

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Theoretical Basis

This section of the thesis presents a review of relevant literature and the theoretical framework that is relatively essential to this study. This section delves into the review of related literature on defence management, counter-terrorism, armed banditry, military operations and national security. The literature and theories presented here will constitute the basis for the discussion of findings later in this thesis. The section is central to the thesis and sets a framework for the analysis of evidence in subsequent sections. This is to ensure adequate knowledge of the subject matter of the study is availed and discussed to provide information that answers the research questions of the study. Theories relating to the study are discussed to provide background and foundational understanding of the study's framework. The literature review, therefore, comprises the conceptual framework, literature review and theoretical framework.

2.1.1 Conceptual Framework

A conceptual framework generally consists of guidelines employed by researchers to shape their perspective on the phenomenon under study, allowing them to develop it organically (Camp, 2001). This framework is intertwined with fundamental notions, concepts, and empirical investigations that aid in structuring and progressing the researcher's understanding (Peshkin, 1993). This study primarily focuses on essential notions such as Nigeria's foreign policy, defence policy, insurgency and terrorism, counterterrorism and counterinsurgency approach for enhancing military operations. Other military operations in the Northwest, like Operation HARAN DAJI, Operation DIRAN MIKIYA and Operation HARBIN KUNAMA, will be discussed in detail.

2.1.1.1 Defence Management

Defence management plays a crucial role in ensuring the effectiveness and success of military operations against terrorism. The discipline is identified as having its origins in the study of defence sciences (Supryatno & Ali, 2018). It encompasses the planning, organisation, and execution of resources, strategies, and policies aimed at countering the threat of terrorism. Defence management provides the framework for developing comprehensive counterterrorism strategies (Halley, 2010). It involves identifying potential threats, assessing risks, and formulating appropriate responses. By establishing clear objectives and allocating resources efficiently, defence management ensures that military operations against terrorism are effectively structured, coordinated, and executed. The essence of defence management is to achieve the national defence strategy goals effectively and efficiently. A good grasp of defence management is used to ensure the provision of optimal defence and security capabilities through the integration of people, processes, and technology while taking into account the financial context (Sarjito & Djati, 2023).

One key aspect of defence management is intelligence gathering and analysis. It involves collecting and synthesising information from various sources to identify terrorist networks, their capabilities, and their intentions (Halley, 2010). This vital intelligence forms the foundation for planning military operations, enabling proactive measures to disrupt and dismantle terrorist organisations. Moreover, defence management facilitates the coordination and integration of military forces, intelligence agencies, law enforcement, and other relevant stakeholders. This collaborative approach enhances information sharing, joint training exercises, and operational cooperation, leading to more effective counterterrorism efforts. By fostering interoperability and synergy among different entities, defence management maximizes the overall impact of military operations against terrorism.

Effective defence management recognizes the dynamic nature of terrorism and adapts strategies accordingly. It involves continuous

monitoring and analysis of evolving threats, enabling a proactive response to emerging challenges (Bercovitch & Kadayifci-Orellana, 2015). This proactive approach allows defence managers to anticipate and counter new tactics, techniques, and procedures employed by terrorist organisations. Additionally, defence management emphasises the importance of technological advancements in counterterrorism efforts. It encourages the development and utilisation of cutting-edge tools, such as surveillance systems, unmanned aerial vehicles, and cyber capabilities. These technologies enhance situational awareness, intelligence gathering, and precision strikes, enabling more targeted and effective military operations against terrorists.

Strong leadership and effective training are integral components of defence management in combating terrorism. Competent leaders provide strategic guidance, establish clear objectives, and inspire personnel to achieve mission success. They foster a culture of accountability, innovation, and adaptability, ensuring that military operations against terrorism are conducted with utmost professionalism and efficiency. Furthermore, comprehensive training programs are vital to equip military personnel with the necessary skills and knowledge to carry out counterterrorism operations effectively. Defence management ensures that training encompasses various dimensions, including intelligence analysis, special operations, psychological warfare, and cultural competency (Bercovitch & Kadayifci-Orellana, 2015). By investing in continuous training, defence managers enhance the capabilities and readiness of military forces, enabling them to effectively confront and neutralise terrorist threats.

2.1.1.2 Concept of National Security

The concept of national security has been subjected to various expositions, depending on specific national and/or geo-strategic contexts. However, there is a general consensus on the fact that the term relates to freedom from danger or threat to a nation. National security is a multifaceted

concept that encompasses the protection of a nation's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the well-being of its citizens from a wide range of threats. These threats can span from military aggression and terrorism to economic instability and cybersecurity breaches.

Brown (2008) views national security as the ability to preserve a nation's physical integrity and territory; to maintain its economic relations with the rest of the world on reasonable terms, to preserve its nature, institutions and governance from external disruption and to control its borders. Brown's definition captures both the security and economic perspectives of the term and includes the preservation of institutions. The view however, sees threats to national security as emanating from external sources as against the internal threats, such as BHTs and armed bandits. Nwachukwu (2017) sees national security as an obligation of the government to protect the state from crime through diplomacy as well as economic and power projection. This view underlines national security to include the use of diplomacy, economic and power projection by the government to protect states' survival from crime but does not state the nature of crimes against which the government intend to protect the state to enhance the national security of a country.

Nigeria's former vice president Yemi Osinbajo views national security as the protection of the state and its citizens from threats or vulnerabilities (Osinbajo, 2018a). He added that national security also means effective mobilisation of state security architecture towards the realisation of security needs (Osinbajo, 2018b). This concept broadly focuses on what the national security architecture seeks to achieve; however, it does not capture all the components as they relate to specific actions of the state to achieve national security. Furthermore, the definition does not cover the protection of Critical National Infrastructure (CNI).

According to the Philippines National Security Council, National security encompasses the safeguarding and improvement of people's welfare, including health, food, and water, as well as their lifestyles, such as

unrestricted movement, access to energy, and the functioning of government institutions like CNI. It extends to the preservation of territorial integrity, sovereignty, including airspace and maritime security, counterterrorism, and various military operations, as outlined by the Philippines National Security Council in 2017. This comprehensive definition also embraces a nation's economic growth and the protection of citizens' socio-economic well-being by promoting job creation and preserving their way of life, all while prioritising the safeguarding of CNI.

Anyawu (2019) views national security as the capacity of government to guarantee human security in a society, upliftment of human rights, improvement in socio-economic activities as well as means of livelihood. He further stated that, it involves prevention of crimes that pose threats to man and society such as armed banditry, kidnapping and rustling among others for enhanced citizens well-being. Anyanwu's view captures the key elements of national security which include citizens security, promotion of human rights, improvement in socio-economic activities as well as means of livelihood for enhanced citizens well-being.

Brown (2022) views national security as the ability of the government to provide physical security to safeguard a state and its environment against domestic or foreign assaults through vibrant policy objectives. He added that, it entails the preservation of national critical assets from attacks. Brown's view of national security concentrated on government policy objectives for the safeguarding of the state and its environs and not on the safety of citizens.

2.1.1.3 National Security Strategy

National security is an essential aspect of governance, ensuring the protection of a nation's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the well-being of its citizens (Ukiwo, 2018). In Nigeria, a country with diverse ethnic, religious, and socio-economic backgrounds, formulating and implementing an effective NSS is crucial to address various internal and external threats.

Nigeria's NSS is a comprehensive framework designed to identify and address threats to national security within the country (NSS, 2019). It serves as a guiding document for policymakers, security agencies, and other stakeholders to coordinate efforts in safeguarding Nigeria's interests. The strategy focuses on both internal challenges, such as terrorism, insurgency, communal conflicts, and socioeconomic disparities, as well as external threats, like transnational organized crime and border security.

