

The Challenges and Prospects of ICT Utilisation in Counter Terrorism Efforts in a Transitional Democracy: The Case of Nigeria

Ngboawaji Daniel Nte*

*Provost, College of Management and Social Sciences,
Novena University, Ogume, Delta State, Nigeria*

Otega Okinono

*Department of Sociology and Criminology Studies,
University of Delta, Agbor, Nigeria*

Major Awal Isa

*Department of Intelligence and Security,
Nigerian Defence Academy, Kaduna, Nigeria*

Debi Amadedon

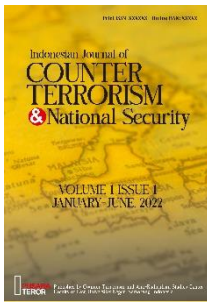
*School of Postgraduate Studies, Department of Intelligence and Security
Studies, Novena University, Ogume, Delta State, Nigeria*

Tovie Bodise-Ere Oba

*Department of Security, Intelligence and Diplomacy,
The University of Buckingham, London, United Kingdom*

* Corresponding author's email: profndte@novenauniversity.edu.ng

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ABSTRACT: The global quest to fight terror worldwide cannot be over emphasised as extremists and non -state actors continue to ravage the ungoverned spaces opening up around the globe. Consequently, this work is an evaluation of the use of ICT in counter terrorism efforts in Nigeria as a fledgling democracy. The study reviewed the challenges and prospects of the application of ICT to counter terror in a country where Boko Haram, ISWAP, and other militant groups have continued to challenge the legitimacy and territorial integrity of the Nigerian state. The work used the mixed method –comprising qualitative and quantitative analytical efforts and found out that for the Nigerian State to make sustainable impacts in her counter terrorism efforts ICT should be the pivot. In the same vein, the study advocated adequate training and sustainable Information Technology policy and culture that will encourage the development of substantial capacity to drive an ICT-driven counter terrorism in a world full of rapidly mutating terrorism.

KEYWORDS: ICT, Counter Terrorism, Challenges, Prospects, Nigeria, Boko Haram.



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I. INTRODUCTION

Due to monumental increase in terrorist activities across the nation, including those by the Niger Delta Militants, Boko Haram, killer herdsmen, cattle rustlers, kidnappings and abductions, etc., the

challenges posed by terrorism in Nigeria are now becoming more unsettling and a threat to the country's millennium development goal, sustainability, and 2020 mission.¹ Although security forces (police, military forces- army, navy, and air force) are already in place and the first line of defence against terrorism in most of the country, the necessity for contemporary technology as a backup strategy to combat Nigeria's terrorism cannot be over emphasised and remains a key positive development.² In this circumstance, Information and communication technology encompasses contemporary technology that grew up of the impregnable forces of globalisation in post-modern world.

Radio, television, mobile phones, hardware & software, computer networks, satellite systems, and other technological tools and resources used to gather, communicate, disseminate, store, and manage information are all included in the definition of ICT, which is essentially information handling tools.³ In Nigeria, the impact of ICT on daily life has led to a remarkable improvement in politics, education, health, and all other socioeconomic aspects, demonstrating ICT's capacity to respond to natural and human-caused disasters like the ongoing insurgency in the nation.⁴ ICT has been identified to offer great help to attenuate risks, threats and

¹ Ogu, Emmanuel C., and Oyeyinka D. Oyerinde. "ICT And National Security in Developing and Underdeveloped Countries–The Good, the Bad and the Ugly: A Case Study of Nigeria's Cyberspace." *International Journal of Computer Science and Information Technologies* 5, No. 4 (2014): 5625–5633. <https://dspace.unijos.edu.ng/jspui/bitstream/123456789/1911/1/ijcsit20140504176.pdf>

² UNDP Programme. "Information Communications Technology for Development". *Essentials: Synthesis of Lessons Learned*, 5 (2001): 1–31.

³ Shatimah, A. A. and Adamu, H. (2016). Effective Use of ICT Tools to Combat Insecurity, 357–362.

⁴ Garba, E. J. and Ahmadu, A. S. (2015). ICT Implementation Framework for Integrated National Security, Emergency and Disaster Management for Nigeria, 15(1): 27–37.

dangers, even though it may not entirely ensure public safety and national security the way the institutional security services can.

In order to combat risks and threats, and increase the alertness of all organizational actions, technology is one sure asset that cannot be overlooked. This is even more relevant in the face of terrorist threats and attacks. In general, ICT is a vital instrument for detecting and identifying citizens, as well as for facilitating their communication, movement, and other general activities within states and regions across the world. Consequently, terrorism can be significantly reduced with the use of contemporary ICT infrastructure, including biometric data collecting, Close Circuit Television (CCTV) systems like security cameras, National Security Information Centre (NSIC), and many more ICT services. Abundant evidence showed that by utilizing satellite monitoring, Osama Bin Laden was discovered and apprehended in Abbobatabad, Pakistan, in 2011. In Nigeria, ICT tools were also employed to uncover a possible Offa bank heist in Kwara State.⁵ There are countless data corroborating a positive correlation between the use of ICT and crime detection, prevention and management the world over. While ICT cannot stand alone in counter terrorism, it is immutable that any dynamic security architecture designed for counter terrorism and counter insurgency must be ICT driven.

Statement of the Problem

In contemporary Nigeria, Boko Haram in the Northeast and some parts of the Northwest, the Niger Delta Militants in the South-South and the South West, killer herdsmen in the North Central, cattle

⁵ Azigbo, O. (2008, February 18). Paying lip service to Niger Delta Development. *Vanguard*, p. 18.

rustlers in Zamfara and Katsina States, and kidnapping in the majority of the country's major cities have all posed serious security challenges for Nigeria. There also documented cases of significant losses in lives and property, as well as numerous collateral injuries among the populace. It is quite concerting that terrorism in Nigeria poses so much potent threats to both lives and property. Undoubtedly, global terrorism has not spared any region of the world and Nigeria has a substantial ugly share of this global menace. The recurring graphic killings of people and damage of property, together with other horrible acts committed by terrorists, undercut the Nigerian government's obligation under the constitution to safeguard the safety of its residents.

While it is true that the Nigerian federal government has implemented measures to fight the threat of Boko Haram the measures have faced stiff challenges that has questioned the efficacy of direct kinetic solution to terrorism. So far, the Nigerian government has created the Joint Task Force (JTF) made up of members of all the military and paramilitary forces and the Nigerian Police Force (NPF). It is disheartening to see that the federal government's military has not yet proven to be roundly effective in their campaign against Boko Haram. This is true despite the fact that the Multi-National Joint Task Force, which is made up of troops from Nigeria's neighbours Cameroon, Chad, and Niger, supports the federal government's troops. Part of this challenge is apparently due to the complexities of counter terrorism and insurgency across the world which is evident in Nigeria and the fact that non-kinetic approaches should be adequately deployed to complement the kinetic efforts of the military and allied security services in the country. In the same vein, due to the advent of new threats in spite of

government effort, security agencies, and cooperation from international organisations, the battle against terrorism in Nigeria requires extensive deployment of ICT infrastructures.

Furthermore, in spite of efforts to stop their guerrilla-style tactics, terrorist organisations in Nigeria like Boko Haram continue to operate with unflinching skill in their attacks, tactics and strategies. Terrorists' attack tactics were far from technological up until lately, however, in recent times, they have made substantial use of the Internet and its ICT capabilities to plan and organize assaults and indeed to popularise their attacks to embarrass the government of the day to win support from the masses. Given that terrorists have been using cyberspace as a weapon since 1998, it is surprising that Nigeria's security system is unable to adequately exploit the same cyberspace to defend against terrorist assaults. To security analysts in Nigeria, this has remained a significant strategic failure that should be urgently addressed.

In the light of the foregoing, it is imperative to evaluate critically the challenges and prospects of sustained utilization of ICT in the counter terrorism efforts of the Nigerian security agencies. This is against the backdrop of the Nigerian government inability to effectively contain the menace of Boko Haram and other security threats in the country. This will provide an objective insight in the need for the usage of cyberspace, particularly ICT-generated intelligence, to stop or impede terrorist actions.

