

## Exploring the Collaboration in Capacity Building between the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), the International Civil Defence Organisation (ICDO) and the Nigerian Military, 2003–2023

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### **Abstract**

The Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), from 2003 to 2023, enjoyed collaborations in manpower development and capacity building trainings from various national and international institutions, both governmental and non-governmental, such as the International Civil Defence Organisation (ICDO) and the Nigerian Military. The organisation started in Nigeria during the Nigerian Civil War as a volunteer organisation, and has over the years metamorphosed into a full-fledged paramilitary organisation. It works in collaboration with other security outfits to keep national peace and to secure the lives and properties of citizens. Despite the good works of the NSCDC, there is a dearth of scholarly works carried out in the area of its collaborations, training and capacity building. This paper examines some of these collaborations, capacity building cum trainings in man-power development and their importance to the organisation. It examines the sustainability, stability and continuity of these trainings and how to cascade it down to the officers. The findings in this study reveal that there is a generation of officers who got a lot of training and another that does not even know that such opportunities for training exist, a knowledge gap which this paper intends to fill. This study used both quantitative and qualitative research approaches through primary and secondary sources for data collection. The findings in this study reveal the role which training plays in the development of capacity in officers, its challenges and the way forward for the NSCDC.

**Keywords:** Collaborations, Capacity Building, Trainings, Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), International Civil Defence Organisation (ICDO), Nigerian Military

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## **Introduction**

Since the establishment of the paramilitary outfit called, the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), its officers have enjoyed different forms of training over the years as confirmed by a reasonable number of them. This work is an assessment of the collaboration in capacity building between the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), the International Civil Defence Organisation (ICDO) and the Nigerian Military from 2003 to 2023. This study examined some of the collaborations and relationships that have, over the years, contributed to the growth, development and human capacity building of the NSCDC, alongside organisations which include the ICDO, the Nigerian Military and some others. These trainings have been in disaster management, rescue operations, conflict resolution, drills, weapon handling, regimentation, the development of curriculum, inter agency collaboration and others.

## **Historical Overview of the NSCDC**

The NSCDC was established in Lagos State, Nigeria, on the 23rd of May, 1967, during the Nigerian Civil War (Abolurin, 2006). It started as the Lagos Civil Defence Committee (LCDC), and was fundamentally saddled with the responsibility of enlightenment and sensitisation of the civil populace on measures to employ to safeguard their lives and properties during the Civil War. The Lagos Civil Defence Committee went around the city, discouraging people, most especially children, from picking up objects along the streets, as these could be explosives or unexploded ordinances (UXO) dropped by the enemies (Abolurin, 2006). They also sent out warning notes and radio jingles on how people should behave or/and react in case of an explosion or bomb blast. A little after the Civil War, its primary objective was to provide security and protection for designated government infrastructures and installations in Lagos State. In 1970, the Federal Government of Nigeria expanded the scope of the LCDC to cover the entire country with the mandate to protect it from both external and internal threats.

By 1984, the LCDC was further restructured and, through the Charter of April 6, 1986, was renamed the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), further giving expansion to the scope of work assigned to it, planting and rooting it in other states, also, giving it jurisdiction to establish Command and Divisional offices, hence the justification for the change of name. By August 25th of the same year, the NSCDC was published in the official gazette, No. 42 Lagos Vol. 73 page 1015 (Title of Ministry of Internal Affairs No 21) (Abolurin, 2006). The gazette was backed up with a Presidential Directive through its letter number, GHQ/OGS/971 of 22nd February, 1988. This granted the NSCDC formal recognition and it was assigned more national responsibilities (Abolurin, 2006).

The promulgation of the NSCDC Act No. 2 of 2003 and Amended Act of June 4, 2007, made it a full-fledged paramilitary agency of the Federal Government of Nigeria, during the administration of President Olusegun Obasanjo, under the then Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs, now Ministry of Interior, and given the mandate to provide security and protection for

critical national assets, which include oil pipelines, refineries, electrical generation and transmission plants and other critical national assets and infrastructures. It is worthy of note that it is also the sole duty of the NSCDC to register, train and monitor all Private Guard Companies (PGC) in Nigeria (Abolurin, 2006).