The National Security Strategy underscores the widely accepted belief that security plays a fundamental role in the development and progress of a free society, serving as a guarantee for the well-being of citizens and the stability of the state, as highlighted by Osaghae and Suberu in 2019. However, the concept of security adopted here reflects a contemporary shift away from the traditional state-centric focus to a more comprehensive approach that prioritises human security. Nigeria introduced its inaugural National Security Strategy in 2014, and since then, the security landscape has evolved, giving rise to new challenges that necessitate a review. While substantial progress has been achieved on various fronts between 2014 and 2019, the current security challenges facing Nigeria are more intricate than those of the past. There has been a notable increase in conflicts between pastoralists and farmers in many states of the Federation, as noted by Okoli in 2020. Banditry has surged, emerging as a significant feature of the security environment. Additionally, there has been a substantial rise in kidnapping and other criminal activities. Some of the key components of NSS are:

- a. **Counterterrorism and Insurgency:** Nigeria has been grappling with the menace of Boko Haram, an extremist group that has destabilised the northeastern and western region (Oluwadare, 2021). The NSS emphasises intelligence sharing, capacity building of security forces, and collaboration with regional partners to combat terrorism and insurgency effectively.

- b. **Border Security:** Nigeria shares borders with several countries, making border security a critical concern. The NSS emphasises the need for enhanced surveillance, intelligence gathering, and cross-border cooperation to address issues like smuggling, trafficking, and illegal migration effectively.
- c. **Economic Security:** Nigeria's economy is a vital component of its national security. The NSS recognises the importance of diversification, job creation, and economic growth to reduce vulnerabilities and mitigate socioeconomic disparities that can fuel unrest and criminal activities.
- d. **Cybersecurity:** With the increasing reliance on technology, Nigeria faces cyber threats that can compromise its critical infrastructure, financial systems, and citizen data. The NSS highlights the need for robust cybersecurity measures, including legislation, capacity building, and public-private partnerships to ensure digital resilience.
- e. **Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding:** Nigeria's diversity often leads to conflicts, including ethno-religious tensions and resource-based disputes. The NSS emphasises the importance of dialogue, inclusivity, and effective conflict resolution mechanisms to promote peace, reconciliation, and social cohesion.

The military operations in the northwest region of Nigeria against terrorism play a significant role in enhancing national security in the country. These operations are part of the broader efforts to address the challenges posed by various insurgent groups, including Boko Haram and its affiliated factions, which have expanded their activities beyond the northeastern region. The NSS of Nigeria recognises the importance of counterterrorism measures in safeguarding the nation's stability and progress. The

operations in the northwest region are aligned with the NSS and contribute to its overall objectives. They focus on disrupting the activities of terrorist groups, dismantling their infrastructure, and restoring law and order in affected areas.

Military operations employ a multi-dimensional approach that combines intelligence gathering, targeted military strikes, and collaboration with regional partners. The Nigerian Armed Forces, in coordination with security agencies and local communities, conduct joint operations to identify and neutralise terrorist cells, secure vulnerable areas, and protect the civilian population. These military operations in the northwest region have yielded significant results. They have led to the capture and elimination of key terrorist leaders, the rescue of abducted civilians, and the recovery of territories previously under the control of these groups. By degrading the operational capabilities of terrorist organisations, military operations contribute to reducing the overall threat to national security. However, it is important to note that military operations alone cannot solve the complex challenges of terrorism and insurgency. The NSS recognises the need for a comprehensive approach that addresses the underlying socio-economic factors contributing to instability. This includes initiatives aimed at poverty reduction, job creation, education, and community development, particularly in the affected regions.

Additionally, the success of military operations depends on effective coordination with other stakeholders, such as law enforcement agencies, intelligence services, and local communities. Intelligence sharing, interagency cooperation, and community engagement are crucial for gathering information, identifying threats, and preventing the resurgence of terrorist activities. Moreover, respect for human rights and adherence to the rule of law must remain paramount during military operations. Upholding these principles not only ensures the protection of civilians but also helps build trust between the security forces and the communities they serve. It is essential for the military to maintain professionalism, accountability, and

transparency in their operations to avoid alienating the local population and inadvertently fuelling further grievances.

2.1.1.4 Nigeria National Defence Policy

Since the commencement of the present democratic era in Nigeria in 1999, numerous endeavours have been undertaken to enhance the professionalism of the Armed Forces in alignment with international standards. In this regard, the FGN established the Grand Strategy for National Security, with the professionalisation of the Armed Forces as a key focus. Consequently, the FGN enlisted the assistance of Military Professionals Resource Incorporated (MPRI) from the United States to facilitate the professionalisation process of the AFN. Despite being commendable, these initiatives faced challenges in effectively transforming the AFN, primarily attributed to deficiencies in the Nigerian National Defence Policy. (NNDP 2006). This necessitated a review, with the NNDP 2017 formulated and activated.

The NNDP of 2017 establishes the conceptual foundation for safeguarding national security by deterring external threats and aggression. The primary objective is to prevent war through diplomatic means and deterrence, while ensuring that the AFN are equipped to successfully defend the nation and its people. It is noteworthy to emphasise that Nigeria's defence policy since gaining independence has been based on six interconnected principles: prevention, protection, deterrence, rapid force mobilisation, force projection, and collaboration with allies. From the aforementioned, it can be inferred that Nigeria's defence policy is rooted in the conventional defence strategy. To this end, NNDP objectives are:

- a. Safeguarding Nigeria's sovereignty, citizens, values, culture, interests, resources, and territory from external threats.
- b. Providing the government with defence and strategic counsel as well as information.
- b. Fostering a sense of security awareness among Nigerians.

- c. Responding to requests for assistance to civil authorities.
- d. Engaging in disaster management and humanitarian relief operations, both domestically and internationally.
- e. Supporting government agencies and different levels of government in attaining national objectives.
- f. Ensuring the protection of Nigerians regardless of their location.
- g. Guaranteeing security and stability in Africa, with a specific focus on the West African Sub-Region, through collective security.
- h. Contributing to global peace and security.

2.1.1.5 Defence Vision and Mission

A good starting point in crafting an NNDP are clear and unambiguous statements of its vision and mission. These are often derived from the nation's vision of security in the National Security Strategy. They demonstrate the interrelationship between defence and other strategic instruments of public policy such as foreign, economic and domestic policies. The vision of NNDP 2017 is "to have an AFN which is highly professional, mobile and effective that can work with security agencies and establishments in partnership with the citizens to ensure a free, secure and safe Nigeria in a peaceful and secure world". Its mission is "to articulate guidelines for protecting the people, defending the territorial integrity, vital resources and core values of Nigeria and contribute to international peace and security" (NNDP, 2017).

In order to combat the multi-dimensional security challenges and insurgency confronting Nigeria and to achieve the NNDP policy objective of ensuring security and stability in the West African Sub-Region of Africa and the northwest of Nigeria through collective security, the Nigerian government engaged in several military operations in the northwest and equipped the AFN to counter threats of terrorism and insurgency. This is to be achieved through planning and conduct of joint exercises and operations to identify, destroy, degrade and contain the threats within a specified

timeline; joint training of the services; interagency collaboration; and procurement of modern equipment.

2.1.1.6 Armed Banditry and Terrorism

Armed Banditry is a complex phenomenon, and different scholars and organizations focus on different aspects based on their specific interests and goals. Some definitions may emphasize the political dimensions, while others may highlight the military or social aspects. Additionally, historical and cultural factors contribute to differing interpretations of armed banditry.

Kalyvas (2006) opined that armed banditry can also be understood through the lens of political science and conflict studies, where it refers to the activities of non-state armed groups that employ violence and coercion to challenge or undermine the authority of the state. These groups often operate in remote or marginalised regions, exploiting socio-economic grievances, ethnic tensions, or political instability to further their objectives. Though this definition rightly highlights some critical attributes like activities of non-state actors and operating in marginalised regions, it does not include other critical criminal activities that accompany the act, like kidnapping, rape as well as other violent activities.

Snyder (2006) refers to armed banditry as organised criminal activities that involve the use of armed force for criminal purposes, such as robbery, extortion, kidnapping, and violence against individuals or communities. It typically involves a group of individuals, often armed, who engage in illegal activities to gain wealth, power, or control over resources. This definition highlighted the essential attributes required for the study but failed to mention the motivations of armed bandits.

Nafziger (2012) viewed armed banditry to be organised criminal activities carried out by armed groups or individuals, characterised by the use of violence, coercion, and intimidation to achieve their objectives. It often involves activities such as armed robbery, smuggling, piracy, and

kidnapping, targeting both individuals and communities. The author further noted that armed banditry can be motivated by various factors, including economic gain, political instability, social unrest, and territorial control. This definition by Nafziger is encompassing and, hence adopted for the study.

