Nigerian Armed Forces is One of the Best in the World - Hon Minister of Defence

SPECIAL EDITION

The New Valiant

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N1500 (Others)
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Nigerian Air Force Supports EXERCISE CAMP HIGHLAND With Live Firing



...as Cadets use Helicopters for reconnaissance



NDA Cadet Wins Award in Italy



Inter-Battalion Competitions: Building Team Spirit and Sportsmanship amongst Cadets

UA 10

- Cadets of 58 Regular Course Receive Presidential Commission
- NDA as a Degree Awarding Institution: The Journey So Far
- The Role of the Armed Forces in Disaster Management
- NDA's Cadet Bala Makes Steady Progress in Sandhurst
- Five NDA Cadets Graduate from Greece Military Academies

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"The Gateway to Generalship"



Mission

The Nigerian Defence Academy shall provide each officer cadet with the knowledge, skills and values necessary to meet the requirement of the military officer through military training, academic excellence and character development

Role

To develop in officer cadets qualities of leadership, character and intellect through military training and education

Go, be an Excellent Officer

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COMMANDANT
NIGERIAN DEFENCE ACADEMY

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CONTENTS



The Camp Highland Exercise for 58 Regular Course was unique in many ways. Its conduct was as precise as it possibly could be following a very meticulous and thorough planning by Staff and Instructors of the Directorate of Military Training. As usual the Nigerian Air Force deployed very valuable assets to support the exercise, including making its helicopters available for Cadets to use for reconnaissance. The climax was reached when the MI-35 Helicopters fired live canons and rockets to support the final assault and battle innoculation phases. The Valiant magazine was there to bring you all the action.



Many NDA Cadets continue to explore and conquer the challenges of studying in foreign military academies especially where language difficulties exist. New Valiant brings to you the story of 5 NDA cadets who attended and successfully graduated from 2 Greece military academies, bagging a university degree and acquiring knowledge of Greek language in the process. What is more, the cadets were exposed to various military traditions and practices in NATO countries further enhancing future Nigerian Armed Forces inter-operability options.

Inter-Battalion competition is a major training event in NDA calendar. The competitions provide the platform for building team spirit, sportsmanship and comradeship amongst cadets. New Valiant as always was present at all the competitions and brings you exciting pictures and stories.



Staff welfare and motivation has remained a top priority of the current NDA leadership. It was therefore not surprising that NDA became one of the first military institutions to benefit from the Federal Government initiated NNPC/Capital Oil Kerosene Direct Scheme. New Valiant captured the many smiles on the faces of Soldiers and their families who thronged Ribadu Cantonment for the launch of the Scheme.



INSIDE

Members of NDA Council	04
Commandant's Message	07
From the Chairman Editorial Board	11
From the Editorial Suite	12
Readers Forum	13

NEWS

President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan's Inauguration	14
Nigerian Armed Forces, One of the Best in the World	18
NDA's Cadet Bala Makes Steady Progress in Sandhurst	24
Public Speaking and Presentation Exercise Introduced into Cadets Curriculum	42
Academy RSM and Drill Instructor Attend Sovereign Parade at Sandhurst	40
NDA Continues to Receive Attention from its International Partners	92
NDA Cadet Wins Award at 10th Annual Law of Armed Conflict Competition	78
63 Regular Course Selection Board Concludes Sitting	80
Our Visit to Ghana Military Academy	82
NDA Upgrades Mode of Transportation of Cadets on Local Tours/Visits	17
Direct Short Service Course 20 (Navy) Commences Training	29

ARTICLES

NDA as a Degree Awarding Institution: The Journey So Far	30
58 Regular Course Yearbook	52
What I Can Do My Commandant Can Do Even Better	38
The Role of the Nigerian Armed Forces in Disaster Management	85
The Midshipman	95
Contributions of the Nigerian Military to Nation Building	90

