The New Valiant

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Transforming the Nigerian Defence Academy through Innovative Training Curriculum, Building Cadets' Character and Infrastructural Development

VISITS · NEWS · EVENTS · FEATURES · PICTORIALS · INTERVIEWS · LOTS MORE

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FROM THE Commandant's Desk



Major General A Oyebade

GSS psc(+) fdc(+) CCA FCMH TSM MSc MNIM

COMMANDANT

NIGERIAN DEFENCE ACADEMY

It is my delight to write the foreword for the Forty Eighth Edition of our in house publication, 'The New Valiant' Magazine. I observed it has maintained all of its appeal, especially its resourcefulness as an enlightenment medium. This, undoubtedly, is an important feat in the light of many changes in the Academy over the last 2 years as the Commandant, Nigerian Defence Academy (NDA). I therefore commend the Editorial Board for its unrelenting approach in sustaining its outstanding quality and depth of the magazine. Indeed, the publication of the New Valiant Magazine is a welcome refresh to showcase cadets' exploits as well as significant developments in the Academy.

This Edition has therefore been packaged under the theme **"Transforming the Nigerian Defence Academy through Innovative Training Curriculum, Building Cadets' Character and Infrastructural Development"**. The theme is quite apt and concise and a thematic reflection of the transformations that have occurred in the Academy, which are intended to guide the major thoughts and discourse set out for this publication. A lot of changes have been undertaken within the period under review. So much innovations have been introduced in the aspect of training, capacity

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building, general welfare and equipment holding. In line with my vision for the NDA, a complete review of the training curriculum was achieved, while retaining the components that are still relevant; those that became obsolete were discarded and some upgraded in line with modern realities were made. More emphasis is being placed on counter insurgency, counter terrorism, media operations and laws of armed conflict. This was conceived to provide the requisite training for the cadets [illegible] nt security challenges bedevilling

The Academy took cog[illegible] act of adequate and befitting [illegible] on the morale of cadets, officers, [illegible] civilian staff. We have consistently improved the state of infrastructure in NDA, as well as effective human capacity development across the entire spectrum of the Academy. The goal is to inspire and motivate the entire Academy community as a pivot to fulfill the mandate of the Academy. And so, we embarked on the renovation of cadets, officers, soldiers and civilian staff accommodation. This includes the furnishing and equipping of these apartments. Alongside, we have carried out office renovations and refurbishment with the hope of making the office environment more conducive for daily work. All of these efforts are being done to enhance staff morale for better performance that would ensure NDA becomes one of the best military university in Africa. Dedication to duty, creativity, discipline and selflessness must therefore be the watchwords for all staff and cadets of the Academy. Each of us owes it to the President, Commander-In-Chief, President Muhammadu Buhari, who has given so much to the Academy, to be the very best version of who we can be at our various duty posts. It is indeed contributing collectively in the development of our country.

The instructors have been given opportunities and sponsorships to improve on their knowledge and expand their capacity. Several officers have had the opportunity to go to foreign military academies like the Royal Academy, Sandhurst, US Military Academy West Point, the US Naval Academy, Annapolis and the India Military Academy to assess our cadets training in these academies as well as strengthen our collaborations with them. In addition, we have steadily increased the number of academic staff training with increasing funds allocated for training and research. Furthermore, adequate funding has gone into sponsorship for training workshops and expanding capacity at the Academic Branch. The Postgraduate School also has received improved attention. As a by-product of all of these efforts, NDA only recently hosted its 10th Professorial Inaugural Lecture, 7 of which have held since I became Commandant in October 2017. Also, we have been able to cut down the failure rate for cadets in the academic courses down by 50% and we're yet hopeful that more will be done. This is in line with various efforts that have been undertaken in tandem with my vision for the NDA.

For the cadets that will be left behind after the passing out parade, a lot is expected from you in terms of your own efforts at meeting the NDA half way to making you the disciplined and resourceful officers of repute when you eventually graduate. I expect you to be committed to your training in both military and academics and to be of the highest exemplary character that Nigeria and indeed your family will be proud of. Some of your colleagues have been weeded out from the Academy on disciplinary grounds, medical and poor academic performances. I urge you to remain focused and steadfast. The military, shape the environment for peace and stability as well as defend the territorial integrity of the country. Our discipline, unity and sense of character as ladies and gentlemen officers of the Armed Forces can be traced to the Academy. Accordingly, the graduating cadets of 66 Regular Course, 67 Regular Course (Navy and Air Force) and Short Service Course 45 (Army) are urged to uphold the norms and virtues they have learnt in the Academy as they join the officers cadre of the Nigerian Armed Forces. I want to assure you that if you abide by the principles learnt in the Academy, you would ascend to the peak of this noble profession of arms.