Terrorism is a highly debated and contested term, and there is no universally accepted definition. The diverse definitions of terrorism stem from several factors:

- a. **Political considerations:** Different states and organisations may have different political agendas and interests. As a result, they may adopt definitions of terrorism that favour their own objectives or target their perceived adversaries. This politicisation of the term can lead to variations in its definition and interpretation (Okoli, 2020).
- b. **Legal implications:** The definition of terrorism carries legal consequences. It determines which activities are categorised as terrorism, and it influences the development of national and international laws and policies to combat terrorism. Different legal systems may adopt varying definitions to align with their legal frameworks and priorities (Oluwadare, 2021).
- c. **Cultural and historical contexts:** Terrorism is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon that manifests differently in various regions and historical periods. Cultural sensitivities, historical experiences, and regional conflicts can shape the understanding and definition of terrorism. Different countries and societies may have unique perspectives on what constitutes terrorism based on their specific circumstances.
- d. **Theoretical perspectives:** Scholars and researchers from different disciplines approach terrorism from varying theoretical frameworks and lenses. These perspectives can influence how

terrorism is defined and understood. Some focus on political motivations and tactics, while others emphasise the psychological or sociological aspects of terrorism.

However, the United Nations (UN, 1994) General Assembly Resolution 49/60 defines terrorism as "criminal acts intended or calculated to provoke a state of terror in the general public, a group of persons or particular persons for political purposes." This definition highlights the intentional use of violence or threats to create fear and panic among the targeted audience, with the aim of achieving political objectives. Different states and organisations may have different political agendas and interests. As a result, they may adopt definitions of terrorism that favour their own objectives or target their perceived adversaries. This politicisation of the term can lead to variations in its definition and interpretation. Schmid & Jongman (2005) define terrorism as "the premeditated use or threat of use of extra-normal violence or brutality by subnational groups or clandestine agents, usually intended to influence an audience." This definition emphasises the deliberate use or threat of violence by non-state actors to create fear and exert influence. Schmid and Jongman's definition focuses on the key elements of premeditation, extra-normal violence, subnational groups or clandestine agents, and the intention to influence an audience. It provides a broad understanding of terrorism that encompasses various actors, motivations, and tactics while emphasising the psychological impact on the targeted audience. Bruce Hoffman defines terrorism as "the deliberate creation and exploitation of fear through violence or the threat of violence in the pursuit of political change (Hoffman, 2005)". This definition highlights the intentional use of violence or the threat of violence to instil fear, with the ultimate goal of achieving political objectives. Hoffman's definition focuses on the psychological aspect of terrorism and its connection to political change. It underscores the element of fear as a central aim of terrorism and the role of violence in achieving political goals.

This definition provides a framework to analyse the strategic objectives and psychological impact of terrorist acts.

2.1.1.7. Counter Terrorism and Anti-Banditry

The definition of the terms "Counter Terrorism (CT) and Counterinsurgency (COIN)" is a subject of disagreement and has been constantly interchanged in recent times. The concepts have equally been utilised interchangeably with counter-guerrilla operations, stability operations, foreign internal defence, and the more recent concept of addressing irregular threats. Moreover, it has been classified as a subset of low-intensity conflict, irregular warfare, asymmetric warfare, unconventional warfare, minor wars, and military activities other than war. While individuals conducting these activities tend to recognise CTCOIN on an intuitive level, each of these terms pertains to a distinct, though interconnected, form of conflict or military strategy, and none of them comprehensively defines counter-terrorism and counterinsurgency (Brewer & Herron, 2021). For example, the term "small wars" encompasses a wide range of military endeavours, including irregular warfare, interventions, peacekeeping missions, and counterinsurgency. Conversely, CTCOIN might encompass or be part of initiatives targeting terrorism, guerrilla suppression, the restoration of security and stability, assistance in foreign internal defence, and the reconstruction of post-conflict societies, contingent on the broader strategic context. The potential for confusion in such circumstances is evident. The intricate web of relationships necessitates a precise and well-defined explanation of the terms counterterrorism and counterinsurgency (Crenshaw, 1992).

The United States Department of Defence (USDoD), views CT as operations conducted to neutralise terrorists, their organisations and networks in order to render them incapable of using violence to instil fear and coerce governments or societies to achieve their goals (USDoD, 2016). This view clearly identifies CT as military actions taken to neutralise

terrorism, as a means of preventing terrorists from affecting governments or citizens' security. However, the view mainly considers kinetic measures in response to terrorist activities, without consideration of other non-kinetic approaches such as diplomatic or economic. This view is not comprehensive enough.

Imobighe (2007) posits that CT involves the various forms of response to pre-empt, prevent and eliminate terrorism. He further noted that CT includes the use of intelligence, counter-intelligence as well as military and paramilitary forces to deal with all forms of terrorist threats. This view expands the concept to include the use of intelligence and counterintelligence to address terrorism. However, the view does not consider, as a preventive measure, the need to address factors, like fundamentalist ideology, which motivate terrorists. Therefore, Imobighe's view is not sufficiently encompassing.

Wilcox (1996) views CT as the policies and methods used to deter and defeat terrorism, which involve the use of information gathering, law enforcement, diplomacy, military force and protective security. He further stated that effective CT also attempts to discover and remove the causes that motivate terrorists. In the opinion of Wilcox, CT encompasses policies and measures that can achieve deterrence and also defeat terrorism. Additional to offensive measures, the view also covers defensive measures such as protective security and other non-kinetic approaches like diplomacy and attempts to remove factors that motivate terrorism. This view is adopted as it captures the essential attributes required for this study.

In conceptualising anti-banditry, the views of Friedmann (2015), Okoli and Okpaleke (2014); and Olaniyan & Yahaya (2016) were considered. Friedmann (2015) views anti-banditry as a policy and a strategy by the police aimed at achieving efficient and effective crime control, a safe environment, reducing fear of being attacked, improving quality of life and preventing violence associated with organised crimes that can impede the safety and well-being of citizenries. Friedmann highlights the nexus between

the citizens and the police. He outlines the essence of anti-banditry, which centres on crime control and prevention of violence through the collaboration of formal and informal security actors. Nonetheless, the definition is restrictive as it only considers only the police without due cognisance of the contributions of other formal and informal security actors in anti-banditry.

Okoli and Okpaleke (2014) conceive anti-banditry as international, regional, and national response geared at identifying, pre-empting and analysing organized criminal gangs through the aid of intelligence tools as well as deterring individuals or groups from engaging in acts that contravene law and order using socio-cultural, political, legal or military tools. This view identifies the significance of information and intelligence in combating banditry. It recognises the relevance of legal and military tools in response to combating banditry towards enhancing national security. However, Okoli and Okpaleke's definition is silent on the socio-economic development and wellbeing of victims of banditry, hence, it is not suitable for this study.

In the view of Olaniyan and Yahaya (2016), anti-banditry involves integrated approach or measures put to deter, pre-empt and avert reoccurrence of organised crimes like kidnapping for ransom, abduction, rape, arson, rustling, armed robbery and terrorism in order to maintain stable political, economic and social structure devoid of intimidations and anxiety. This also includes information gathering, devoted interest in crime management, crime detection and control as well as identification of criminal elements perpetuating crimes that inhibit the security of lives and properties in a society. Olaniyan and Yahaya's view is comprehensive as it outlined the procedures and approaches necessary in anti-banditry to ensure the political and socio-economic stability of a society. It is thus, considered suitable and therefore adopted for this study.

2.1.1.8 Concept of Military Operations and Military Operations Other Than War

Military operations refer to the planned and coordinated activities conducted by armed forces to achieve specific objectives within a strategic, operational, or tactical context. These operations are a central component of military strategy and involve the application of various elements of national power, including armed forces, intelligence, diplomacy, and information warfare (US DOD, 2017). The ultimate goal of military operations is to achieve a desired political or military outcome, often by defeating an adversary, protecting national interests, or creating favourable conditions for diplomatic negotiations (Clausewitz, 1984). Military operations range from peacetime, conflict to war.

