

The Nigerian Military: Analysing Fifty Years of Defence and Internal Military and Fifty Years of Internal Security Operations in Nigeria (1960-2010)

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ABSTRACT Since the attainment of political independence in 1960 till the present (2010), the military had been involved in the pursuit of activities aimed at promoting peace and security within the country. The task of ensuring Nigeria's security and territorial integrity involves the continuous "x-raying" of both the various internal and external threats to the nation's sovereignty. The study observes that the onerous task of ensuring internal security operations engendered by incessant civil uprisings and religious violence capable of destabilizing the country, curtailing the upsurge in the activities of armed militia groups as well as grappled with the issue of how much money is dedicated to the military expenditure, the imperatives of a civilian control of the military under a democratic setting and the highly volatile controversial issue of an existing (or otherwise) of a concise, and codified defence policy, has been both complex and highly challenging. These challenges had long been a contending factor in the military's task of keeping Nigeria as an indivisible and indissoluble entity.