Finally, I will like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to those who contributed to our success in the Academy. I also seek the mutual aid and understanding of the parents and guardians' of the cadets as we strive to mold them into decent, effectual and creditable future leaders of the Armed Forces. I will not forget to pay tribute to our departed officer cadets and colleagues both civilian and military; your sacrifice will be evergreen in our memories. May their souls rest in peace. Amen. God bless the Federal Government of Nigeria. God Bless the Armed Forces of Nigeria. God Bless the Nigerian Defence Academy.



A OYEBADE
Maj Gen
Comdt

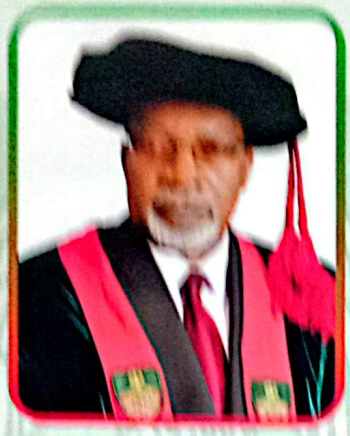
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FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Editorial Board



Brig Gen NC Ugbo
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Cadets Brigade Commander

Dear Esteemed Readers,

On behalf of the Editorial Team, I am pleased to present to you the Forty Eighth Edition of the New Valiant Magazine. It is the maiden Edition under my stewardship as the Chairman of the Editorial Board. In this Edition, we once again strive to meet your expectation in our desire to inform, educate and entertain you in relation to the activities of the Nigerian Defence Academy especially those of the officer cadets.

This Edition came at a period the Academy is witnessing the combined passing out parade and commissioning ceremony of cadets of 66 Regular Course (Army) and Short Service Course 45 (Army) while members of 67 Regular Course (Navy and Air Force) will be filing out to their respective Services for further training. At this point, it will not be out of place to appropriately appreciate the leadership and personality of the brain behind the publication of this Edition, Maj Gen Adeniyi Oyebade, the 28th Commandant of the Nigerian Defence Academy for his visionary leadership and unrelenting support towards the New Valiant Magazine. His commitment and constant guide to upgrade the standard of the Academy will no doubt continue to attract accolades and appreciation to the Academy community. We therefore remain eternally indebted.

The Nigerian Defence Academy has continued to strive towards achieving its mandate. Towards this, some notable activities have been recorded in the Cadets Brigade. These include; regular kit laying parades to assess the serviceability of cadets' kits, review of the Cadets Handbook on Discipline and General Administration, the development of the Cadets Code of Honour and improvement in the general wellbeing of cadets. Others include; strict enforcement of Academy rules and regulations, prompt disposal of disciplinary cases, improved quality of cadets' meal through thorough supervision to ensuring good quality meals are prepared and served. The number of cadet appointments were increased in view of the large number of cadets and also to enhance leadership and mentorship training amongst cadets. These no doubt have continued to project the good image of the Academy as a foremost military university in Africa and indeed one of the best in the world.

It is in the light of these that the theme **"Transforming the Nigerian Defence Academy through Innovative Training Curriculum, Building Cadets' Character and Infrastructural Development"** was chosen for the Forty Eighth Edition of the Magazine to reflect the Commandant's unique Vision and the transformations witnessed in the Academy. We have therefore lined up incisive articles, interviews, reports and pictorial displays to keep you informed and educated on contemporary issues affecting our dear community. There was an interview with the Executive Secretary Tertiary Educational Trust Fund (TETFUND), Professor Elias Sulieman Bogoro. The interview dwelled on the mandate of TETFUND, notable achievements recorded so far in improving on quality education and infrastructural development in tertiary institutions and challenges experienced. We also conducted an exclusive interview with the Commandant, Maj Gen Adeniyi Oyebade. The interview session which harps on his journey so far as the Commandant as well as the life experiences of Major General A Oyebade is a must read. I urge everyone especially cadets and officers to draw inspirations and lessons from Major General Oyebade's strategies and guiding principles. The Commandant's advice to passing out cadets and indeed everyone, which is "Be the best you can be" is profound, philosophical and prophetic. I urge all our readers to always be the best they can be in all situations/ circumstances.

The Forty Eighth Edition also captured various training activities during the period under review. Also in this Magazine, our esteem readers will find educating, entertaining and well-written articles, as well as pictorial stories of activities in the NDA. Additionally, the activities, performances and experiences of NDA cadets sent to foreign military academies were also captured in this Edition. Notable among these countries are Italy and United Kingdom. It may also interest our readers to know that NDA Cadets participated in various competitions both at home and abroad and some of them made us proud as they came tops in their respective competitions while others won various laurels.

Let me at this point congratulate the passing out cadets for enduring, hanging on and pulling through. Like you have been told now and again, officers and other ranks of the Armed Forces of Nigeria are eagerly awaiting your arrival. You must not let the Academy down. I encourage you all to brace up to the tasks ahead with full confidence and enter the stage to play your roles. I wish you all successful service to fatherland.