The NSCDC has played a vital role in maintaining peace and security in Nigeria, especially during times of crisis and in emergency situations. The agency has also been involved in Disaster Management, Conflict Management and Conflict Resolution both within and outside Nigeria. It is working in collaboration, cooperation and sometimes in coordination with other agencies like the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), the Correctional Services, the Nigeria Immigration Services, the Nigerian Custom Service, the NDLEA, the Nigerian Police and others. The NSCDC is in joint task forces (JTFs) with the Nigerian Military, taking supportive roles in the fight against terrorism and insurgency in the North-East, North-West, combating oil bunkering, crude oil theft in the South-South and safeguarding lives and properties all over the Federation. (CG (Rtd) Abdullahi Gana Muhammad, personal communication, April 9, 2025).

### **The ICDO and the Capacity Building of the NSCDC**

The ICDO has provided training and capacity building to the NSCDC, “you will not value Civil Defence in Nigeria unless you attend the yearly general meetings and see the countries present, not less than sixty countries usually. When you go to Qatar, or to Russia, for example in Russia, they have Ministry of Civil Defence, they have the University of Civil Defence. In Qatar 2017, I was surprised when I went to their Civil Defence Office, it is bigger than our Federal Secretariat, the Clinic alone is bigger than our NHQ. Then I went to their air fleet, it was well established and ready for its international mandate”. (CG (Rtd) Abdullahi Gana Muhammad, personal communication, April 9, 2025).

So, the ICDO has provided training, capacity building as well as technical assistance to the NSCDC in the areas of Disaster Preparedness and Response (DPR). (WHO, n.d.) The ICDO also helped to develop the NSCDC’s risk assessment and mitigation strategies. All of these efforts have helped to improve the NSCDC’s ability to respond effectively to disasters and to protect the lives and property of the Nigerian citizens.

The ICDO’s support has been particularly crucial in the areas of search, rescue and disaster risk reduction. ICDO has helped the NSCDC in the development of Disaster Management Plans. In 2009, ICDO worked with the NSCDC to develop its first ever National Disaster Management Plan. This plan was developed in line with the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA), which is the global strategy for disaster risk reduction. (The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA), 2005 to 2015). The plan outlined the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders in disaster risk management, and also included specific actions and measures for reducing disaster risks in Nigeria. Since then, the ICDO has continued to support the NSCDC in updating and

implementing the plan. This has helped the NSCDC to develop disaster management plans for various hazards, including floods, fires, and earthquakes or earth trauma as have been experienced twice in Mpape, Abuja, FCT. (YouTube News Central TV, 2024). These plans are designed to ensure that the NSCDC is prepared to respond to disasters in an effective and coordinated manner.

In training and capacity building, the ICDO began providing both to the NSCDC since 2002. The first training programme was on Disaster Risk Reduction, and it was held in Abuja, Nigeria. Since then, the ICDO has conducted a number of training programmes for the NSCDC including in 2009, covering various topics as mentioned earlier. The ICDO has also provided mentorship and support for the NSCDC in order to help it improve on performance and efficiency, nationally and internationally, in multiple dimensions, including subjects related to health, first aid, and psychological first aid for the mental wellbeing of the officers. This has helped to improve the operational capabilities of the NSCDC.

Provision of technical assistance is another area in which the ICDO is helping the NSCDC, with technics such as risk mapping, damage assessment, and information management. This has built the NSCDC to improve its operational capabilities. The NSCDC has been a part of the fight against insurgency in the North-East; it has also collaborated with other security agencies in the rehabilitation of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the North-East in 2016 (Alao, 2017). There are records as was noted in Borno State where the Command deployed about six hundred officers to various places of worship in Maiduguri to guarantee that worshippers and their belongings are safe during the month of Ramadan. (Daily Post Nigeria, 2017). The NSCDC has thrived and is better prepared for future emergencies and disasters.

The ICDO has facilitated the exchange of information and best practices between the NSCDC and other National Civil Defence organisations around the world. This has helped the NSCDC to learn from the experiences of other countries and improve its own operations with Support for Disaster Preparedness Campaign, an initiative of the ICDO which has supported the NSCDC and made it a stakeholder, eligible to also get help from other ICDO members in the Continent of Africa and even intercontinental, putting Nigeria in the place of global prominence. There is also provision of equipment and training to NSCDC. In 2008, the ICDO donated disaster management equipment to the NSCDC, including vehicles, ambulances, and a range of communication gadgets to improve its operational capabilities. Additionally, there were Mobile Command and Control Vehicles, these are equipped with satellite communications, command and control software, allowing the NSCDC to effectively manage its response to disasters from a central command post. (CG (Rtd) Dr Ade John, Abolurin, personal communication, April 10, 2024).

