments, and rank structures from the one earlier being used by the RWAFF to the green khaki uniform (Frederick, 2002).

Overview of the Strategic Crime Analysis and Crime Preventions in Nigeria

Nigeria is one of the developing states in the global system feeling the heats of pervasive crimes, criminal tendencies and unstable measure of misdemeanors. Nigerian state remains on the global crime index in the last four (4) decades and the scenery of the crimes comprises rape, murder, car theft, banditry, armed robbery, frauds, bribery and corruption, foods and drugs adulteration, smuggling, human trafficking, kidnapping, drug trafficking, money laundering, cyber thefts, among others (Nwannenaya and Abiodun, 2017).

It is therefore preposterous there is lack of political will on the part of Nigerian government to rid the state of criminal tendencies and manifestations – leaders are usually caught up in the web of crimes and corruption. There have been instances of shameless disregard for thorough prosecutions of offenders and corrupt people in the country. Similarly, the trial of other numerous political office holders, most especially former Executive Governors of some states found culpable of corruption while in office, has been ongoing over two decades and it is pathetic that these corrupt people occupy political offices with an array of trials on them without being made to face the wrath of law (Nwannenaya and Abiodun, 2017).

However, setting up of security agencies like the State Security Service (SSS), Independent Corrupt Practices and other offences Commission (ICPC), and the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) remain a creditable effort in crime prevention and control in Nigeria. As argued by Okunola (2002), crime prevention is all about disrupting the mechanisms that breed criminal activities. Crime prevention is a function of the whole community and its people and government while crime control on the other hand is a function of the criminal justice system, comprising the Police, courts of law and correctional centres (Nwannenaya and Abiodun, 2017).

Though crime prevention models differ across the globes, but for Abiodun, and Abioro, (2020), crime prevention has been classified into major three (3) stages which include crime prevention as: tertiary, secondary and primary.

a. **Primary Prevention:** An endeavour towards altering the environmental provisions that give room for occurrence of criminal acts. At this primary stage, the focus is mainly on the Police expected to: increase the efforts, decrease the risk of committing crimes, and reduce the rewards for the potential offenders. b. **Secondary prevention:** It is all about engaging in early identification of potential offenders by intervening to prevent criminal behaviours from getting developed. Also, it strives towards changing people particularly the ones at high risk of embarking on criminal activities before doing so. In this process, various bodies like the civil society organizations, and mass media are grossly involved. c. **Tertiary Prevention:** Dealing with the actual offenders or criminals with the interventions aiming at circumventing occurrence of more criminal activities. It is also a directed action that truncates all forms of the criminal activities.

Research Methodology

A descriptive design was adopted while the research was conducted in Nigeria. The paper targeted imperatives of intelligence analysis and military history towards crime prevention in Nigeria. The study took its sample of respondents from the population, employing a purposive sampling technique as a result the character and context of the study- primary and secondary data were obtained. The primary data were derived from the Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and In-Depth Interviews (IDIs) conducted with personnel of the Nigeria Armed Forces, Peace and Security Scholars, officials of the Federal Ministry of Defence, selected community leaders, and stakeholders in the security sector, as well as relevant Civil Society Organisations in crime prevention process. The secondary source of data included; the existing literatures, relevant journal publications, dailies, magazines and web materials. Data obtained were content-analysed.

Research Findings and Analysis

Research Question One: What are the factors hindering strategic crime prevention in Nigeria

Findings of this study indicate the general factors that impede timely and strategic prevention of crimes in Nigeria are as follows:

Inadequate security gadgets or equipment

“The inadequate latest or modern security equipment for effective combating of crimes in Nigeria; it is as well glaring that the gadgets and equipment to achieve this feat are in short supply. It is conspicuous that; communications gadgets, scientific investigative tools, patrol and combat vehicles, inadequate gadgets or equipment for intelligence gathering and control, and less than eight percent (8.0%) of policemen and other sister security agencies across the states and Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Abuja are seriously constrained”. Arising from the KII conducted with the Retired Inspector General Police in Nigeria, Mr. Sunday Ehindero at the 2023 Retreat of the Committee of Retired Inspectors General of Police in Nigeria, held at the IITA, Ibadan, it was made known that Police and other security personnel in the country are constrained with inadequate security gadgets.