- a. **Peacetime:** In the first scenario, characterised by peacetime, the Army functions as a deterrent to war, aiming to maintain tensions between nations below the threshold of actual conflict. Examples of operations during peacetime include disaster relief and emergency assistance.
- b. **Conflict:** The second scenario, conflict, involves confrontations and hostilities that fall short of full-scale war. Operations during this phase, classified as Operation Other Than War (OOTW), encompass activities such as peacekeeping, Non-Combatant Evacuation Operations (NEO), counterinsurgency, and support to insurgency. These operations require intelligence beyond the traditional kind, focusing on political, social, economic, and demographic factors. For instance, identifying weather conditions affecting disaster relief operations or locating drug processing centres for counter-drug efforts could be classified as OOTW. In the context of this research, military operations fall within the realm of OOTW.

- c. **War:** The third scenario, war, denotes a state of armed conflict involving large-scale combat operations against a state or nation. Wars can be either limited or general in scope. Operation Just Cause exemplifies a limited war, while a general war involves major powers mobilising all national resources in a struggle for survival or dominance. War demands multidisciplinary intelligence to provide commanders with the necessary information for the successful planning and execution of military operations.

1) **Categories of Military Operations**

Military operations can be categorized based on their scope, objectives, and the nature of the conflict they address. While it ranges from peacetime, conflict and war, its classification can vary, the following are some common categories:

1. **Strategic Operations:** These operations are aimed at achieving long-term, overarching goals that impact the overall direction of a conflict. Strategic operations focus on altering the enemy's political, economic, or social calculations (Luttwak, 2002). Examples include economic blockades, strategic bombing campaigns, and large-scale invasions.
2. **Operational Operations:** These operations occur at the theatre level and aim to achieve broader military objectives that contribute to the accomplishment of strategic goals. Operational operations often involve coordinating multiple tactical actions. Examples include encirclement manoeuvres, amphibious assaults, and establishing forward operating bases.
3. **Tactical Operations:** Tactical operations are conducted at a smaller scale and focus on achieving immediate military objectives within a specific battlefield or engagement (Headquarters Department of Army, 2017). These operations

involve the use of forces and resources to defeat or neutralise enemy units. Examples include ambushes, direct assaults, and reconnaissance missions.

4. **Conventional Operations:** These operations involve the use of traditional military forces, tactics, and technologies. They are typically characterised by the application of regular military units and equipment. Conventional operations can span the entire spectrum from strategic to tactical levels.
5. **Unconventional Operations:** Also known as irregular warfare, these operations involve using non-traditional tactics, often conducted by guerrilla forces, insurgents, or other non-state actors. These operations can include asymmetrical warfare, counterinsurgency efforts, and counterterrorism campaigns.
6. **Stability Operations:** These operations aim to establish or maintain a stable environment in post-conflict or crisis situations. They involve activities such as humanitarian assistance, reconstruction, governance support, and efforts to restore basic services.
7. **Humanitarian Operations:** These operations are focused on providing aid and relief to civilian populations affected by conflict, natural disasters, or other emergencies. Humanitarian operations often involve cooperation between military forces and humanitarian organizations.
8. **Peacekeeping Operations:** Peacekeeping operations are conducted to monitor and maintain ceasefires or truces in conflict zones (UN, 2023). They involve the deployment of multinational forces to prevent the re-escalation of hostilities and facilitate the implementation of peace agreements.

2) **Categories of Military Operations Other Than War**

Military operations other than war (MOOTW) encompass a range of activities that military forces undertake to achieve specific objectives other than conventional warfare (Bonn & Baker, 2000). These operations are often characterised by non-combatant involvement and focus on non-traditional military activities. Some of the categories of military operations other than war are further discussed.

1. **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HA/DR):** These operations involve providing relief and support to alleviate human suffering during natural disasters, pandemics, or other humanitarian crises (Taw & Peters, 1995). Military forces may assist in search and rescue operations, medical support, distribution of aid, and infrastructure rebuilding.
2. **Peace Enforcement:** Peace enforcement operations are undertaken when conflicts escalate to a level where traditional peacekeeping measures are no longer sufficient. Military forces may be authorised to use force to restore peace, protect civilians, enforce ceasefires, and disarm combatants (Corum, 1996).
3. **Security Sector Reform (SSR):** SSR operations focus on assisting countries in rebuilding and restructuring their security forces, including the military, police, and justice sectors. The objective is to enhance their effectiveness, accountability, and respect for human rights, contributing to long-term stability.
4. **Psychological Operations (PSYOPS):** PSYOPS involve the use of communication and information to influence the attitudes, beliefs, and behaviours of target audiences. These operations include various tools such as radio, television, social media, and leaflet distribution to shape perceptions and gain support (Narula, 2004).

5. **Civil-Military Cooperation (CIMIC):** CIMIC operations focus on building relationships and cooperation between military forces and civilian authorities, organisations, and populations. They aim to provide essential services, support development projects, and enhance collaboration for a comprehensive approach to conflict resolution.
6. **Evacuation Operations:** Military forces may be involved in evacuating civilians, embassy staff, or military personnel from regions facing imminent danger, such as conflict zones or natural disaster areas. These operations require logistical coordination, transportation, and ensuring the safety of evacuees.

2.1.2 Theoretical Framework

This section of the study discusses theories related to and relevant to the study. The selected theories are the Defence Management Theory, Collective Security Theory, Conflict Theory, and System Theory.

2.1.2.1 Defence Management Theory

The theoretical framework of Defence Management Theory is highly relevant to the topic of military operations against threats of terrorism in the Northwest Region of Nigeria. The Defence Management Theory relates to literary work on defence sciences. Defence sciences focuses on the execution of methods to achieve defence objectives (Supryatno, 2014). The essence of defence management is, therefore, to achieve the national defence strategy goals effectively and efficiently. A good grasp of defence management is used to ensure the provision of optimal defence and security capabilities through the integration of people, processes, and technology while taking into account the financial context (Sarjito & Djati, 2023). This theory provides a comprehensive approach to managing the defence sector, addressing areas such as defence resource management, personnel management, acquisition management, and more. It emphasizes the importance of identifying problems and finding solutions, as well as finding

solutions for how to do things better, which is crucial when dealing with complex challenges such as terrorism (Edmonds, 2002). The theory also highlights the need for strategic, operational, and current-level management within defence organizations (Bucur-Marcu et al., 2009), which aligns with the multifaceted nature of addressing terrorism threats.

1) **Relevance of Defence Management Theory**

- a. **Strategic Problem-Solving:** Defence Management Theory emphasizes the identification and analysis of strategic problems and the implementation of strategic solutions (Balakrishnan, 2007). This is directly relevant to addressing the strategic challenges posed by terrorism in the Northwest Region of Nigeria.
- b. **Operational Management:** The theory addresses the problems of defence performance at the operational level, which is essential when planning and conducting military operations against threats of terrorism.
- c. **Current Level Management:** It also covers day-to-day problems and solutions in any defence command or unit, which is crucial for managing ongoing military operations against terrorism (Wars, 2005).

2) **Significance of Defence Management in the AFN of Nigeria**

- a. **Efficiency and Accountability:** Defence Management Theory can contribute to improving the efficiency and accountability of the defence sector in the AFN by providing a structured approach to resource management, personnel management, and decision-making processes.
- b. **Strategic Decision-Making:** The theory's emphasis on strategic problem-solving and decision-making aligns with the need for

effective strategies to counter terrorism in the Northwest Region of Nigeria.

- c. **Civil-Military Relations:** The theory recognises the fundamental civil-military character of defence management, highlighting the pivotal role of civil-military relations. This is particularly significant for the AFN in the context of addressing terrorism threats while upholding democratic principles.

2.1.2.2 Collective Security Theory

The Collective Security Theory is considered suitable for this study because of its all-embracing application in social, political, economic, and environmental aspects and national security, amongst others. The theory was developed in the 1930s as a model of relations and collaboration for possible mutual compulsion. The proponents of Collective Security include Nicholas Tsagourias, Woodrow Thompson and Nigel Wight.