EXTRAS

Images from Passing Out Activities of SSC 39 and DSSC 19	86
Cartoons	28, 37, 85, 106, 108
Jokes	106
Poems	108

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Past Commandants of NDA



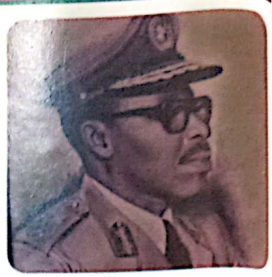
Brig MR Varma
Apr 64 - Jan 69



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Jan 69 - Jan 71



Maj Gen RA Adebayo
Apr 71 - Mar 74



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Mar 74 - Feb 75



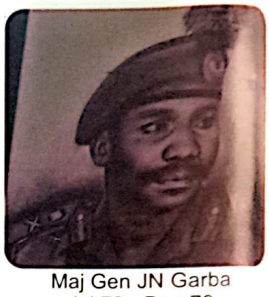
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Jan 88 - Jan 90



Maj Gen G Duba
Jan 90 - Feb 92



Maj Gen AG Mohammed
Feb 92 - Jan 93



Maj Gen MB Haladu
Jan 93 - Apr 95



AVM AM Daggash
Apr 95 - Jul 98



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Jul 98 - Jun 99



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Jun 99 - Mar 01



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Mar 01 - Aug 02



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Jun 03 - Oct 03



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Oct 03 - May 06

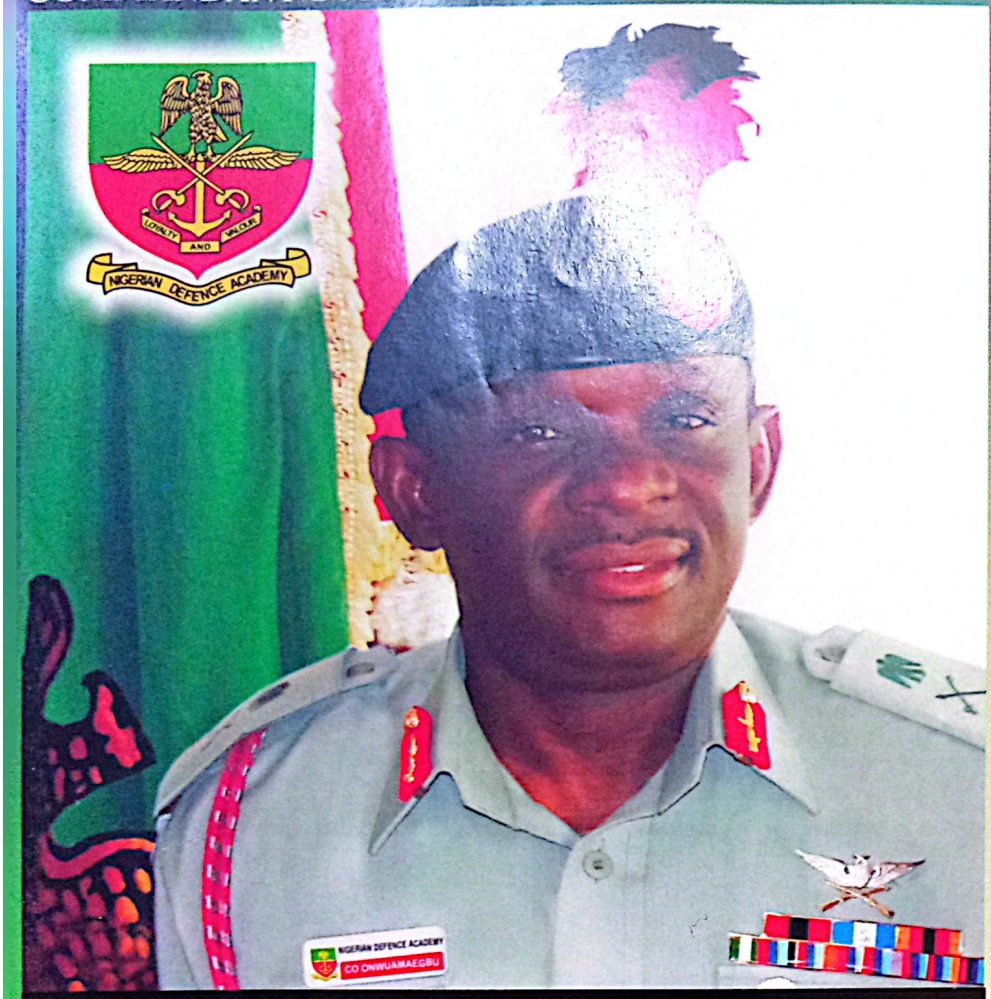


Maj Gen HM Dzarma
May 06 - Aug 08



Maj Gen MA Yerima

COMMANDANT'S MESSAGE



Maj Gen CO Onwuamaegbu NPOM GSS CMH FTAM psc(++) fndu
COMMANDANT
NIGERIAN DEFENCE ACADEMY

Since my arrival at the academy nearly a year ago, my primary focus has remained to improve on the training development, and equipping both physically and mentally, every officer cadet for the challenges of junior leadership in the armed forces. As the Commandant, one of my major responsibilities is to articulate and drive the leadership vision to achieve this aim. Collectively, our goal is to lay the basic foundation for a successful military career by giving quality training to the officer cadets in order to transform them into competent, knowledgeable, visionary and highly professional junior commanders and future leaders for our armed forces. There is no doubt that the attainment of this goal places enormous responsibilities on all of us in the academy. I am, however glad to note the efforts and sacrifice of all staff especially the instructors which have led to noticeable improvements in many areas in the last few months particularly in the training and administration of cadets and staff. We are now more than ever in a better position to achieve the Academy mission which is ***"to provide each officer cadet with the knowledge, skills and values necessary to meet the requirement of the military officer through military training, academic excellence and character development".***