Lack of motivation for the security personnel by the Nigerian Government

Incentive can play a significant role in crime prevention is concerned; this shows a very long in encouraging the security personnel’s’ output. There are several security personnel in the Nigeria Army, Air Force, DSS, Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) and Nigeria Police that have remained on a particular rank above the number of constitutionally-stipulated years. *“Also, the state of things in some of the barracks is an indication that this place is ghost traps. These barracks are worst place to be in Nigeria because of the state of the building and their poor physical structures. There is a need for all round renovations for security personnel to habit.”* (KII with Muhammad Abdullahi 23/6/2023)

Inadequate collaboration from the public and negative insight of the security agencies/personnel

In an In-Depth Interview (IDI) held with the retired military General in Abuja, Nigeria, it was affirmed that: *crime prevention and control is everyone duty; the Nigeria’s security personnel cannot realize this alone.* The public perception of Nigeria’s security personnel in the country is serious battered with the low-level of support given towards combating crimes in the country. Pursuant to this negative perception, numerous Nigerians desist from sensitive and intelligent information that can hamper intelligent and prevention of crime. Public participation is very important in assisting the security officers in attaining the desired crime prevention and control in the state.

Abject poverty level and unemployment rate in the country

Most Nigerians cannot afford the necessities demanded for living and surviving in the face of the economic realities of the country. This contributes largely to the growing crime rate in the country in all ramifications. This is pertinent to the submissions of His Royal Majesty, Oba Ogunwusi, Ooni of Ife, Osun State, Nigeria during a recent visit to his palace. Poverty as pronounced deprivation in well-being of individuals, has significantly led to prevalence of crimes in the country. Also, there is high rate of unemployment rate. This has refused to reduce despite the

various governmental interventions. Thus, the numbers of unemployed youths have increased creating anti-social criminal behaviours that could weaken the permanence of society.

Bribery and Corruption

Bribery and corruption remain two disturbing issues in Nigerian state. Nearly all the security agencies in the country are on daily basis being indicted in this reckless act. It is no more a hearsay that most of the funds disbursed to the various security agencies are observed to have been diverted for private consumption. In an interview with an official of a Civil Society Organisation (CSO), Festus Andrew who argues that: *“Criminals often buy their ways out of their crimes. This has ready increase the rate of crimes and criminal activities since these criminals know that the police will compromise. Criminals that have been once arrested work freely on the street with the help of their godfathers who paid their ways out. This, without no doubt, hampers the efficiency of crime prevention and control in Nigeria.”*

Research Question Two: In what ways could intelligence analysis and military history help in strategic crime detection, and emergencies prevention in Nigeria?

Findings from the study indicate that intelligence analysis and military history remain highly imperative in crime prevention in a state as it is evident that they help in locating and studying the spots or terrains of crime, conflict and war (shaping the battlefields, dictating routes of advancements, and dictating defensive positions). Also, they improve logistics deployment which include roads, rail, airfields, ports, as well as how they affect the capacity of sustaining combat forces. Intelligence analysis and military history assist in providing strategic communications which could be in form of ability to issue or give orders, staying in contact with allied forces, and developing situational awareness. Technology also becomes more strengthened when weapons get modernized compared to enemies, and ability to comprehend and operate the available weapons systems.

The study of military history and intelligence analysis therefore have therefore informed the long-term advancement of soldiers and other security personnel in a state towards providing a universal experience, skills and improving their performances as far as security management is concerned. Therefore, military history has given adequate supports to soldiers to have a comprehensive contexts, past success and failure, and the correlations between actions take to prevent war and crime (Mac-Leod, 2022). In the same vein, the long-term development of soldiers, police, and other security personnel must encompass the study of military history, as it offers a ready estimator for soldiers and security officer that informs their actions, decisions, and future intent.