Purpose and Aim of the Study

The purpose of this study is to investigate on the use of ICT as a counter-terrorism tool in Nigeria. Specifically, the aims of this study are:

- a. Find out the causes of terrorism in Nigeria.
- b. Examine the available counter-terrorism measures in Nigeria.
- c. Identify the ICT tools that can be used to curb terrorism in Nigeria.
- d. Establish how ICT can be used to curb terrorism in Nigeria
- e. Ascertain the limitations to the deployment of ICT as a counter-terrorism tool in Nigeria.

Research Questions

The study will be guided by the following research questions:

- a. What are the causes of terrorism in Nigeria?
- b. What is the available counter-terrorism measures in Nigeria?
- c. What the ICT tools that can be used to curb terrorism in Nigeria?
- d. How can ICT be used to curb terrorism in Nigeria?
- e. What are the limitations to the deployment of ICT as a counter-terrorism tool in Nigeria?

Research Hypotheses

The study was guided by the following null hypothesis:

- H₀₁:** There is no significant relationship between the use of ICT and counter-terrorism.
- H₀₂:** There is no significant relationship between ICT tools and counter-terrorism.
- H₀₃:** There is no significant relationship between the limitations to the deployment of ICT and counter-terrorism.

II. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Terrorism in Nigeria

The current situation in Nigeria festers terrorism and in some cases alluring for new recruits into terrorist cells. The change and the rise in terrorist operations may be related to socio-political, psychological, economic, and cultural disparities of victimized persons or groups in the nation according to Ogundiya and Amzat.⁶ Crenshaw (1981) had asserted that discrimination against the majority by the minority group is a legitimate grievance that can encourage terrorism in the nation. While an extremist faction of the discriminatory group might commit acts of terrorism, the discriminated group could organize a social movement to address their complaints and demand an egalitarian society.⁷ According to Niworu (2013), Nigeria's terrorism was caused by a lack of effective government, legal frameworks, access to high-quality education, and cultural values.⁸

The colonial era in Nigeria was one of arbitrary authority and oppression, which had a great effect on the country's social vices such as terrorism, insurrection, and interethnic and religious disputes.⁹ Between 1960 and 1963, the Nigerian First Republic was characterized by thuggery, brutality, and low social ideals that were enforced by coercion. The Nigerian state's political economy was centrally

⁶ Ogundiya, I. S. and Amzat, J. (2008). "Nigeria and the Threats of Terrorism: Myth and Reality". *Journal of Sustainable Development in Africa*, 10 (2): 165-89.

⁷ Ogundiya

⁸ Duru, E. J. C. and Ogbonnaya, U. M. (2012). The poverty of crisis management strategies in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria: A focus on the amnesty programme. *An International Multidisciplinary Journal, Ethiopia*, 6(2): 162-170.

⁹ Okpaga, A., Chijioke, U. S. and Okechukwu, I. (2012). Activities of Boko Haram and insecurity question in Nigeria. *Arabian Journal of Business and Management Review (OMAN Chapter)*, 1(9): 77-100.

organized, which made the struggle for power using illegal means inevitable.¹⁰ All-encompassing ethnic and religious militancy that spanned across all areas and ethnic groups was encouraged by this governmental framework.

The Movement for the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB) is pushing for an Igbo president in Nigeria's southeast, the Niger Delta Volunteer Force (NDV) and the Niger Delta Avengers (NDA) are pushing for resource control in the Niger Delta, and Boko Haram is pushing for societal reform based on Sharia law in northern Nigeria.¹¹ The aim to obtain economic power by committing violent terrorist acts against defenceless residents and foreign investors is what fuels and sponsors these groups' violent activities against innocent people.¹²

The expansion and development of terrorism have been linked to psychological reasons that cause the population of Nigeria to become frustrated and provoked. The psychological difficulty is brought on by a group of people's relative lack of socioeconomic and political benefits over time.¹³ The retaliating organizations use terror, attacks on the alleged adversary, destruction of critical infrastructure, and kidnapping of oil employees to exert their revenge. Citizens of the Niger Delta of Nigeria are in a perilous condition due to protests,

¹⁰ Omede, J. and Omede, A. A. (2015). Terrorism and insecurity in Nigeria: Moral, values and religious education as panaceas. *Journal of Education and Practice*, 6(11): 120-128.

¹¹ Idowu, A. A. (2013). Security laws and challenges in Nigeria: The Boko Haram insurgency. *Journal of Applied Security Research*, 8(1): 118-134.

¹² Azumah, J. (2015). Boko Haram in retrospect. *Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations*, 26 (1): 33-52.

¹³ Afoaku, O. G. (2017). Islamist terrorism and state failure in northern Nigeria. *Africa Today*, 63(4): 21-42.

violence, and agitation due to country's neglect and the international oil firms' insensitivity to the environmental destruction of that region since the 1990s.¹⁴ The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Force (NDVF), the Bush Boys, the Martyrs Brigade, and the Avengers are important militant organizations in the Niger Delta.¹⁵

The creation of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) was required by the aspiration for equitable participation and inclusivity in Nigerian governance.¹⁶ The group, which Nigeria's federal government designated as a terrorist organization, endorsed using violence to revive Biafra, a separatist movement dedicated to the expulsion of the Igbo ethnic group from Nigeria.¹⁷ Another important factor in the rise of terrorism in Nigeria is religion. It leads to violence and a response to violence.¹⁸ The extremist Islamic theology and practice served as a foundation for the terrorism of Boko Haram. Despite Nigeria's state being secular, the group wants to build a religious state under the Sharia law. The group rejects democracy and despises Western education.

The insurgent group in Northeast Nigeria is officially called Jama'atu Ahl As-Sunna Li-D'awati Wal Jihad which translates in English Language to the "People Committed to the Prophet's Teachings for Propagation and Jihad". The group's ultimate aim is to capture the Northern states and establish an Islamic state in Northern Nigeria.

¹⁴ Azigbo, 2008.

¹⁵ Idowu, 2013

¹⁶ Campbell, J. (2017). Nnamdi Kanu and the indigenous people of Biafra. Council on Foreign Relations. Retrieved from <https://www.cfr.org>

¹⁷ Ibrahim, Y. (2011). Why we struck - Boko Haram. Daily Trust. Retrieved from <https://www.dailytrust.com.ng>

¹⁸ Omale, D. J. O. (2013). Terrorism and counter terrorism in Nigeria: Theoretical paradigms and lessons for public policy. *Canadian Social Science*, 9(3): 96-103.

They started their attacks with armed assaults using lethal small arms and light weapons (SALW). They launched attacks, shooting sporadically at soft targets, and later adopted kidnap techniques. They received military training from Al Qaeda and AQIM where they developed IEDs making capabilities. By 2013, the Global Terror Index (GTI) estimated that the attacks by Boko Haram were responsible for 63 per cent of the inflicted deaths. The attacks spread to neighbouring states of Yobe and Adamawa. Their suicide bombing tactic proved highly effective. In 2014 alone, Boko Haram carried out 32 suicide attacks compared to three in 2013. The suicide attacks were mainly carried out by individuals kidnapped and forcefully conscripted into the insurgency. They also introduced female suicide bombers which proved effective. This prompted the night kidnap of the 276 Chibok girls from their school hostels in April 2014. Summarily, Boko Haram Sect employed multiple tactics to carry out their dastardly attacks, mainly on unsuspecting civilians in public spaces.

Counter-Terrorism Measures in Nigeria

Since the beginning of terrorism and insurgency in Nigeria, the government has created a number of tactics to stop Boko Haram's actions. The first is the use of overwhelming military force against rebel organisations and the deployment of nearly 8000 troops into affected areas in northern Nigeria, however the operation lacks a well-defined Military Code of Justice. As an illustration, consider how Nigerian army invaded and killed people in the Baga hamlet in Borno state on Sunday, April 21, 2013. Following an attack, Nigerian forces killed more than 200 civilians believed to be Boko Haram militants in a single operation.¹⁹ Recently, the federal government

¹⁹ Akande, S. (2015). Causes of terrorism in Nigeria. Retrieved from <https://www.thenews-writer.ng.com>

sent a specially trained anti-terrorism combat force to terrorist hotspots to quell Boko Haram's activities.²⁰ The second is the creation and procurement of more advanced, suitable, and acceptable military weapons, as well as the recent African Union permission and the breach of a broad-based international coalition to cooperate with our military.