The theory posited that committing to an international alliance would create a more enduring commitment compared to a broad and ambiguous array of bilateral treaties (Nicholas et al., 2016). Additionally, collective security represents a strategy of alliance formation where a group of nations agrees not to initiate attacks on each other but rather to defend one another in the event of an attack. The underlying principle is that an attack on one member is considered an attack on all. The theory further emphasised that the success of collective security hinges on all nations rallying to the defence of a state under attack, regardless of their internal or foreign policies (Nicholas et al., 2016). However, achieving complete adherence to this principle proves challenging, as illustrated in Figure 2.1 below.

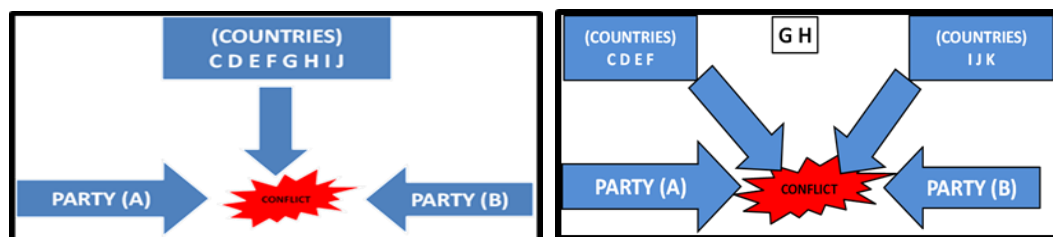


Figure 2.1 Model of Collective Security Theory

Source: Politics Among Nations: A Struggle for power and peace (1968)

The illustration in Figure 2.1 above suggests that in the event of an attack by country A on B, countries C, D, E, and F may honour their collective responsibilities and assist B, while countries G and H may attempt to remain neutral, and countries I and J might support A's aggressive actions. Consequently, critics like Manuel Lee (2017) and Steve Kay (2017) expressed scepticism about the concept of world dominion, arguing that dominion is inherently indivisible. They argued that independent states cannot be entirely constrained by commitments, especially when such commitments entail the risk of war. (Manuel Lee et al, 2017). Nevertheless, John Moore (2018) countered this argument, asserting that collective security is centred on coalition building, and it can be adjusted to suit the specificities of regional plans to achieve desired objectives. Consequently, collective security remains relevant for collaborative efforts in upholding shared principles within a region.

The Collective Security Theory can be effectively employed in endeavours to counter terrorism in the Northwest region, particularly in Kaduna, Zamfara, and Katsina states, thereby contributing to bolstering national security in Nigeria. For example, the Federal Government of Nigeria and the Government of Niger Republic, whose security stabilities are interconnected, could form an alliance to combat the menace of terrorism. Therefore, if states in the Northwest region implement the collective security approach through alliances, it could lead to the containment of terrorism, thereby enhancing national security in Nigeria.

2.1.2.3 Conflict Theory

Conflict theory is a sociological perspective that examines society through the lens of power struggles and social inequalities. It was conceived by Karl Marx in the mid-19th century and expanded upon by other scholars such as Georg Simmel, Max Weber, and Ralf Dahrendorf. The theory emphasises how social order is maintained through the competition for resources and the unequal distribution of power, leading to conflicts between different social groups. In the context of armed banditry and food security, conflict theory can provide insights into the underlying causes and dynamics (Marx, 1867). According to conflict theory, armed banditry can be understood as a response to social inequalities, economic disparities, and political marginalisation. Some of the factors include structural inequalities, political instability and social exclusion.

The theory argues that social inequalities, such as unequal access to resources, land, and economic opportunities, create conditions that could promote terrorist activities like banditry and kidnapping. When marginalised groups are denied basic needs and economic opportunities, they may resort to criminal activities as a means of survival or to challenge the existing power structures. It further suggested that political instability, weak governance, and corruption can contribute to armed banditry. When state institutions fail to provide security, enforce the rule of law, or address socioeconomic grievances, criminal organisations may exploit the power vacuum to engage in armed banditry. Conflict theory further highlights social exclusion as a significant factor leading to terrorism. When certain groups, such as ethnic or religious minorities, are systematically excluded from political participation, economic opportunities, and social integration, they may resort to criminal activities as a form of resistance or rebellion against the dominant groups. A model of conflict theory is depicted in the diagrammatic illustration at Figure 2.2.

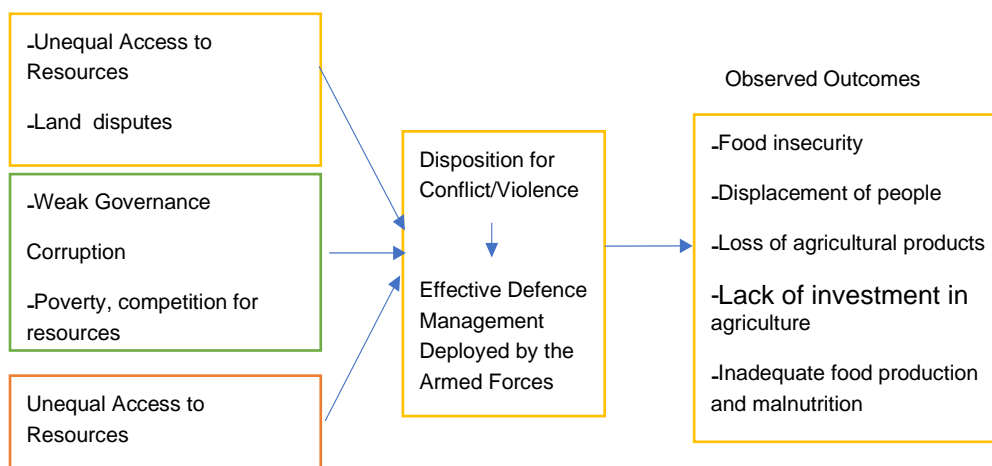


Figure 2. 2 Researchers Conceptual Model of the Conflict Theory
Source: Marx (1867)

Figure 2.2 depicts how some classified factors could result in conflict or violence, which could result in observed or resultant outcomes. This model highlights that armed banditry often arises in regions with weak governance, limited state presence, and socio-economic disparities. Defence management theory plays a crucial role in addressing conflicts, particularly armed conflicts, by providing frameworks and practices for managing defence organizations and military operations. Conflict theory allows for an analysis of the underlying structural factors and systemic issues that contribute to armed banditry, including issues related to land distribution, economic opportunities, and social exclusion.

The conflict theory has been critiqued by several scholars. For instance, Robert Merton (1968) in his work "Social Theory and Social Structure" criticizes conflict theory for its deterministic view of social change and its neglect of the role of individual agency and innovation. Similarly, Randall Collin (2015) in his book titled "Conflict Sociology: Toward an Explanatory Science" argued that conflict theory tends to overlook the importance of micro-level interactions and focuses too heavily on macrolevel social structures.

Despite the criticisms, the conflict theory is suitable for assessing the impact of terrorism on national security. This is because it provides an explanation of how power imbalances, grievances, and competition over

resources contribute to the emergence and perpetuation of armed groups involved in terrorism or criminal activities like banditry. This is similar to terrorist activities in the northwest region of Nigeria, which has affected national security in the region. The conflict theory could effectively be applied to the Nigerian context. By curbing terrorism; national security would be enhanced.

2.1.2.4 Systems Theory

Systems theory is a multidisciplinary framework that views complex phenomena as interconnected systems composed of various subsystems. It was developed by biologist Ludwig von Bertalanffy in the 1930s and further developed by scholars from diverse fields such as sociology, psychology, and management (Bertalanffy, 1968). Systems theory conceptualizes the interrelationships, interactions, and dynamics within a system, emphasizing the holistic perspective and the interdependence of its components (Jackson, 1968). The System Theory states that every system consists of sub-systems, which often further consist of smaller systems that work together towards achieving a particular goal. Examples of systems include the human body, structure to carry out a particular task or an organisation. A diagram depicting the System Theory is at Figure 2.3.