Finally, on behalf of members of the Editorial Board, I wish to extend my heartfelt gratitude to those who gave us professional advice throughout the compilation and production of this Magazine. To our advertizing partners, contributors of interesting articles and the members of the Editorial Board, I say thank you for jobs well done. This Edition would not have been a success without your enthusiasm and commitment.

Thank you and happy reading.

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GOODWILL MESSAGE FROM
DIRECTOR GENERAL NIGERIAN ARMY RESOURCE CENTRE

Major General GA Wahab (Rtd)

DSS FCMH GSMH CCA psc(+) rcds MA

I am delighted to convey this goodwill message on behalf of officers, soldiers and civilian staff of the Nigerian Army Resource Centre (NARC), for publication in the 48th Edition of the NDA Valiant Magazine commemorating the combined passing out of cadets of 66 RC (Army), 67 RC (Navy and Air Force) and SSC 45 (Army). The Valiant Magazine has remained the focal point for showcasing the training and other activities of the Academy to Nigerians and the world at large over the years. The rich quality and contents of the last edition puts me in no doubt that this year's edition will be more instructive and educative to all those who will have the unique opportunity of coming across copies. I therefore enjoin the Editorial Board of the Valiant Magazine to strive and at least maintain the remarkable standard already set to keep the flag flying.

The NARC, which serves as a Think Tank on issues bothering on national defence and security felicitates with the NDA on the giant feats so far attained in cadets training. NDA has greatly lived up to expectations in the training and education of young military professionals considering the quality and caliber of officers produced over the years. When put alongside the spate of insecurity in the country and the involvement of the military in the restoration of law and order, one can then appreciate the enormous tasks bestowed upon the institution by the nation. The unrelenting efforts of the Commandant and his dogged team of trainers in achieving these tasks deserve commendation from all and sundry.

I wish to therefore use this medium to identify with the Commandant and the entire Academy community for the unprecedented efforts in bringing innovative ideas with the resolve to continually improve the quality of training given to cadets in the Institution. The purpose driven training, backed up by the provision of modern training facilities, continuous periodic curriculum review and opportunities of international exposures offered to instructors, staff and cadets is indeed a step in the right direction. This couldn't have been otherwise as the rapid and constant changes in the battle space environments both locally and internationally encouraged by the globalization of violence, stress the need for a well-trained Armed Forces of Nigeria with the foundation laid in the Academy. The Commandant and other stakeholders are humbly encouraged to sustain these laudable efforts in a bid to further enhance the quality of officers produced for the nation.

The publication of the 48th Edition of the NDA Valiant Magazine will assist the Academy to further mirror its achievements to the world in terms of Military and Academic training. It will also position the institution for recognition and attainment of excellence in the years ahead. On this note, I wish to warmly convey the NARC's readiness to continue to collaborate with the NDA in the areas of capacity building for the Armed Forces and other defence and security stakeholders for the benefit of the Nation. The Centre is always available for discussion on the modalities for progressive development of this great institution. Once again, I heartily congratulate the Commandant, staff and cadets of NDA on the occasion of the passing out of the cadets of 66 RC (Army), 67 RC (Navy and Air Force) and SSC 45 (Army). I sincerely wish the passing out cadets a fulfilling and rewarding career as they commence their services to our fatherland.

Maj Gen GA WAHAB (Rtd)
Director General

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GOODWILL MESSAGE FROM
COMMANDANT ARMY WAR COLLEGE NIGERIA

Major General C Ofoche

DSS FCM CM psc fwc(+) BSc(Hons) MSS usawc

It is with great pleasure that I write to identify with the Editorial Board of the Valiant Magazine on the successful publication of the 48th Edition of the Magazine. The publication which coincides with the combined Passing out Parade of the 66 RC (Army), 67 RC (Navy and Air Force) and Short Service Course (Army) is yet another epoch making event in the history of the Nigerian Defence Academy.

Over the years, the Valiant Magazine has provided a veritable platform for the Academy to showcase its activities as well as project its ideals and values. For the Editorial board to have sustained this vision is no mean feat. It is noteworthy that the quality and reach of the magazine has improved and can meet any standard in the world. This could be attributed to passion and drive of the Board under the able guidance and leadership of the Commandant. According to John Maxwell, "....There is almost no limit to the potentials of an organization that recruits good people, raises them up as leaders and continually develops them". These quotes could be likened to the tutelage the editorial board receives from the Commandant through the selection and professional guidance of the entire editorial team. The quality of information contained in the magazine and the profile of the respondents to the Magazine makes it a must read.