The third is the endorsement by international organisations that permit Nigeria's neighbours (Chad, Niger, and Cameroon) to legally station troops there. The Nigerian military also conducts operations outside of national borders to pursue fugitive terrorists and eliminate their sanctuary. Fourthly, a state of emergency has been declared in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe, the three northern states most severely hit. However, the number of victims in Northern Nigeria has increased because to the lack of a formal military code of justice to clearly identify intended targets and protect civilians. Fifth, the government encourages the public and the media to share information on terrorist organisations or their activities. However, the Nigerian government faces serious conundrums in its fight against terrorism that appear to thwart their efforts.

Nigeria experienced its fair share of terrorist attacks from 1999 to 2013, and the inability of the government to take decisive action in the fight against terrorism has put the nation in peril. The decision made by the authorities is considerably too slow to effectively combat the national problem of domestic terrorism. The government is also working to solve the issue, and in order to succeed in lessening the threat of terrorism, it would take a concerted effort by all responsible and rational Nigerians. Although the Nigerian authorities are aware

²⁰ Okupe, D. (2015). The Guardian February 26. p. 4.

of the terrorists and their key backers both inside and outside of Nigeria, the situation is becoming more dangerous and time-consuming.

The Nigerian government has used several strategies to tackle terrorism at various points in time. Projects and programmes designed to counter terrorism should be built around community resilience against terrorism, enhance cooperation among law enforcement agencies, and strengthen judicial institutions given the complexity of the security situation in Nigeria combined with the economic, political, and social strife. Therefore, in a more interdependent and connected Nigeria, strategy and the significance of joint actions to counter terrorism have become vital.²¹ Throughout history, numerous anti-terrorism strategies have been implemented by succeeding Nigerian governments. For instance, the government, then led by General Ibrahim Babangida, attempted to remove the roots of the terror episodes that began in Kafanchan in 1983 and 1987 and expanded to Kaduna, Zaria, Funtua, Malumfashi, and Katsina.

The Nigerian government has placed fighting terrorism at the top of its priority list. The Nigerian government has a zero-tolerance policy for all acts of terrorism, according to its statement on the topic: "Nigerian government... (is committed to) making the country undesirable for global terrorism sponsors who are looking to recruit willing people to swell their ranks. Proactive efforts are made to combat terrorism during Chief Obasanjo's civilian rule. For instance, the government's response to the Odi and Zaki Biam attacks is a blatant demonstration of its commitment to combating terrorism and insecurity in Nigeria. But despite the existence of highly effective

²¹ Omale, 2013

intelligent networking and institutions put in place to counter terrorism, the current political leadership appears to lack the resolve to do so. This raises concerns about the government's sincerity in tackling terrorism. Numerous innocent Nigerians lose their lives each month as a result of terrorist attacks. Many Nigerians now have little faith in the government's anti-terrorist efforts as a result of these unexpected developments. Nigerians have a right to protest their government's inability to stop terrorism since they live in constant fear of being a terrorist target.

President Obasanjo requested parliamentary approval on April 10, 2002, to prohibit specific armed associations and organisations in Nigeria after becoming alarmed by the actions of these associations and groups. The Bill aims to, among other things, outlaw the retention, organisation, training, or equipping of any individual or group of individuals for the purpose of enabling that individual or group to use or display physical force or coercion in order to further any political objective or interest, ethnic or cultural interest, social, occupational, or religious interest. The Bill has received significant criticism for its confusing and unclear position on rival organisations that usurp police authority, or any armed organisations purportedly established to reduce crime and criminality. The Bill is a decent first step toward reducing ethnic militancy and vigilantism in Nigeria, however it is silent regarding which associations or groups are proscribed and which are not. Law enforcement is conflicted by the development and support of vigilante organisations by legal statutes on the one hand, and the (federal) law that forbids similar associations and groups on the other, which encourages an environment that is conducive to crime and terrorism.

Despite several security reports, the Federal Government did not originally pay substantial attention to the Boko-Haram operation prior to 2009, as mentioned in the preceding section. The justification was thought to have been based on the presumption that Boko-Haram originally began as an Islamic group whose doctrines were the purifying of Islam and that it was not the only group in the Northern axis of Nigeria with the same purpose. Since 2004, sect has become a growing cause of concern for the government, and efforts to proceed cautiously have been guided by the need to avoid inciting religious or ethnic conflict over the subject. Not only in the case of Boko-Haram, but in earlier crises that have jeopardised long-term peace in Nigeria, the government's incapacity to track conflict dynamics and identify early warning indications to avert eruption of hostility was a severe problem.

Nigeria has also signed anti-terrorism agreements with countries including Israel, the United States of America, France, the United Kingdom, and others. And these nations have volunteered to help the Nigerian government fight terrorism, particularly the crimes committed by Boko Haram. This has increased government resolve to combat terrorism. Nigeria has previously received technical assistance from the US, UK, and Israel, particularly in the fields of investigation and forensic science. It has attempted to engage Boko Haram in conversation and broker a cease-fire by sending former president General Olusegun Obasanjo, but such efforts have failed. In order to dialogue with the sect for peace, ongoing attempts are continuously being made. It is rumoured that the organisation will have little choice but to submit it to government authorities after its major operating headquarters in Borno State was destroyed. The government has also created Almajiri Schools in Northern States in

an effort to use them as a tool for educating the region's vast population of illiterate youths and reducing the number of Boko Haram foot troops. However, the Nigerian government faces serious conundrums in its fight against terrorism that appear to thwart their efforts.

Joint Task Forces: By establishing and deploying the JTF to the terror-ridden states, the FGN originally focused its COIN operation efforts on the Northeast (Umar, 2011). The AFN largely depended on a hard power strategy deploying lethal weapon technologies from 2009 to 2014. Personnel from the AFN, NPF, DSS, and other security agencies made up the first JTF, known as Operation RESTORE ORDER (ORO) I, II, and III. It was founded in June 2011 and afterwards renamed Operation ZAMAN LAFIYA, Operation LAFIYA DOLE, and Operation LAFIYA DOLE (Okoli and Orinya, 2013). For the COIN operation, these JTF relied on traditional military doctrine. The Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF), which was created to help with intelligence collecting and track the topography of the Northeast of Nigeria, later backed the JTF. The JTF set up checkpoints in a number of key strategic areas and carried out raids on places thought to be housing the Boko Haram Sect. While some alleged Boko Haram Sect members were captured as a result of the operations, many human rights concerns were raised.

Nigeria Army 7 Division: To lessen the inherent difficulties the JTF had during the COIN campaign in the Northeast, the Nigerian Army 7 Division was created as a permanent structure. The 7 Division, which had its headquarters in Maiduguri, served as the foundation for a more durable COIN operating structure in the Northeast of Nigeria. As a component of the 25 Task Force Brigade, the HQ 7 Division created a combat motorbike unit to defend the roadways in

Yobe and act as a force multiplier during COIN operations. Additionally, it has a Specialized Counterterrorist Squad that filled the JTF's capacity shortage. The Motorbike Battalion was able to sever the retreating Boko Haram fighters and react to threats more quickly and unannounced. Similar to the JTF, Nigeria's porous borders with its neighbouring states of Niger, Cameroon, and Chad in the northeast posed the 7 Division with its greatest difficulty. The militants used the boundaries as a means of smuggling food, weapons, and drugs into the area. The Boko Haram threat became regional due to porous borders. This ultimately resulted in military cooperation via the MNJF.

Private Military Contractors: In order to support the FGN war against the Boko Haram Sect, the government of President Goodluck Jonathan hired the services of a private military corporation, STTEP, in 2015 specifically to help with the 270 kidnapped Chibok girls' rescue. Additionally, the STTEP was hired to train the 7 Division's staff on COIN operations. As a result, STTEP established a "aggressive strike force" tasked with putting Boko Haram on the back foot and quelling the conflict. Over the course of three months, the STTEP effectively reclaimed territory and defeated Boko Haram by employing the strategy of continuous pursuit. Armed with night vision goggles, the soldiers could see in the dark by projecting images from thermal and infrared cameras. STTEP was able to work with the AFN to achieve joint operation and coordinated communication.

Multinational Joint Task Force: The FGN had jointly established an MNJTF made up of military personnel from Chad, Niger, and Nigeria in order to strengthen the military cooperation system. The MNJTF was created as a direct reaction to the issue of cross-border crimes and the inflow of guns, both of which were orchestrated by illegal

immigrants and frequently made worse by the Northeast States' weak borders. In Borno and other Northeast States, the MNJTF coexists with the JTF. It is organised into four national sectors: Sector 1 (Cameroon), with headquarters in Mora; Sector 2 (Chad), with headquarters in Baga-Sola; Sector 3 (Nigeria), with headquarters in Baga; and Sector 4 (Niger), with headquarters in the town of Diffa. In the Lake Chad Basin, the MNJTF carries out air and artillery interdiction. According to a recent evaluation of the military alliance, it significantly contributed to the annihilation of the organisation from the Lake Chad Basin and the Sambisa Forest.