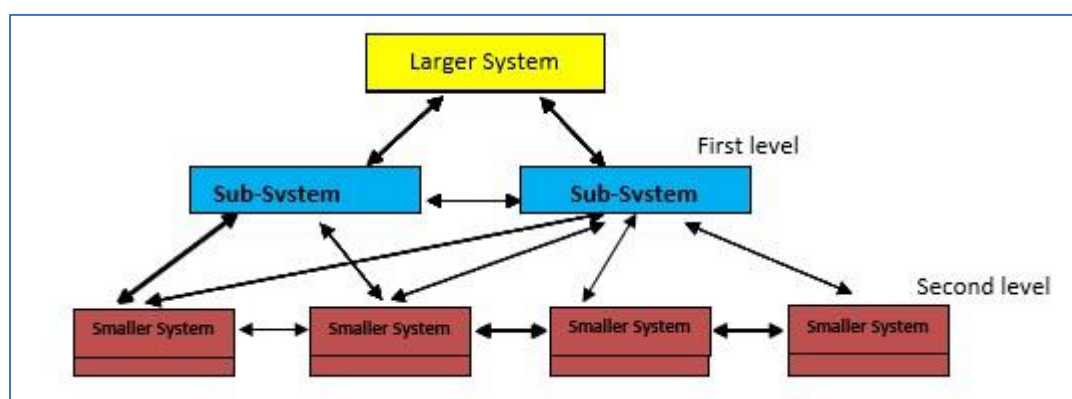


Figure 2. 3 Diagram Depicting System Theory

Source: Ludwig von Bertalanffy Systems Theory (1968)

According to the Systems Theory, every sub-system and smaller systems must function efficiently for a system to function optimally. A weak

link resulting from a sub-system or smaller system not functioning properly, could easily result in the failure of the whole system. In the context of military operations of the AFN against terrorism and national security, systems theory provides a useful lens to understand the complex dynamics involved. It allows for an examination of the interconnected elements and factors that contribute to terrorism, as well as the broader system of national security in Nigeria. Systems theory views terrorism as a manifestation of a larger system, where various factors interact and influence each other. It recognizes that terrorism emerges from a combination of complex social, political, economic, and cultural factors. In the case of Nigeria, these factors include:

- a. **Socio-economic Disparities:** Systems theory acknowledges that socio-economic inequalities can contribute to terrorism. High levels of poverty, unemployment, and limited access to basic services create conditions in which individuals may be more susceptible to extremist ideologies and recruitment by terrorist groups.
- b. **Political Instability and Governance Challenges:** Weak governance, corruption, and political instability undermine the effectiveness of state institutions and create a breeding ground for terrorism. Systems theory highlights that the functioning of the political system and the ability to address grievances and maintain stability are crucial elements in combating terrorism.

Some of the notable critiques of the Systems Theory are Niklas Luhmann and Murray Gell-Mann. Luhmann (1995) offers a critique of systems theory by emphasizing the autopoietic nature of social systems. He argues that systems theory tends to overlook the role of individuals and their agency in shaping and influencing social systems. Luhmann proposes a more self-referential and autonomous understanding of social systems. Gell-Mann (1994) critiques systems theory by suggesting that it

oversimplifies the complexity of real-world systems. He argues that the reductionist approach of systems theory fails to capture the full intricacies and emergent properties of complex systems. Gell-Mann advocates for a more nuanced and interdisciplinary approach to understanding complex phenomena.

Despite this criticism however, the Systems Theory is considered apt for the study as national security consist of various agencies that often report to their Chiefs who are further accountable to the executive government. Some of the agencies that are directly charged with ensuring national security in Nigeria include the Nigerian Army (NA), Nigerian Navy (NN), Nigerian Air Force (NAF), Nigeria Police Force (NPF) and Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) amongst others. They could be regarded as subsystems that must function properly towards achieving national security. Furthermore, the NA, NN and the NAF are currently involved in several military operations against terrorism in the Northwest. It is expected that each of them carries out their duties effectively for the success of the operation, which is inimical to Nigeria's national security.

2.2 The Result of Previous Research.

Under this section of the literature review, the results of previous studies are discussed and reviewed with a view to providing relevant knowledge to the study. The book "**Banditry in West Java, 1869-1942,**" authored by van Till et al. (2011), utilised a descriptive methodology to depict the phenomenon of banditry in West Java. The book identifies the bandits, outlines their operational methods, and delves into their motivations, which often extend beyond mere self-enrichment. It also examines the perspective of the victims, urban dwellers who viewed the bandits as a direct contradiction to civilisation, serving as convenient targets for projecting the respectable citizens' concerns related to sex, violence, and magic. The author contends that banditry in Batavia was intricately linked to the modernisation process, particularly the widespread availability of

firearms and the emergence of a money-based economy. However, the findings do not strongly support the notion that banditry should be viewed as an integral part of the revolutionary struggle for independence in Indonesia.

Ugwueze and Onuoha (2020), in their study titled “**Hard versus Soft Measures to Security: Explaining the Failure of Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Nigeria**”, critically examines the counter-terrorism strategy employed in Nigeria, particularly focusing on the dichotomy between hard and soft security measures. Ugwueze and Onuoha utilise a qualitative research methodology to explore the complexities of counter-terrorism strategy in Nigeria. The researchers draw on a combination of primary and secondary sources, including policy documents, official reports, scholarly literature, expert interviews, and case studies. This approach enabled them to analyse the multifaceted factors that contribute to the failure of the counter-terrorism approach and the interplay between hard and soft security measures. The central argument presented by Ugwueze and Onuoha is that the failure of the counter-terrorism strategy in Nigeria can be attributed to the ineffective integration and prioritisation of both hard and soft security measures. The researchers contend that while hard measures, such as military operations, are important for tackling the immediate threat of terrorism, they must be complemented by well-considered soft measures, such as community engagement, deradicalisation programs, and socioeconomic development, to address the root causes of terrorism. The study reveals that there has been an overreliance on hard security measures, often to the detriment of soft security measures. This imbalance has hindered the strategy's effectiveness in addressing the underlying drivers of terrorism.

The work of Obiorah, Onyishi & Oji (2023) titled “**Small Arms Proliferation and Violent Conflicts in Nigeria: A Threat to Food Security**” investigated the widespread availability of small arms and how it contributes to the escalation of violent conflicts and its subsequent impact

on food security in the country. The authors adopted a mixed-methods research approach that integrated both qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis techniques to achieve a comprehensive understanding of the topic. The central argument put forward by Obiorah, Onyishi, and Oji (2023) is that the proliferation of small arms in Nigeria exacerbates violent conflicts, leading to a serious threat to food security in the country. The researchers contend that easy access to small arms provides armed groups with the means to carry out violent activities, leading to widespread insecurity and disruption of agricultural activities. They further posited that addressing the issue of small arms proliferation is essential for safeguarding food production, access, and availability in conflict-affected regions and ensuring food security for vulnerable populations. The study highlights the humanitarian consequences of small arms proliferation, including increased food insecurity among Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and vulnerable populations.

Onuoha, Nwangwu, and Ugwueze (2023), in their work titled **“Counterinsurgency Operations of the Nigerian Military and Boko Haram Insurgency: Expounding the Viscid Manacle”**, delve into the counterinsurgency operations conducted by the Nigerian military against the Boko Haram insurgency. The authors adopt a qualitative research methodology for their study. The researchers rely on a combination of primary and secondary sources, including government reports, military documents, academic literature, expert interviews, and case studies. This approach enables them to analyse the complexities of counterinsurgency operations and the intricate relationship between the Nigerian military and the Boko Haram insurgency. The central argument presented by Onuoha, Nwangwu, and Ugwueze centres around the concept of "viscid manacle," illustrating the intricate and challenging nature of counterinsurgency operations against Boko Haram. The researchers contend that while the Nigerian military has engaged in various counterinsurgency efforts, the persistent insurgency highlights the challenges of grappling with a complex

web of socio-political, economic, and security dynamics that sustain the conflict. The study underscores how the insurgency is embedded in deeply rooted socio-political grievances, including marginalization, governance failures, and religious tensions. These factors complicate the military's efforts to address the root causes of the conflict. The authors concluded by highlighting the significance of interagency coordination and intelligence sharing among security forces. Effective collaboration is essential to disrupt Boko Haram's networks and operations.

Vande (2023), in his work titled “**Banditry and Human Security: Implications for Peacebuilding and National Security in Nigeria**”, explores the multifaceted issue of banditry and its impact on human security, peacebuilding, and national security in Nigeria. The author adopted a qualitative research methodology for this study. The central argument presented by the author is that banditry poses a significant threat to human security and stability in Nigeria. The author contends that the rise of banditry in various regions of the country is driven by a combination of social, economic, and political factors, which have created an environment conducive to the proliferation of armed criminal groups. The study's findings underscore the urgency of addressing banditry as a critical step towards fostering sustainable peace and enhancing overall national security in Nigeria.