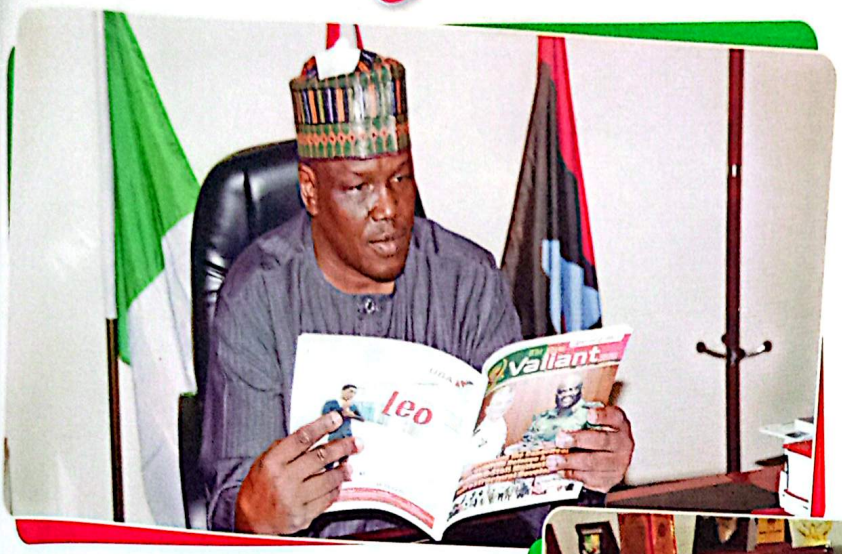
The New Valiant Magazine will continue to be a veritable reference material in Army War College Nigeria (AWCN). As an institution of excellence, the AWCN in our bid to actualize the Chief of Army Staff Vision will continue to identify and partner with NDA to produce high quality operational commanders for the NA. While wishing NDA a successful Passing out Parade, on behalf of the entire AWCN community, I also wish to specifically congratulate the Commandant NDA, Maj Gen A Oyebade and the Editorial Board of the New Valiant Magazine for yet another landmark publication.

God bless.

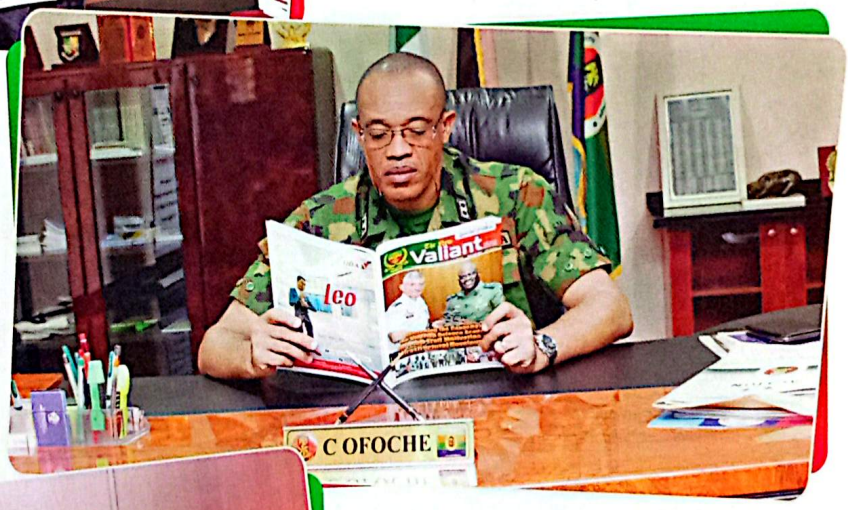
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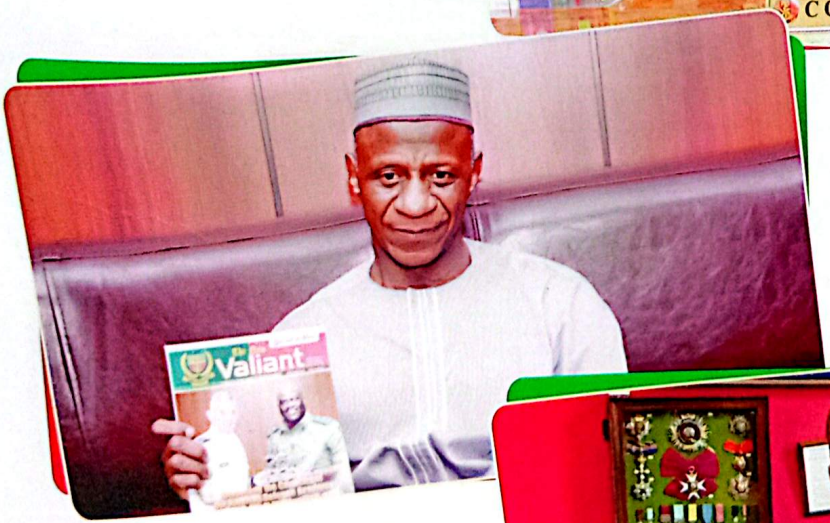
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