The actions of desperate men could not be effectively defended against by the might of the entire world's armed forces or the capabilities of its technology. The rise of terrorism in today's international relations has attracted attention from around the world and encourages decisive action to stop the threat. Terrorist threats frequently lack a traditional base or location, in contrast to military threats, and therefore can be particularly challenging to discern from the general civilian population. However, both domestic and foreign actors have devised a variety of tactics to lessen the difficulties. Scholars and professionals provide a variety of solutions to stop or lessen the global plague. For instance, Ogundiya and Amzat contended in their study that both offensive and defensive tactics might be used to combat terrorism.²² It indicates retaliatory raids and preventative strikes as part of its aggressive strategy (mostly by security forces). On the other hand, the defensive strategy calls for the installation of metal detectors in every airport and the expansion of the security infrastructure (such as border patrol).

²² Ogundiya and Amzat, 2008

The threat posed by terrorism to international security persisted even after the United States declared a "*Global War on Terrorism*" (GWOT) and launched invasions of Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria. In fact, some today have characterised the GWOT as a modern-day crusade, a war on Islam, or a conflict of civilizations. The GWOT of the United States, according to critics, threatens the sovereignty of weak states in the international system and has an impact on the UN's concept of collective security. As a result, the impacted states have no choice than to become "*enemies of humanity*" or join the hegemonic United States. GWOT serves to further solidify America's position as the world's unipolar superpower. In fact, the American GWOT is motivated by a "*thirst for vengeance*" following the 9/11 disaster. The United States uses preventive war as a tool to control the natural resources of the affected nations, such as Iraq's enormous oil reserves. This report contends that at this point, relying too much on military action is counterproductive and will only make an already challenging situation worse. This is due to the fact that despite the realism school's continued emphasis on the use of state power to smash terrorist organisations, military measures to the present war on terror have so far been unable to significantly reduce this scourge.

ICT and Counter Terrorism

Research by Mamud claims that with the advent and integration of ICT, AI, forensics, and robotics in battle, technology is taking the lead in the military.²³ These devices fall under the category of non-lethal devices. The use of the proper technologies can help to decrease the number of civilian deaths during counterinsurgency (COIN). They are helpful in influencing people to support the government by

²³ Mamud, Y. A. (2020). Leveraging Technologies for Counterinsurgency Operations in Nigeria: Available Options.

gaining their hearts and minds. To be effective, these technologies need high level specialisation, though. The relationship between technology and COIN operations in Northeast Nigeria was investigated in this paper using a qualitative approach of data collecting. It was also determined that Northeast Nigeria has used lethal weapon technologies for COIN operations. It claimed that despite lethal weapon technologies consistently providing the Armed Forces of Nigeria (AFN) with overwhelming firepower, Boko Haram has not been vanquished. The research identified a significant barrier to exploiting technologies for COIN operations as human capacity constraints resulting from insufficient technical skills. By implementing a new military doctrine, the problem of the absence of AFN technological policy/guidelines for COIN action would be lessened. By bolstering technology institutions, the problem of weak institutions would be solved.

Chinda, Shuaibu, and Dyikuk's study found that the world is currently dealing with the tragic phenomena of global terrorism. The sophistication of terrorist organisations' operational strategies which take advantage of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) to wreak havoc on the public's unwary, is more frightful.²⁴ The study found that the group threatens national peace by publishing amateur movies on social media platforms and other ICT dynamics to terrify the populace. It advocated the creation and implementation of cyber laws as well as the outlawing of online hate speech as a potential cure for terrorism. The study came to the conclusion that since terrorist organisations frequently form alliances with some

²⁴ Chinda, F. E., Shuaibu, A. N. and Dyikuk, J. (2018). Information Technology as an Indispensable Security Tool: Nigeria's Boko Haram Sect in Focus. *International Journal of Applied Research and Technology*, 7(8): 39 – 51.

terrorist organisations around in other countries, as a working tactic, the United Nations, governments of various countries, NGO's, security agencies, and patriotic citizens must remain alert online and also create a worldwide global cooperation to stop the threat of global terrorism in its tracks. The authors believe that the fundamentals of ICT continue to be a crucial security instrument for dismantling Nigeria's leading terrorist group.

According to Sulaiman, Umar, and Bari, despite the presence of numerous security agencies and international assistance, the level of insecurity in Nigeria is disgusting and worrying to the point where lives and property are destroyed and displaced across the nation's geopolitical zones as a result of various attacks and other criminal activities like those carried out by Boko Haram, the Niger Delta Avengers, headsmen, and cattle rustlers.²⁵ Therefore, in order to combat insecurity by tracking down, identifying, and disseminating information about terrorist organisations, Nigeria's security concerns must be resurrected and implemented in accordance with international standards. The study's document consequently advocated the employment of numerous ICT tools, including mobile phones, CCTV, DD, and biometric data mining, to combat the insurgency. However, some of the devices were accepted while others were denied, as recounted by various authors. The respondents advocated using GPS and CCTV primarily in the fight against terrorism, showing that the public is aware of the negative effects of ICT and the limitations of using human power alone. Other

²⁵ Sulaiman, Y. Y., Umar, M. A. and Bari, A. S. (2018). Confronting Nigeria's Security Challenges through Information and Communication Technology: Way Forward to Terrorism. *International Journal of Advanced Academic Research, Sciences, Technology & Engineering*, 4(6): 124–131.

respondents proposed using satellite imagery and mobile phones as ICT tools to combat instability.

The government or the agencies involved in the proper enhancement of security can use all these applications to have additional two eyes from the two they are having, especially the use of the CCTV, where there is a lot of surveillance coverage to what are the activities that are being monitored. Shatimah, Adamu, and Modu noted in their study that with the adoption of the ICT applications, a significant surveillance can be yielded where a lot of activities can be monitored and controlled.²⁶ Nigerians want a better life than the one that some of their leaders are currently offering them, and security is one of those basic needs. Without security, people cannot go about their daily lives, which can result in a generation that is misinformed, as was the case in Syria, where many people are fleeing for countries with better living conditions.

The population of Nigeria are utterly against the current state of security. With the latest technological advancements and applications around the globe, a lot can be achieved and monitored. For example, CCTV can be used to monitor movement and visuals to what is happening in a specific location. National identity can also be used to control and know the sum of people living in a specific area. However, correct SIM registration may be kept track of so that every online SIM can be found when necessary and its communication can be watched, especially if it belongs to a suspect.²⁷

²⁶ Shatimah, A. A., Adamu, H. and Modu, A. A. (2016). Effective Use of ICT Tools to Combat Insecurity Menace in Nigeria. *International Journal of Modern Trends in Engineering and Research*, 3 (5): 357 – 362.

²⁷ Shatimah, Adamu, and Modu

A study by Adedire, Ake, and Olowojolu (2016) found that protecting people's lives and property has traditionally been seen as the primary duty of the state. The paper makes the case that the primary causes of terrorism and insurgency are poverty, unemployment, a lack of institutional support, corruption, the spread of weapons of war, and religious factors. The study looks at the efforts taken by the Nigerian government and other international parties to lessen the threat of terrorism and insurgency. The deployment of troops to the afflicted areas, the formation of a joint task force by neighbouring nations, the proclamation of a state of emergency, and the encouraging of the public and media to offer intelligence support are examples of such domestic actions. International actors use economic sanctions, the deployment of security resources overseas, and the observation of the expanding range and diversity of facilitation networks to penalise state sponsors of terrorism. Therefore, it suggests cutting off Boko Haram's communication channels, implementing an empowerment programme to lower unemployment, mediating disputes between parties, and strictly enforcing the law against terrorism.

Oludare, Omolara, Umar, and Kemi conducted research on the usage of ICT technologies in Nigeria to address the problem of insecurity and terrorism.²⁸ The study's findings indicated that using a mobile phone to contact security agencies in an emergency was preferred. Furthermore, the usage of satellite imagery, radio, closed-circuit television (CCTV), security cameras, television, and social network analysis are particularly effective means of communication during a crisis, whereas data mining and fax machines have the lowest values.