...n set for ourselves cannot be achieved without adequate investment in personnel, infrastructure and processes (or PIP for short). To achieve PIP, emphasis is being placed on a very competitive selection process (for both potential cadets and instructional staff), constant evaluation and revalidation of military and academic curriculum content; redesign of teaching methods, instructional techniques and learning procedures, upgrade of training aids and general infrastructure, and very importantly, staff welfare and motivation. In line with trends in information and communications technology, plans are also ongoing to provide e-campus solutions to digitize our training and management processes using modern cutting edge technology. It is our belief that in so doing, we would have automated and streamlined our activities for better impact on the training of our cadets. With these programmes and other innovations we have so far introduced, we can confidently say that the academy is set to sustain and even surpass its current status as an acclaimed citadel of military training and academic excellence nationally, regionally and globally.

Another passing out parade is here again, the second since my assumption of office. This time around 203, gentlemen officer cadets of the 58 Regular Course (Army, Navy and Air Force) would be granted presidential commission having successfully gone through 5 years of intensive military and academic training in the NDA and other Service training facilities. Let me use this opportunity to thank the Reviewing Officer, President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Dr Goodluck Ebele Jonathan for his continuous support to the academy. We are also grateful to the Honourable Minister of Defence, Minister of State for Defence, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defence, Chief of Defence Staff and the Service Chiefs for supporting the academy on numerous occasions. The modest successes we have made would not have been possible without your support and encouragement.