Odalonu & Egbogu (2023) in their work titled “**Implications of Escalating Banditry on National Security in Nigeria**” employ a mixed methods research approach for their study. The central argument presented by Odalonu and Egbogu is that the escalating banditry in Nigeria poses a significant threat to national security. The authors contend that the increasing activities of bandits are fuelled by a combination of factors, including poverty, weak governance, porous borders, and proliferation of small arms and light weapons. These factors have created an enabling environment for armed criminal groups to thrive, thereby undermining the stability and security of the nation. The authors stressed on the necessity of

adopting a multi-faceted approach to tackle banditry effectively. This includes improving intelligence gathering, enhancing border control, addressing socio-economic inequalities, and strengthening law enforcement capabilities. The findings of the study underscore the need for proactive and collaborative efforts from various stakeholders to curb banditry and restore peace and security in Nigeria.

Ojo, Oyewole & Aina (2023) in their journal publication titled **“Forces of Terror: Armed Banditry and Insecurity in North-west Nigeria”** adopted a qualitative research methodology to delve into the complexities of armed banditry and insecurity in North-west Nigeria. The researchers utilize various qualitative data collection methods, including interviews, focus group discussions, and in-depth case studies. By engaging directly with affected communities, local authorities, and security personnel, the study gains valuable perspectives on the root causes and consequences of armed banditry in the region. The researchers contend that the escalation of armed banditry is a consequence of multiple interconnected factors, such as socio-economic inequalities, governance challenges, porous borders, and the proliferation of small arms and light weapons. They assert that addressing these underlying issues is crucial for effectively combating armed banditry and restoring security in the region. The authors emphasize the importance of holistic approaches to address armed banditry. They suggested strategies such as security measures, poverty alleviation programs, community engagement, and improved governance.

The work of Ojewale (2021) titled **“The Increasing Nexus Between Bandits and Terrorists in Nigeria’s Northwest”** sheds light on the growing connection between bandit groups and terrorist organizations in Nigeria's northwest region. Ojewale employs a qualitative research methodology to delve into the intricate relationship between bandits and terrorists in Nigeria's northwest. The researcher relies on a combination of primary and secondary sources, including government reports, news articles, expert analyses, and interviews with relevant stakeholders such as security

personnel, local authorities, and community members. This approach allows for a comprehensive exploration of the subject matter, capturing various perspectives and insights. The central argument put forward by Ojewale is that there is an alarming and increasing nexus between bandit groups and terrorist organizations in the northwest of Nigeria. The researcher contends that the traditional distinction between these two criminal entities is blurring, as evident from their collaboration in activities such as kidnapping for ransom, arms trafficking, and attacks on civilians and security forces. This evolving connection poses a severe threat to national security and stability. The research suggests that the convergence between bandits and terrorists contributes to the weakening of governance structures in affected areas, leading to a deterioration of public safety and the rule of law.

Abiodun and Taofeek (2020) in their work titled **“Unending War on Boko Haram Terror in Northeast Nigeria and the Need for Deployment of Military Robots or Autonomous Weapons Systems to Complement Military Operations”**, address the persistent challenge of countering Boko Haram terrorism in Northeast Nigeria. They employ a mixed-methods research approach to examine the feasibility of using military robots or autonomous weapons systems in Northeast Nigeria. The researchers combine qualitative data collection techniques such as literature review, case studies, and expert interviews, along with quantitative analysis of military technology capabilities and operational scenarios. This approach allows them to explore various aspects of the topic, including technological capabilities, operational challenges, and ethical concerns. The central argument presented by Abiodun and Taofeek is that the deployment of military robots or autonomous weapons systems could potentially complement traditional military operations and enhance the effectiveness of counter-terrorism efforts against Boko Haram in Northeast Nigeria. The researchers contend that these advanced technologies offer advantages such as precision targeting, reduced risk to human soldiers, and extended surveillance capabilities, which could contribute to improved intelligence

gathering and operational outcomes. The authors confirmed that enhanced intelligence and surveillance, precision targeting and risk reduction for soldiers are benefits of deployment of military robots and autonomous system in counter-terrorism efforts.

Onapajo and Ozden (2023) in their work titled "**Non-Military Approach Against Terrorism in Nigeria: Deradicalization Strategies and Challenges in Countering Boko Haram**" delve into the non-military approach to counterterrorism in Nigeria, with a specific focus on deradicalization strategies and challenges in countering the Boko Haram insurgency. The authors employ a qualitative research methodology for their study. The central argument presented by Onapajo and Ozden revolves around the significance of non-military approaches, specifically deradicalization strategies, in countering the Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria. The researchers assert that while military operations are crucial, they must be complemented by effective deradicalization initiatives that address the underlying grievances, social factors, and ideological motivations driving individuals to join extremist groups like Boko Haram. They concluded that that socioeconomic inequalities, lack of education, and unemployment play a significant role in driving individuals to join extremist groups. Effective deradicalization strategies should address these factors to prevent radicalization in the first place.

Musau et al. (2023), in their book titled "**Evaluation of the Connection between Banditry, Cattle Rustling, and Insecurity in Northwest Kenya**", scrutinize emerging manifestations of banditry and cattle rustling in the northwestern region of Kenya. These occurrences encompass raids for livestock that extend across ethnic groups, within ethnic communities, and across international borders. The book employs a descriptive methodology. The authors contend that these practices are causing significant disruption in the area, leading to the loss of human lives, property destruction, theft of livestock, and displacement of populations. The newfound violence appears to be a consequence of various deficiencies in

the state's administrative structures and social norms. It seems that the Kenyan government has lost effective control over northwestern Kenya, particularly concerning increasingly militarized and destructive bandits and cattle rustlers. The study suggests that the origins of these emerging forms of violence and insecurity can be traced to social, cultural, economic, political, and historical factors. The research aims to establish that banditry and cattle rustling pose serious threats to internal security, the rule of law, and democratic governance, all crucial elements for political pluralism in Kenya.

Table 2. 1 Comparative Analysis of Previous Research

No	Name/Year of Publication	Title	Type	Methodology	Results/Differences
1.	Van Till et al (2023)	Banditry in West Java Indonesia	Book	Qualitative	The author argues that banditry in Batavia was closely linked with the modernization process, particularly the ready availability of firearms and the rise of a money economy
2.	Ugwueze and Onuoha (2020)	Hard versus Soft Measures to Security: Explaining the Failure of Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Nigeria	Journal	Qualitative	<p>The study reveals that there has been an overreliance on hard security measures, often to the detriment of soft security measures. This imbalance has hindered the strategy's effectiveness in addressing the underlying drivers of terrorism</p> <p>The difference with the current study is that the study did not highlight the specific military operations in the Northwest of Nigeria</p>
3.	Obiorah, Onyishi & Oji (2023)	Small Arms Proliferation and Violent Conflicts in Nigeria: A Threat to Food Security	Journal	Mixed Methodology comprising of Qualitative and Quantitative	<p>The study highlights the humanitarian consequences of small arms proliferation, including increased food insecurity among internally displaced persons (IDPs) and vulnerable populations.</p> <p>The study considered how small arms exacerbates violent conflict and its threat to food security. It is noteworthy that food</p>

					security is just an aspect of national security. Furthermore, military operations against such activities was not considered in the author's work
4.	Onuoha, Nwangwu & Ugwueze (2023)	Counterinsurgency Operations of the Nigerian Military and Boko Haram Insurgency: Expounding the Viscid Manacle	Journal	Qualitative	<p>The study highlights the significance of interagency coordination and intelligence-sharing among security forces. Effective collaboration is essential to disrupt Boko Haram's networks and operations</p> <p>The study considered military operations against terrorism but was not narrowed specifically to the Northwest region of Nigeria.</p>
5.	Vande (2023)	Banditry and Human Security: Implications for Peacebuilding and National Security in Nigeria	Journal	Qualitative	<p>The study highlighted the urgency of addressing banditry as a critical step towards fostering sustainable peace and enhancing overall national security in Nigeria.</p> <p>Though Banditry is one of the many nefarious activities committed by the terrorists in the Northwest, the authors focused more on peace-building and did not succinctly focus on the military operations to address them.</p>
6.	Odalonu & Egbogu (2023)	Implications of Escalating Banditry on	Journal	Mixed methodology	The authors stressed on the necessity of adopting a multi-faceted approach to tackle banditry effectively. This includes improving

