

Book Project on Military-Media Affairs

Call for Proposal

Force and Influence in Nigeria

Contrasting Rights, Disputing Logics and contesting truths

Despite all efforts to bring the Military institutions to terms with the Fourth Estate of the Realm (the Media), Military – Media relationship has continued to strained. The confrontations between the two institutions saddled with the unique responsibility of ensuring national security and patriotism have continued unabated. Yet, the two institutions represent the most important institutions as far as issue of national security is concerned. Perception of what constitutes national security appears to be the heart of the matter. While the Media believes **the right to know** ought to be the guiding principle behind national security, the Military believes **the need to know** should rather be the emphasis. Hence, the challenge appears to be how to balance the conservativeness of the Military with the libertarian nature of the Media especially as it regards to freedom of expression. In many instances, Media outlets in a competitive race in trying to outwit each other especially in breaking news, often times inadvertently, provide the enemies of the State with information that could hinder the military operations. The Military on the other hand, in ensuring information orderliness in the public space often put up what in certain quarters have been deemed an “overzealous reactions”, which often times have been adjudged to be detrimental to press freedom and safety of journalists. The real conflict notwithstanding always bothers on whether or not the reporting was constructive criticism or malicious attacks against the military institution. In the events where there has been coercive actions to restrain the media, the issues of press freedom, human rights, freedom of expression and the public right to know have always been on the front burners. Media often feel they are being hindered in their effort to report accurately if they will not be allowed to publish what they think the public ought to know. The military on the other hand, often feel betrayed that sensitive information that could jeopardize national security is being allowed to filter into the public space without adequate check and balances. This has called to question the social responsibility function of the Media and the military’s accountability to human rights and freedom of expression. Therefore, in light of national security, there is need to ponder on how should the Media deal with the public's right to know if that right to know can compromise national security? More so, how should the military accommodate the public’s right to know without putting its covert operations into jeopardy? How should the Military handle its information management in the emerging egalitarian society without infringing on press freedom? How can the Military relate with the Media in such a way that the public’s right to know is balance with the public’s need to know? Can we define an acceptable definition for what constitute national security in regards to information management? For the Fourth Estate of the Realm, how can the Media ensures national security through its social responsibility function in news reporting? In the midst of technological advances, how do the Media function as the principal means of getting credible stories to the public in times of conflict? How can journalists avoid the pitfall of giving “oxygen”

to the terrorists when reporting conflict sensitive stories? As historian Norman Graebner once said:

"A war that goes badly and is still pursued must become, by its very nature, a public relations war. If a war must be explained and defended every day of the week, one might as well drop it because the reasons for fighting and dying have to be more obvious than that".

Hence, in the light of the above considerations, there is need to review the past relationships between the military and the media since Nigeria's independence. Importantly, it has also become imperative that we consider how the military has been and can conduct its military operations in the age of social and digital media in a manner that will safeguard lives and protect the security of their operations while keeping the Nigerian public informed without trampling on their privacy and freedom of expression. This proposed book is meant to give adequate answers to all these mind boggling issues and questions. As a result, the book has been divided into four sections.

First section addresses the historical context and praxis of Military-Media relationship in Nigeria. In this section, it is expected that historical analysis of media-military relationship will be explored and expounded with the aim of establishing the root cause of military-media strained relationship.

The second section aims to deal with the environment that determines the nature of media-military relationship in Nigeria. In this section, authors are advised to explore the constitutional provision, the military structures for managing information, media modes of operations, the prevailing political climate, the media ownership structures, the regulatory bodies, media laws and other external forces such as the influence of international media, interest of foreign governments, the intervention and activities of civil organizations and human right bodies.

The third section intends to deal with actions of military in controlling the information space and the subsequent reactions of the media, their internal mechanism for responding and managing information, the series of court injunctions and judgments, effectiveness of the rule of law, the media resilience, and the military's inform and influence operations etc.

The fourth section deals with several interventions, impact and influence of information management influencers such as the relevant professional associations, the academics, media education and trainings, military-media outreach initiatives in managing military-media edgy relationship.

The fifth sections deals with impact of technology and their consequent information disorders. In this section, it is expected authors illustrate the role of citizens journalists, the social media influencers, the online media, the online stakeholders, the artificial intelligence, the social media platforms in shaping the media space narratives and how this portends danger to military operations and national security especially the phenomenon of fake news, hate speech and other

vices. The issue of press freedom and freedom of expression and its likely effect on national security are meant to be explored under this section.

Hence, potential authors are expected to submit a proposed chapter in line with the topics listed below:

- A Historical background of Military-Media relations in Nigeria
- Appraisal of Nigeria Military Public Relations: Roles, Structures and Performance
- Military, Media, National security and the Nigerian Constitution
- Military and the media rule of engagement in a democratic society
- Military and the media laws in Nigeria
- Press Freedom, Freedom of Information and National security: Misconceptions, Truth and Perceptions
- Tackling the Information Disorders: The role of Military, Media and Citizens
- Influence of Media Reporting on Military operations in Nigeria
- Prospects and Challenges of Embedded Journalism in Nigeria
- The role of Military-Media relations in Nation building: Structures, forms and contents
- A critical review of Nigerian Army social media handles and contents
- Media Portrayal of Nigerian Military operations
- Review of the impact of Nigerian Military-Media outreaches
- Defence Correspondence and the Nigerian Military: Lesson learned
- Role of Media in National Security: A call to public interest Journalism
- Citizens journalists, Online media and the National Security issues
- Social Media, Online Influencers and the question of national security
- Challenges of fake news, hate speech, cheap fake and deep fake on national security
- Freedom of Expression and social responsibility – defining the ethical boundary
- Military and media education in Nigeria – the Media and Information Literacy option
- Critical Appraisal of International and foreign media on Nigerian Military perception
- Artificial intelligence, Robotics, Military and the mass media
- Military, Media and Strategic Communication: Understanding the Information Psychological Warfare
- Understanding the Military and the Media information management Mindset
- Media options for Nigerian Military in the 21st century: What alternatives
- Conceptualizing military – media relations in Nigeria: An appraisal of Normative theories of the Press
- Review of Public relations associations on Military-Media relations in Nigeria: Any rub off?
- Role of Media Schools and Media Scholars in managing the military-media conflict in Nigeria
- Concept of Combat Journalism in Media- Military relationship
- Any other Related topics

Submission Guidelines:

1. Interested authors should submit topic and an abstract / proposal (not more than 300 words) by June 15th, 2021
2. Authors with accepted abstracts / proposal will be notified by June 30th, 2021.
3. Authors with accepted abstract / proposal are expected to send their completed chapter of not more than 7,000 words together with the references by **September 29, 2021.**
4. *Completed chapter* should consist of name, institutional affiliation and contact details of author(s) and paper title.
5. A brief profile of the author is required and should be submitted at the same time with the completed chapter
6. All written work should be on Times New Roman (12) font size and double line spacing.
7. Final chapter submission should be written following the APA style (7th edition) with author's name, title and institution.

Submission of topics and proposals - June 15, 2021.

Notification of accepted abstract and proposal – June 30th, 2021

The deadline for a completed chapter submission – September 29, 2021

Notification of Peer Review of accepted chapter – October, 15, 2021.

The deadline for submission of corrected version – October 30, 2021

Final Publication date – Dec 5, 2021

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All correspondence and abstract / proposal should be sent to the under listed:

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