²⁸ Oludare, A. I., Omolara, O. E., Umar, A. M. and Kemi, D.V. (2015). The Use of ICT Tools in Tackling Insecurity and Terrorism Problem in Nigeria. *Network and Complex Systems*, 5(5): 21 – 39.

This means that no single media can be employed as a means of combating crime. The study's findings also indicated that the most significant operational benefit of a computerised information centre and the deployment of ICT solutions is the capacity to manage a bilingual organisational and environment. As a result, interactions and communications among security professionals, the general public, and the government are improved, as is the capacity of information data bases to store and retrieve data. These are the primary strategic benefits of a crime-free society for Nigeria's security agencies. The study also demonstrated that ICT tool usage in Nigeria is still novel and developing, and that certain security agencies do not employ such systems for their crime monitoring methods. The report suggested that daily training for security professionals and the general public on security issues be implemented.

Furthermore, the study's statistical and empirical findings demonstrate that Nigeria's crime region and insurgency attack situations are complex and challenging to combat. Gun systems alone do not appear to be able to meet these challenges, necessitating the use of more sophisticated systems like ICT tools and information database managerial approaches. Additionally, it was discovered that, even in the face of technological and financial limitations, outsourcing could be a viable option for the government to benefit from ICT tools. The statistical analysis and empirical results of the study demonstrate that the general attitudes and opinions of ICT experts towards the use of ICT tools as a sub-function of an integrated ICT can accelerate the vital security and human resource management as the primary trigger for utilising and adopting an ICT tool for crime tackling to reduce crime.

In his research, Oghorodi used ICT techniques to solve the problem of national security in Nigeria.²⁹ He believed that Nigeria's national insecurity was mostly caused by the country's high unemployment rate. The study goes on to suggest practical ICT training for security personnel, the use of closed-circuit television cameras for public place surveillance, the development and use of a national identity database management system, the use of facial recognition technology, the lawful interception of information about suspects, and the protection of communication networks with firewalls as remedies for the insecurity situation brought on by the nation's high unemployment rate. The difficulties with using ICT to solve the country's security issues have been noted as low ICT proficiency among security personnel and a lack of government commitment. The study then made several recommendations, including the need for adequate ICT training for security personnel, the establishment of a national identity database management system by the National Identity Management Commission, and the installation of CCTV cameras across the nation to monitor criminal activity.

According to Ogedebe and Jacob, new intelligence gathering tools must be purchased and deployed by security agencies like the police, the SSS, the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, and other Paramilitary in order to appropriately address Nigeria's security concerns.³⁰ It is necessary to install surveillance systems that can keep an eye on the most critical machinery and public areas. It is necessary to install real-

²⁹ Oghorodi, D. U. O. (2014). Deployment of Information and Communication Technology Tools as a Means of Combating National Insecurity in Nigeria. *International Journal of Computer Science Trends and Technology (IJCST)*, 2(4): 142 – 147.

³⁰ Ogedebe, P. M. and Jacob, B. P. (2012). The Role of Information Technology in Combating Security Challenges in Nigeria. *Academic Research International*, 2(1): 124 – 130.

time communication systems that provide information sharing. Modern scanners that can detect guns and other components used to make bombs and explosives must be utilised to adequately scan incoming products. The ability of the security agencies to address security issues in Nigeria will be significantly enhanced by the use of emergency communication systems, GPS-enabled devices, social networking tools, emergency operation centres (EOCs), intelligent monitoring systems, data mining and database tracking systems, and information sharing. A sufficient border patrol is required, along with the use of GIS and surveillance tools to keep an eye on the spread of people and weapons. Security personnel must be trusted, as a lack of trust could result in the disclosure of sensitive information to those working to destabilise the nation.

Research by Ham and Atkinson found that increased data sharing, "*smart ID cards*" with biometric identifiers, "*smart visas*" and improved border security, digital monitoring, and face recognition technologies are some of the ways that technology can help discover terrorists before an attack occurs.³¹ The National Crime Information Centre (NCIS) should be expanded to accept more information from Federal, State, and local agencies, and other databases should be more fully integrated to the extent permitted by law; second, Congress should fund matching grants to States to facilitate the purchase of handheld computers that can both query and enter information into databases. These two actions will improve data sharing. Congress should order that any standardisation efforts by State motor vehicle agencies include upgrading all ID cards to smart cards, which are ID cards that

³¹ Ham, S. and Atkinson, R. D. (2002). Using Technology to Detect and Prevent Terrorism. Progressive Policy Institute 600 Pennsylvania Ave., SE, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20003, United States.

have little computer chips embedded in them that hold information. Incorporating the issuance of visas as smart cards with biometric data into the current visa programme would be a good improvement.

Terrorists frequently use the internet as a means of communication, but the government has always had very little legal jurisdiction to monitor electronic conversations. In order to monitor illegal use of computers and the Internet, the government must address privacy issues while keeping key instruments in place. Face recognition, which enables cameras to scan crowds for faces and take pictures of them, is another effective tool for law enforcement, but it has been opposed due to privacy issues. Government testing of this technology should continue because it shows promise. The following guidelines should be followed in order to protect the country from future terrorist attacks: focus anti-terrorism efforts on systemic improvements; acknowledge the economic benefits of investing in domestic defence; keep privacy concerns in perspective; and concentrate technology procurement on quick deployment and interoperability; and oversee domestic research and development in the field of defence.³²

III. METHODS

A descriptive survey research method was used for this investigation. This research design enables the use of questionnaires to acquire data from a population using the appropriate sampling technique. This was suitable for the study since it offered a method for discovering and characterising the actual conditions under study without the

³² Ham, S. and Atkinson, R. D. (2002). *Using Technology to Detect and Prevent Terrorism*. Progressive Policy Institute 600 Pennsylvania Ave., SE, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20003, United States.

researcher having to manipulate them. The link between variables is explained and illustrated through the descriptive survey study design. As a result, the design was appropriate to make it easier to gather data on terrorism and employ ICT as a counterterrorism weapon in Nigeria. The population for this study included all the personnel of law enforcement agencies in Nigeria such as Nigeria Police Force (NPF) and Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), Nigerian Navy, Nigerian Army, and Nigerian Airforce. A purposive Sample of 500 personnel was selected for the study and a structured questionnaire was administered to the respondents.

Method of Data Analysis

In the analysis of the data collected, appropriate tables and statistical techniques were used to analyse and present the result of the study. Basic statistical parameters such as percentages, frequencies of response and mean score were used to answer the research questions. Pearson's correlation was used to test the null hypothesis at 0.05% level of significance. SPSS version 20 statistical computer software was used to analyse the data.

IV. ANALYSIS OF DATA

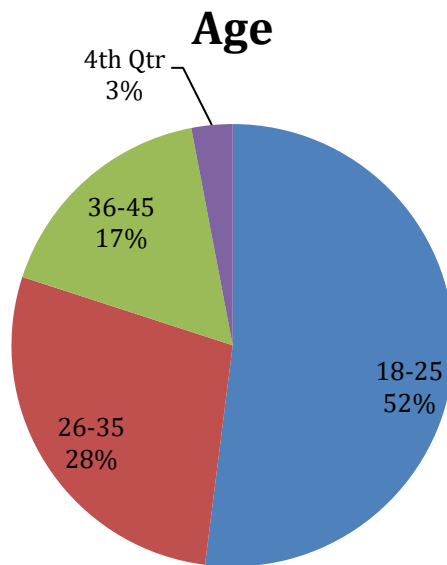
The data retrieved for the study were presented in tables and the interpretation follows immediately after.

*Demographic and Socioeconomic Characteristics of Respondents***TABLE 1.** Demographic and Socioeconomic Characteristics of Respondents

Variable	Category	N	Percentage (%)
Age (years)	18 – 25	260	52
	26 – 35	140	28
	36 – 45	85	17
	46 & above	15	3
	Total	500	100
Level of Education	Primary School	45	9
	Secondary School	60	12
	OND/NCE	170	34
	Degree/HND	200	40
	Postgraduate	25	5
	Total	500	100
Religion	Christian	410	82
	Islam	65	13
	Traditional	25	4
	Others	0	1
	Total	500	100
Marital Status	Single	265	53
	Married	235	47
	Divorced	0	0
	Widow	0	0
	Total	500	100

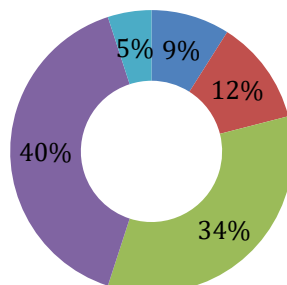
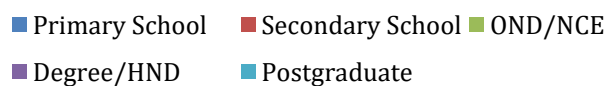
Source: Field work (2022).