		National Security in Nigeria			<p>intelligence gathering, enhancing border control, addressing socio-economic inequalities, and strengthening law enforcement capabilities</p> <p>The author highlighted the use of some elements of military operations but did not succinctly direct such force on the Northwest region.</p>
7.	Ojo, Oyewole & Aina (2023)	Forces of Terror: Armed Banditry and Insecurity in North-west Nigeria	Journal	Qualitative	<p>The researchers contend that the escalation of armed banditry is a consequence of multiple interconnected factors, such as socioeconomic inequalities, governance challenges, porous borders, and the proliferation of small arms and light weapons.</p> <p>The author quite focused on armed banditry in the Northwest region, which is the major terrorist activity in the region, but did not holistically emphasise the strategic approaches of military operation that could employed to degrade their activities.</p>
8.	Ojewale (2021)	The Increasing Nexus Between Bandits and Terrorists in Nigeria's Northwest	Journal	Qualitative research methodology	<p>The author disclosed that there is an alarming and increasing nexus between bandit groups and terrorist organizations in the northwest of Nigeria</p>

					However, it did not categorically mention which type or combination of military operation that employed to degrade the activities of terrorists in the region.
9.	Abiodun and Taofeek (2020)	Unending War on Boko Haram Terror in Northeast Nigeria and the Need for Deployment of Military Robots or Autonomous Weapons Systems to Complement Military Operations	Journal	Mixed-methods research approach	<p>The researchers contend that these advanced technologies offer advantages such as precision targeting, reduced risk to human soldiers, and extended surveillance capabilities, which could contribute to improved intelligence gathering and operational outcomes.</p> <p>While the researchers work delves on innovative approaches for military operations to counter Boko Haram whose activities are on the North East, it did not highlight the activities of terrorism in the Northwest</p>
10.	Onapajo and Ozden (2023)	Non-Military Approach Against Terrorism in Nigeria: Deradicalization Strategies and Challenges in Countering Boko Haram	Journal	Qualitative	<p>The authors finding concluded that socioeconomic inequalities, lack of education, and unemployment play a significant role in driving individuals to join extremist groups. Effective deradicalization strategies should address these factors to prevent radicalization in the first place.</p> <p>The authors work focused more on non-military approaches against terrorism which</p>

					this study will focus on military approaches against terrorism
11.	Musau, D. M., Ichani, F. X., & Mulu, F. (2023)	Assessment of Banditry, Cattle Rustling and Insecurity Nexus in Northwest Kenya	Book	Qualitative	The study posits that the roots of these new forms of violence and insecurity can be found in social, cultural, economic, political, and historical factors. The study seeks to establish that banditry and cattle rustling are serious threats to internal security, rule of law, and democratic governance, which are so vital for political pluralism in Kenya

Source: Processed by the researcher (2023)

2.3 Research Framework

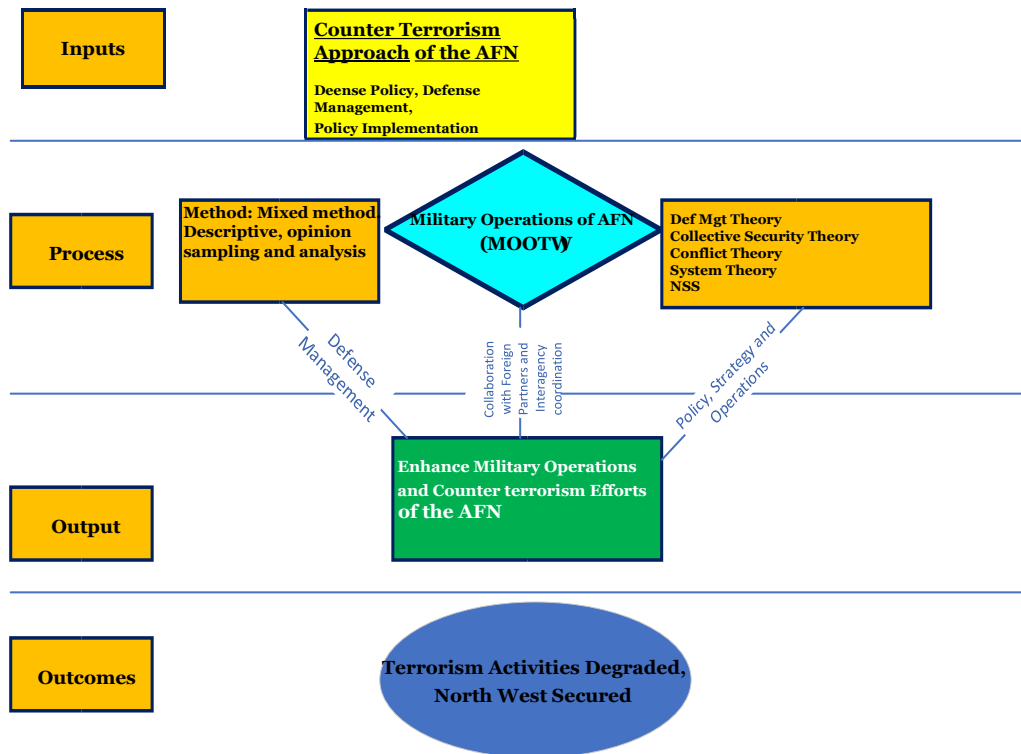


Figure 2. 4 Thinking framework
 Source: Processed by the researcher (2023)

Title: Military Operations against Terrorism in Northwest Nigeria for Enhanced National Security

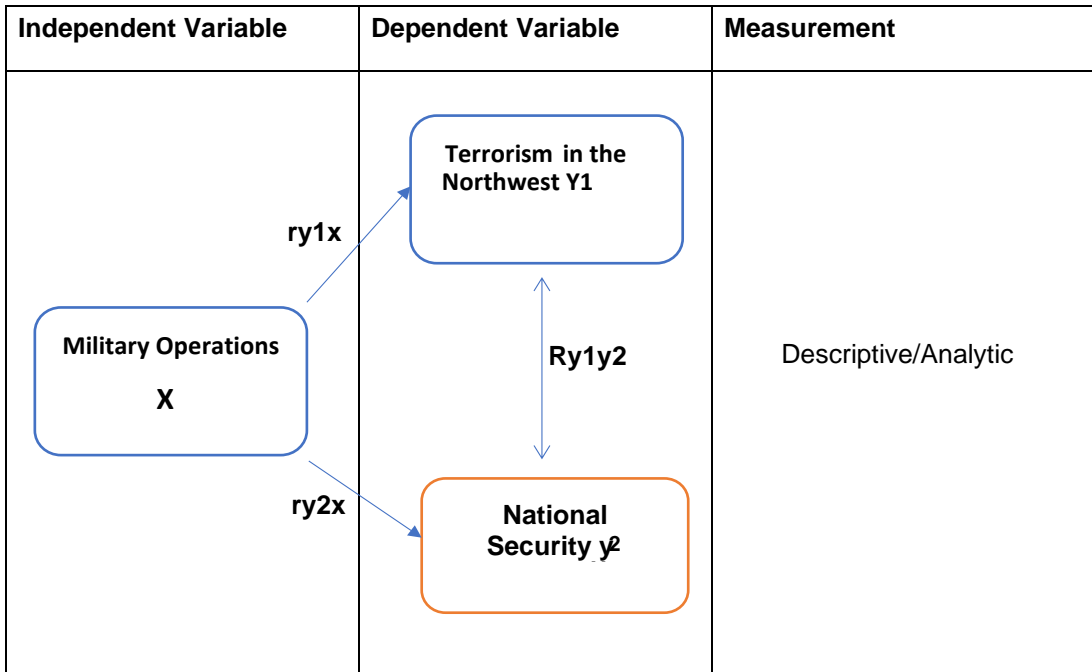


Figure 2.5 Research Framework
Source: Processed by the researcher (2023)