Let me also use this medium to address the passing out cadets directly. You are set to join the ranks of Nigerians who continue to make enormous sacrifice in the service of the nation. You are indeed privileged. In the course of your training, you have demonstrated great resilience, strength of character, discipline and exemplary conduct which ensured you were found worthy to be commissioned as officers in the armed forces. As you leave this great institution, do remember that you will need these and many other qualities to scale the many challenges of the officers cadre and make a successful and fulfilling career in your chosen profession. The next few years would indeed be very challenging when your professional knowledge and leadership acumen as a junior commander would be greatly tested in view of the contemporary security challenges facing our country today. You would be required to put to good use what you have learnt in the academy. However, your conduct at all times must seek to uphold the time tested ideals and values of the military profession. As you pass out of this great institution, I enjoin you to be good ambassadors of the academy at all times. Your success today is the crowning glory of your past and present instructors and staff, who laboured in the past 5 years to make you fit for a presidential commission. The academy owes them a huge debt of gratitude. I therefore on behalf of the entire academy community thank them immensely for their services to the NDA.

Let me also thank the editorial crew of the Valiant for transforming the magazine within a relatively short time. You have indeed done well to promote the magazine which has led to its increased popularity and wider circulation. I urge you to maintain and even improve on the current standards in your next edition. We will continue to support the magazine so as to keep us informed, entertained, educated and enlightened.

Finally, let me once again join friends, families and well wishers to congratulate all the passing out cadets for their great achievement. I wish you all success in your career. Best of luck.

Emeka

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NDA KEY APPOINTMENTS



AVM AI Shehu
Deputy Commandant



Maj Gen CO Onwuamaegbu
NPOM GSS CMH FTAM psc(++) fndu
Commandant



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Ag Cadets Brigade Commander



Lt Col MI Abdulkadir
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Cdr MY Dahiru
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Wg Cdr DD Pwajok
Commanding Officer Dalet Bn



Lt Col DD Kurmi
Commanding Officer Ashanti Bn



Lt Col JA Abdullahi
Senior Instructor Army Wing



Lt Col AG Mahmuda
Senior Instructor Short Service Wing



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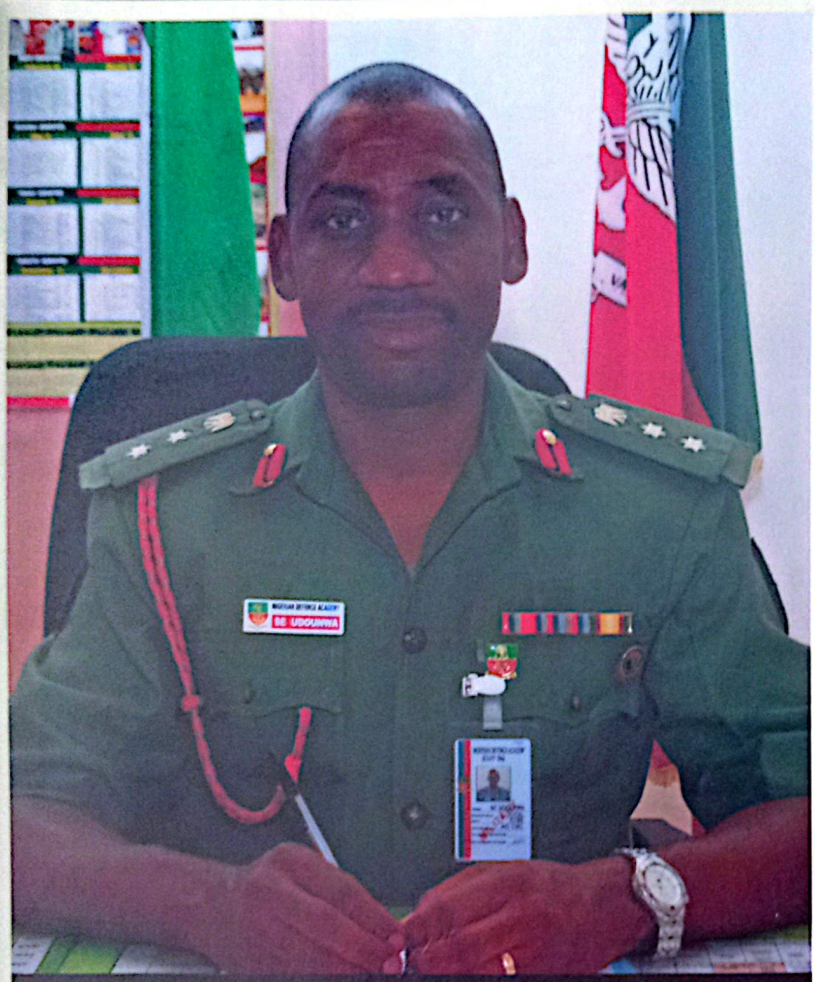
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FROM THE CHAIRMAN EDITORIAL BOARD