Moreover, findings of the study revealed that military history makes available to the security managers the context to the actions they are asked to execute; and without understanding the histories of recent happenings, the reactions of soldiers get delayed to arrest crimes and criminals (Mac-Leod, 2022). For instance, the young officers at the twitch of the 19th century might get confused as to the reason professional instructions in military academies were required before they

could serve as Commanders or officers. That is the basis of establishing the British Royal Military College in 1802 and as well academies in France located at St. Cyr in 1808, and in Berlin at the *Kriegsakademie* in 1810 and also in Russia at the Imperial Military Academy in 1832.

All these are to enable the officers to fully comprehend the reflective implications of the French Revolution on the political, economic, and social dimensions of societies and impacts on warfare (Mac-Leod, 2022). In this way, the study of military history and intelligence analysis lend adequate credence to security personnel and officers and soldiers in a bid to understand the need for their actions. Once a military personnel or soldier knows the reason, it is then required of him to know what actions have taken to achieve successful prevention of crimes and wars or the reasons the efforts experienced failure in the past (Research Findings, 2023).

Findings of the study also showed that, occasionally, the learning the past failures and successes has opposing results. Assumed with the Allied successes in World War I, the French and British only recognized one commission each to appreciate the victory. Alternatively, the Germans put in place no less than 67 commissions to realize their failures during the war. The difference in the study of military history had momentous implications for the long-term expansion of these nations' individual troops. It is noteworthy that the desire to acquire skills from past failures, and their military history actually contributed to the German capacity to accomplish a series of victories in the first years of World War II (Research Findings, 2023). The study of military history and engagement in intelligence analysis contribute to battlefield successes and strategy developments.

The study also found out that the military history has played significant roles in curtailing the spread of insecurity and crimes in all ramifications, by applying intelligence analysis of potential crimes, studying lives of soldiers of the past, understanding doctrinal evolution, understanding leadership issues, and learning about tactics and strategies of addressing security challenges. Intelligence analysis combined with military history remains significant as it renders “surprises” non-functional – as it is observed that unexpected developments occur despite the military's or security personnel's best efforts in reducing unknowns (Maria, 2013). It also strengthens troop's combat readiness, increasing the levels of training, unit cohesion and security equipment.

In the same vein, an accurate thoughtfulness of the intelligence analysis and military history of the Arab-Israeli war in history, would aid an all-inclusive endeavour at crime detection, analysis and prevention, and managing the conflicts that have negatively impacted the strategic permutations of the Middle East (Cynthia, 2013). In the same vein, the intelligence analysis and military history of the Nigerian Civil War between 1967 and 1970 would greatly lend a hand in managing the persistent insecurity and communal crises or conflicts that have been threatening the peaceful co-existence of Nigeria (Cynthia, 2013).

Conclusion

Arising from the paper, it is therefore evident that intelligence and military history provide understanding of proof, insights, and the systematic approach to the study of battles, crimes, campaigns and other defensive operations. The role of intelligence analysis and military history

as it concerns crime detection, analysis, prevention and control in Nigeria cannot be over-emphasized. It is therefore expected that intelligence analysis and military history be more enhanced towards prompt detection, analysis, and prevention of crimes in Nigeria.

Recommendations

The paper therefore recommends that:

The Office of National Security Adviser through the Nigerian government must be able to integrate a variety of past experiences of military activities, intelligence information sources, determine how relevant they are towards enhancing national security and assess the situations based on context. The Nigerian government should promote studies on military history and intelligence analysis among the various security agencies, most especially among the border security/patrol officials, to effectively secure the state's borders with neighbouring states and prevent the influx of criminals and marauders into the country from of the Sahel region. The government needs to increase funding for the security agencies in order to acquire the necessary security gadgets and equipment in tandem with global best practices for swift detection, combating and prevention of crimes in Nigeria. It is clearly shows that intelligence analysts and military historians are more needed in the country to impact skills and conduct training for all the security agencies for crime detection, conflict, and war prevention in the country.

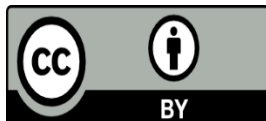
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