The demographic and socio-economic characteristics of respondents for this study as presented in table 1 shows that out of the 500 respondents used in this study, most of the respondents (52%) were between 18 - 25 years, next on the list (28%), are those between 26 – 35 years, followed by 17% of respondents between 36 – 45 years, while 3% of the respondents were 46 and above. This trend is a true representation of the composition of members of the society; in which young people are more than the old.



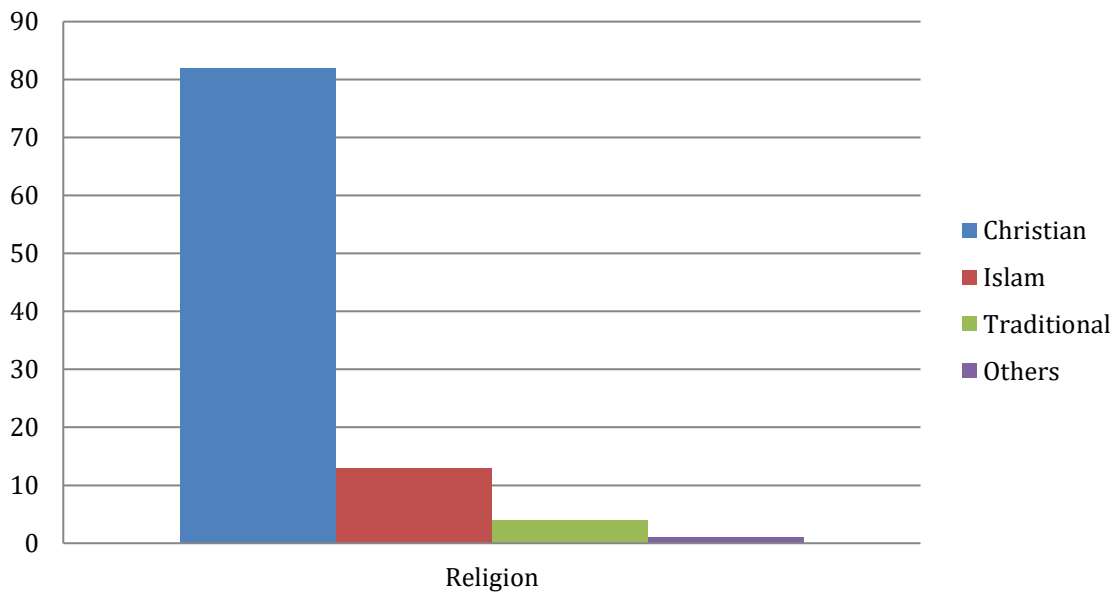
The distribution of respondents' base on level of education as shown in table 4.1 indicated that 34% respondents had OND/NCE, 40% were degree/HND holders, 12% have completed secondary school, 9% have completed primary school, while only 5% were postgraduates. This indicates that the majority of the respondents have tertiary education certificates.

Level of Education



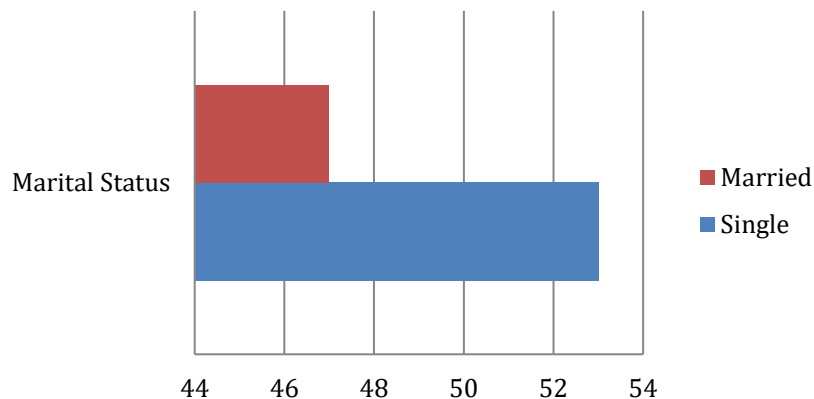
The distribution of respondents based on religious affiliation as shown in table 4.1 revealed that 82% were Christians, 13% were of the Islamic faith and 4% practice African traditional religion. This suggests that a large number of the respondents in the study area are religions people, thus with good moral, discipline and fear of God.

Religion



On the marital status of respondents as shown in table 1, 53% were single while 47% were married.

Marital Status



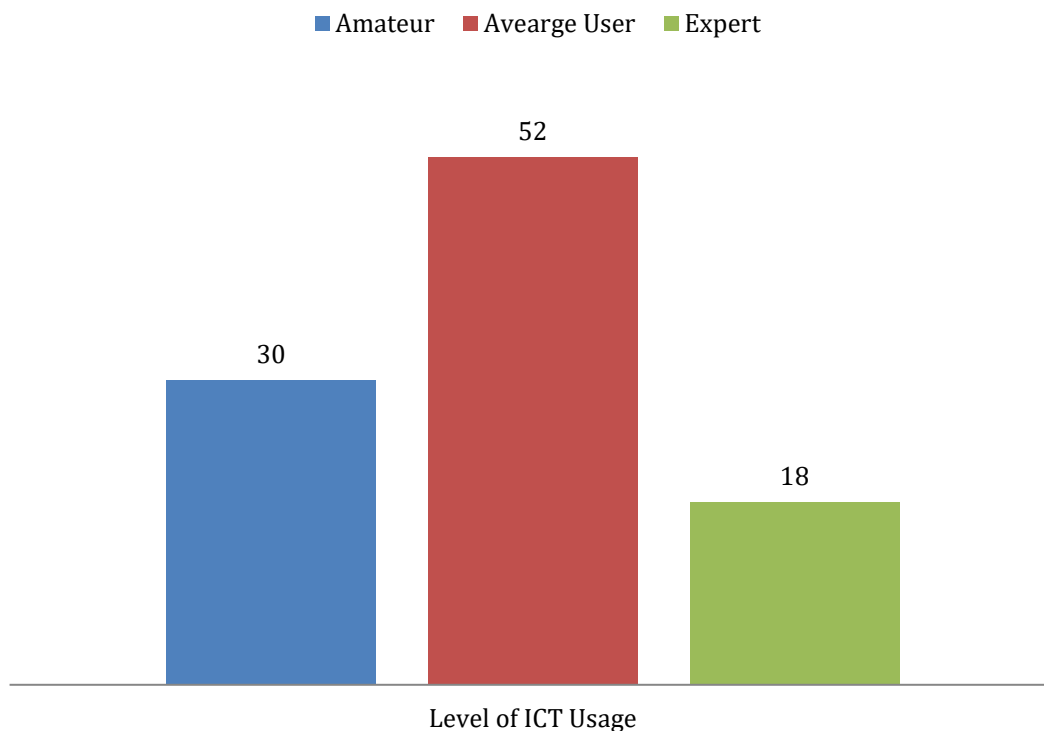
Level of ICT Usage

TABLE 2. Level of ICT Usage by respondents

Category	Level of ICT Usage	Percentage (%)
Amateur/beginner	150	30
Average user	260	52
Professional/expert	90	18

The distribution of the level of usage of ICT by the respondents is shown in table 2. However, the majority of the respondents (52%) are average users of ICT, while 30% are still amateurs/beginners, and 18% of the respondents are ICT professional.

Level of ICT Usage



*Analysis of Research Objectives***Research Objective One****TABLE 3 Causes of Terrorism in Nigeria**

S/N	Items	Yes		No	
		Score	Percentage	Score	Percentage
1.	Poverty	425	85%	75	15%
2.	Poor income distribution	410	82%	90	18%
3.	Unemployment	450	90%	50	10%
4.	Bad Governance	465	93%	35	17%
5.	Religious extremism	335	67%	165	33%
6.	The Proliferation of Arms and Weapons	365	73%	135	27%
7.	Political Greed	325	65%	175	35%

Source: Field work (2022).