Col SE Udounwa MSS psc MDS LLM
Acting Cadets Brigade Commander

Dear Esteemed Reader,

Your favourite magazine the Valiant is here again, still basking in the euphoria that greeted the overwhelming acceptance of the last edition. Amazingly, over 1000 copies of the Valiant were snapped up by our avid readers within 30 minutes of hitting the news-stands, an average of 30 copies every minute or a copy every two seconds. What more can I say than a **"BIG THANK YOU"** for your support over the years.

The growing popularity of the Valiant is a product of our commitment to continuously improve on the magazine's content and print while retaining its editorial tradition as a cadets' magazine. Like past editions, the copy in your hand showcases articles by cadets mostly on cadets activities well packaged to inform, educate, entertain and enlighten our readers. It may interest you to know that, the Valiant has added more countries of destination in its international readership profile. From the Hellenic Republic of Greece to the far flung precincts of Australia; the flamboyant city of Paris to the conservative metropolis of London, the Valiant proudly found space on the desk of diplomats, military top brass, politicians and of course international cadets of other military academies. This would not have been possible but for commitment of all Valiant staff, the support of our readers, sponsors, advertising partners and most importantly our ever supportive publisher the Commandant of the Nigerian Defence Academy.

The Cadets Brigade is tasked with enormous responsibilities in the training and administration of officer cadets in the Nigerian Defence Academy. It plays important roles in the discipline, accommodation, welfare, kitting, feeding and counselling of cadets towards attaining the NDA mission of ***"providing each officer cadet with the knowledge, skills and values necessary to meet the requirement of the military officer through military training, academic excellence and character development"***. Our focus has remained to develop leadership qualities in our gentlemen cadets and mould their character to become excellent military leaders in our armed forces.

On arrival at the Academy, new cadets are received and documented by the Brigade before being assigned any of the 5 battalions namely; Abyssinia, Burma, Dalet and Mogadishu (for regular combatant cadets) and Ashanti (for Short Service and Direct Short Service cadets) battalions. Since the last edition, 83 new cadets of DSSC 20 have commenced training in the Academy. Another set of 175 regular combatant cadets of 63 RC (including 20 pioneer female cadets) will arrive the Academy come October 2011. I must at this point commend, the Commanding Officers, Staff Officers and indeed all personnel of the Cadets Brigade for their diligence and sacrifice towards ensuring that the best training and character development is given to the cadets.

This special edition of the Valiant is dedicated to the 203 officer cadets of 58 Regular Course who are passing out this September. The cadets have done themselves, their families and friends proud by withstanding the rigours of five years of intensive training in the Academy. We in the Cadets Brigade join others in congratulating the passing out cadets for this great achievement. We equally appreciate the sacrifice of all instructors and staff of the Academy who ensured that they were properly groomed to be good junior leaders in the field and excellent ambassadors of the NDA. To the passing out cadets, you must remain committed to the core values of the military profession as instilled into you during your stay with us. We wish you success in all your endeavours. For the remaining cadets, today's passing out ceremony should serve as a source of inspiration to you and encourage you to work harder for your own passing out at the appropriate time. I enjoin you to remain disciplined and focused on your training in the NDA.

Finally, I thank our numerous sponsors and partners who made it possible for the Valiant to once again grace the news-stands. May the Almighty bless you all abundantly.

Solomon

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