Table 3 shows the divergent views of the respondents on the causes of terrorism in Nigeria. Based on the result, the major causes of terrorism in Nigeria are bad governance (93%) and unemployment (90%). These were closely followed by poverty (85%), poor income distribution (82%) and the proliferation of arms and weapons (73%). Religious extremism (64%) and political greed (65%) were also seen as causes of terrorism in Nigeria.

Research Objective Two

TABLE 4. Available counter-terrorism Measures in Nigeria

S/N	Items	Yes		No	
		Scores	Percentage	Scores	Percentage
1.	Deployment of troops to the affected areas	360	72%	140	28%
2.	Joint task force by the neighbouring countries	430	86%	70	14%
3.	Declaration of state of emergency	400	80%	100	20%
4.	Encouragement of public and media to provide intelligence support	425	85%	75	15%
5.	The deployment of security assets abroad	315	63%	185	37%

Source: Field work (2022).

In Table .4, the opinion of the respondents varied on the available counter-terrorism measures in Nigeria. Considering the results, creation of joint task force by the neighbouring countries (86%), encouragement of public and media to provide intelligence support (85%), declaration of state of emergency (80%), deployment of troops to the affected areas (72%) and the deployment of security assets abroad (63%) are available counter-terrorism measures in Nigeria.

Research Objective Three

TABLE 5. ICT tools that can be used to curb terrorism in Nigeria

S/N	Items	Yes		No	
		Score	Percentage	Score	Percentage
1.	Mobile phone	325	65%	175	35%
2.	Internet	490	98%	10	2%
3.	surveillance cameras	500	100%	0	0%
4.	Close Circuit Television (CCTV)	485	97%	15	3%
5.	IP devices	420	84%	80	16%
6.	Biometry surveillance	400	80%	100	20%
7.	Fax machine	385	77%	115	23%
8.	Television	390	78%	110	22%
9.	Radio	340	68%	160	32%
10.	Satellite imagery	295	59%	205	41%

Source: Field work (2022).

Table 5 shows the perception of respondents regarding the ICT tools that can be used to curb terrorism in Nigeria. Looking at the percentages of responses, surveillance cameras (100%), Close Circuit Television (97%), and internet (98%) are the major ICT tools that can be used to curb terrorism in Nigeria. These were closely followed by IP devices (84%), biometry surveillance (80%), television (78%) and fax machine (77%). Other respondents were of the view that radio (68%), mobile phone (65%) and satellite imagery (59%) are also ICT tools that can be used to curb terrorism in Nigeria.

Research Objective Four

TABLE 6. How ICT can be used to curb terrorism in Nigeria

S/N	Items	Yes		No	
		Score	Percentage	Score	Percentage
1.	Installation of explosive Device Detectors	470	94%	30	6%
2.	Developing Identification Initiatives	460	92%	40	8%
3.	Surveillance and Intelligence Gathering	430	86%	70	14%
4.	Sim Registration	440	88%	60	12%
5.	GPS Driver's License	360	72%	140	28%
6.	Use of facial recognition technology	435	87%	65	13%
7.	Tracking of Finances	445	89%	55	11%
8.	Creation of Central Intelligence Unit	480	96%	20	4%
9.	Installation of Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras	465	93%	35	7%

Source: Field work (2022).

Table 6 shows the divergent views of the respondents on how ICT can be used to curb terrorism in Nigeria. Looking at the scores and percentages, it can be seen that most of the respondents were of the view that creation of central intelligence unit (96%), installation of explosive device detectors (94%), installation of Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras (93%) and developing identification initiatives (92%) are ways by which ICT can be used to curb terrorism in Nigeria. These were closely followed by tracking of finances (89%),

sim registration (88%), Surveillance and Intelligence Gathering (86%), Use of facial recognition technology (87%) and GPS driver's license.

Research Objective Five

TABLE 7. Limitations to the deployment of ICT as a counter-terrorism tool in Nigeria

S/N	Items	Yes		No	
		Score	Percentage	Score	Percentage
1.	Deficit in infrastructure	470	94%	30	6%
2.	Lack of or poor internet services	460	92%	40	8%
3.	Lack of concrete cybercrime legislation	430	86%	70	14%
4.	Lack of cooperation by network service providers	440	88%	60	12%
5.	Low level of ICT skills among security personnel	360	72%	140	28%

Source: Field work (2022).

Table 7 shows the divergent views of the respondents on factors that can limit the deployment of ICT as a counter-terrorism tool in Nigeria. Looking at the scores and percentages, it can be seen that most of the respondents are of the view that deficit in infrastructure (94%) and lack of, or poor internet services (92%) are the major limitations to the deployment of ICT as a counter-terrorism tool in Nigeria. These were closely followed by lack of cooperation by network service providers (88%), lack of concrete cybercrime legislation (86%) and low level of ICT skills among security personnel (72%).

Test of Hypotheses

Hypothesis One

H_{01} : There is no significant relationship between the use of ICT and counter-terrorism.

TABLE 8. Pearson correlation analysis of Hypothesis

Use of ICT		Counter-terrorism
Installation of explosive Device Detectors	Pearson Correlation	1.00
	Sig. (2 tailed)	0.05
Developing Identification Initiatives	Pearson Correlation	0.731
	Sig. (2 tailed)	0.007
Surveillance and Intelligence Gathering	Pearson Correlation	0.611
	Sig. (2 tailed)	0.004
Sim Registration	Pearson Correlation	0.835
	Sig. (2 tailed)	0.000
GPS Driver's License	Pearson Correlation	0.625*
	Sig. (2 tailed)	0.002
Use of facial recognition technology	Pearson Correlation	0.742
	Sig. (2 tailed)	0.000
Tracking of Finances	Pearson Correlation	0.584
	Sig. (2 tailed)	0.004
Installation of Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras	Pearson Correlation	0.457
	Sig. (2 tailed)	0.001

* Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed)

From the above correlation table, all the variables have a relationship with each other at 0.05 significance level. We can therefore derive that there is significant relationship between the limitations to the deployment of ICT and counter-terrorism.

Hypothesis Two

H₀₂: There is no significant relationship between ICT tools and counter-terrorism.

TABLE 9. Pearson correlation analysis of Hypothesis Two

ICT Tools		Counter-Terrorism
Mobile phone	Pearson Correlation	0.857
	Sig. (2 tailed)	0.04
Internet	Pearson Correlation	0.962
	Sig. (2 tailed)	0.005
Surveillance cameras	Pearson Correlation	0.324
	Sig. (2 tailed)	0.004
Close Circuit Television (CCTV)	Pearson Correlation	0.827
	Sig. (2 tailed)	0.001
IP devices	Pearson Correlation	0.562
	Sig. (2 tailed)	0.002
Biometry surveillance	Pearson Correlation	0.832
	Sig. (2 tailed)	0.005
Fax machine	Pearson Correlation	0.831
	Sig. (2 tailed)	0.003
Television	Pearson Correlation	0.325
	Sig. (2 tailed)	0.004

* Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed)

From the above correlation table, all the variables have a relationship with each other at 0.05 significance level. We can therefore derive that there is significant relationship between ICT tools and counter-terrorism.

Hypothesis Three

H₀₃: There is no significant relationship between the limitations to the deployment of ICT and counter-terrorism.

TABLE 10. Pearson correlation analysis of Hypothesis Three

Limitations		Counter- terrorism
Deficit in infrastructure	Pearson Correlation	0.922
	Sig. (2 tailed)	0.05
Lack of or poor internet services	Pearson Correlation	0.632
	Sig. (2 tailed)	0.02
Lack of concrete cybercrime legislation	Pearson Correlation	0.569
	Sig. (2 tailed)	0.004
Lack of cooperation by network service providers	Pearson Correlation	0.428
	Sig. (2 tailed)	0.000
Low level of ICT skills among security personnel	Pearson Correlation	0.389
	Sig. (2 tailed)	0.005

* Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed)

From the above correlation table, all the variables have a relationship with each other at 0.05 significance level. We can therefore derive that there is significant relationship between the limitations to the deployment of ICT and counter-terrorism.

V. DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The findings from this study revealed that the major causes of terrorism in Nigeria are bad governance and unemployment. These were closely followed by poverty, poor income distribution and the proliferation of arms and weapons. Religious extremism and political greed were also seen as causes of terrorism in Nigeria. In line with this result is the finding of Adedire *et al.* (2016) which opined that the primary causes of terrorism and insurgency are poverty, unemployment, a lack of institutional support, corruption, the spread of weapons of war, and religious factors.

Furthermore, on the available counter-terrorism measures in Nigeria, findings of this study revealed that creation of joint task force by the neighbouring countries, encouragement of public and media to provide intelligence support, declaration of state of emergency, deployment of troops to the affected areas and the deployment of security assets abroad are available counter-terrorism measures in Nigeria. Accordingly, Adedire *et al* noted that the deployment of troops to the afflicted areas, the formation of a joint task force by neighbouring nations, the proclamation of a state of emergency, and the encouraging of the public and media to offer intelligence support are examples of such domestic actions.³³ International actors use economic sanctions, the deployment of security resources overseas, and the observation of the expanding range and diversity of facilitation networks to penalise state sponsors of terrorism.

On the perception of the respondents regarding the ICT tools that can be used to curb terrorism in Nigeria, surveillance cameras, Close Circuit Television, and internet are the major ICT tools that can be used to curb terrorism in Nigeria. These were closely followed by IP devices, biometry surveillance, television and fax machine. Other respondents were of the view that radio, mobile phone and satellite imagery are also ICT tools that can be used to curb terrorism in Nigeria. This is in accordance with the findings of Sulaiman *et al* who advocate using GPS and CCTV primarily in the fight against terrorism, showing that the public is aware of the negative effects of ICT and the limitations of using human power alone.³⁴ Other

³³ Adedire, S. A., Ake, M. and Olowojolu, O. (2016). Combating Terrorism and Insurgency in Nigeria: An International Collaborations against Boko Haram. *Fountain University Journal of Management and Social Sciences*, 5(1): 67-74.

³⁴ Sulaiman, Y. Y., Umar, M. A. and Bari, A. S. (2018). Confronting Nigeria's Security Challenges through Information and Communication Technology: Way Forward to

respondents proposed using satellite imagery and mobile phones as ICT tools to combat instability. Also, in a study by Oludare *et al*, it was found that using a mobile phone to contact security agencies in an emergency was preferred.³⁵ Furthermore, the usage of satellite imagery, radio, closed-circuit television (CCTV), security cameras, television, and social network analysis are particularly effective means of communication during a crisis, whereas data mining and fax machines have the lowest values. This means that no single media can be employed as a means of combating crime.

Moreover, on how ICT can be used to curb terrorism in Nigeria, most of the respondents were of the view that creation of central intelligence unit, installation of explosive device detectors, installation of Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras, and developing identification initiatives are ways by which ICT can be used to curb terrorism in Nigeria. These were closely followed by tracking of finances, sim registration, Surveillance and Intelligence Gathering, Use of facial recognition technology and GPS driver's license. In same vein, Shatimah *et al* noted that CCTV can be used to monitor movement and visuals to what is happening in a specific location.³⁶ National identity can also be used to control and know the number of people living in a particular location. However, correct SIM registration may be kept track of so that every online SIM can be

Terrorism. *International Journal of Advanced Academic Research, Sciences, Technology & Engineering*, 4(6): 124–131.

³⁵ Oludare, A. I., Omolara, O. E., Umar, A. M. and Kemi, D.V. (2015). The Use of ICT Tools in Tackling Insecurity and Terrorism Problem in Nigeria. *Network and Complex Systems*, 5(5): 21 – 39.

³⁶ Shatimah, A. A., Adamu, H. and Modu, A. A. (2016). Effective Use of ICT Tools to Combat Insecurity Menace in Nigeria. *International Journal of Modern Trends in Engineering and Research*, 3 (5): 357 – 362.

found when necessary and its communication can be watched, especially if it belongs to a suspect. In addition, Oghorodi suggest practical ICT training for security personnel, the use of closed-circuit television cameras for public place surveillance, the development and use of a national identity database management system, the use of facial recognition technology, the lawful interception of information about suspects, and the protection of communication networks with firewalls as remedies for the insecurity situation.³⁷

Finally, on factors that can limit the deployment of ICT as a counter-terrorism tool in Nigeria, most of the respondents are of the view that deficit in infrastructure and lack of, or poor internet services are the major limitations to the deployment of ICT as a counter-terrorism tool in Nigeria. These were closely followed by lack of cooperation by network service providers, lack of concrete cybercrime legislation and low level of ICT skills among security personnel. Mamud in his research identified a significant barrier to exploiting technologies for COIN operations as human capacity constraints resulting from insufficient technical skills.³⁸ Furthermore, Oghorodi asserted that the difficulties with using ICT to solve the country's security issues are low ICT proficiency among security personnel and a lack of government commitment.³⁹

³⁷ Oghorodi, 2014.

³⁸ Mamud, 2020

³⁹ Oghorodi, 2014.

VI. SUMMARY, CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

Summary

The findings of the study include:

- a. Bad governance, unemployment, poverty, poor income distribution, proliferation of arms and weapons, religious extremism and political greed are causes of terrorism in Nigeria.
- b. Creation of joint task force by the neighbouring countries, encouragement of public and media to provide intelligence support, declaration of state of emergency, deployment of troops to the affected areas and the deployment of security assets abroad are available counter-terrorism measures in Nigeria.
- c. Surveillance cameras, Close Circuit Television, internet, IP devices, biometry surveillance, television, fax machine, radio, mobile phone and satellite imagery are ICT tools that can be used to curb terrorism in Nigeria.
- d. Creation of central intelligence unit, installation of explosive device detectors, installation of Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras, developing identification initiatives, tracking of finances, sim registration, Surveillance and Intelligence Gathering, Use of facial recognition technology and GPS driver's license are ways by which ICT can be used to curb terrorism in Nigeria.
- e. Deficit in infrastructure and lack of, or poor internet services, lack of cooperation by network service providers, lack of concrete cybercrime legislation and low level of ICT skills among security personnel are limitations to the deployment of ICT as a counter-terrorism tool in Nigeria.

Conclusion

Even though the world is still dealing with the tragic occurrence of terrorism in the world, this study has shown that its terrifying influence with respect to the complexity of terrorist groups' methods for wreaking havoc on the public's unknowing members can be reduced through the effective application of information technology as a vital security instrument. It is the responsibility of the Nigerian government and security agencies to conduct in-depth analysis of terrorism's use of information technology, technological capability, and messaging routes both domestically and internationally in order to gain valuable insights into how terrorism can be combated. If all parties involved support media knowledge, online watchfulness, and effective use of social media channels as ways to spread the message of peaceful cohabitation among people and discourage the introduction of young people into terrorism, the propaganda that is typical of terrorists can be changed.

Therefore, if individuals who terrorise the populace and endanger national peace are brought to justice, it will act as a warning to other terrorists. A positive step in the right direction is the creation and implementation of cyber laws as well as the outlawing of hate speech online. If the Nigerian government wants to stop the problem, it must first solve the menace of corruption, impunity, and strengthened accountability systems. The UN, various governments, NGOs, security agencies, and intrepid individuals must accept online watchfulness and also form a global cooperation to curb the threat of global insecurity because terrorist groups frequently form alliances with various terrorist organisations in other countries as a method of operation. The authors believe that the foundational elements of ICT

are likely to be the antidote to terrorism and will continue to be a vital security instrument for curbing terrorism in Nigeria.

Recommendations

This study recommends the following.

- a. The federal government should ensure that ICT tools are properly implemented across all of its departments, agencies, and parastatals, but particularly in the security headquarters and campuses, the customs service commission, the immigration service offices, and other locations.
- b. To guarantee optimal use of the ICT facilities, the Nigerian government should train its staff in all sectors and agencies on ICT knowledge, as was done in 2016 when youths were trained by the government in conjunction with Huawei IT Company.
- c. It is important to monitor the integration of ICT courses in all Nigerian educational institutions to guarantee that they are taught practically at all levels, enabling every graduate to use the peripherals.
- d. ICT strategy for development and security awareness should be properly implemented, according to the Nigerian ICT regulatory agencies (NCC and NITDA).
- e. The IT industry, NCC & NITDA, and the government should work together to ensure the acquisition of private information about ICT facilities and their users, allowing network operators to build predictable profiles of their users.

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COMPETING INTERESTS

The authors declared that they have no competing interests.

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Fight against requires
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Michael Harris PhD