The ICDO provided the NSCDC with specialised Search and Rescue equipment, such as all-terrain vehicles, special ropes, harnesses, and rescue vests. The ICDO has also trained NSCDC personnel to put to effective use all the equipment provided. (CG (Rtd) Dr Ade John, Abolurin, personal communication, April 10, 2024). In addition, the ICDO worked

with the NSCDC to develop a disaster management plan specifically for Nigeria. The ICDO support is crucial, helping the NSCDC carry out its mandate of protecting the lives and properties of Nigerians. In 2007, there was a training at the ICDO Regional Headquarters in Egypt on Bomb Disposal and Identification of IED Materials. The training was attended by two batches of ten officers each. (CC Muslimah Malomo, personal communication, February 5, 2025). Two hundred others were trained in Belarus, Ukraine, Russia, Jordan, Burkina Faso, Swaziland, Pakistan, Azerbaijan, Cameroon, and Senegal making a total of two hundred and twenty personnel. Also, the ICDO donated two forty feet containers loaded with Disaster Management Equipment to the NSCDC shortly before the expiration of the administration of the penultimate leader of the NSCDC, Dr Ade Abolurin, in 2008, and the second donation was in 2010. (ACG Obasa Ayodeji, personal communication, February 2, 2024).

The ICDO has supported the NSCDC through the Directorates of Operations, Crisis Management and the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive (CBRN) Department, by training most of the specialist officers of the NSCDC, most especially in Belarus and Russia. (ACG Obasa Ayodeji, personal communication, February 2, 2024). There was a Special Weapon, Tactical Combat and VIP Protection Training, in Ayelet Hashahar, Israel in 2010 and Countering Violent Extremism / Community Policing in the West Africa Regional Centre Accra, Ghana in October 2017. (CC Adeoye Gideon Ishola, personal communication, January 31, 2024). During the time of Retired CG Abdullahi Gana Muhammad, every year the USA offered the NSCDC trainings in the International Law Enforcement Agency Institute Roswell, New Mexico. There was also a training in West Virginia, USA. At least ten officers benefited annually until 2019 when the NSCDC stopped taking advantage of the training. (ACG Obasa Ayodeji, personal communication, February 2, 2024). There were also manpower development trainings and collaborations with Germany and France. It must be noted that all of these trainings were fully sponsored and funded by the ICDO, but the NSCDC would not nominate officers to attend such training. (ACG Obasa Ayodeji, personal communication, February 2, 2024). In November 2019, there was a training on Hazard First Responder, by the United Nations Mines Action Service (UNMAS) with thirty officers in attendance. The Humanitarian Assistance in West Africa Training of Trainers (HAWAToT) was in September 2021, the Electoral Violence and Security Course in 2018 and the Hostile Environment Awareness Training Courses (HEAT) by Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre, Accra, Ghana in October, 2023. (SC Adah Emmanuel U, personal communication, April 30, 2024)

### **The Nigerian Military and the Training of the Officers of the NDCDC**

The Nigerian Military, particularly the Nigerian Army, has invested a wealth of experience into the NSCDC, for example, NSCDC on the 4th of June to the 4th of July, 2004, attended a Drill Instructors Course with nineteen personnel in training at the 72 Paratrooper Battalion Nigerian Army in Makurdi, Benue state. This training gave birth to the first set of seasoned

Drill Instructors for the NSCDC, who over the years have trained more instructors. (DSC Mbatsav. V. Sabastine, personal communication, January 15, 2025). In 2011, two hundred and forty eight personnel (58 males and 198 females) attended a training at the Martin Luther Agwai International Leadership and Peace Keeping Training Centre (MLAILPKC), Armed Forces Command and Staff College, Jaji, Kaduna State for the first time (CSC Adediran Adeyemi David, personal communication, January 30, 2025), and many others are still being trained by the Centre, in Courses such as Leadership, Basic Human Right, Disarmament Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR), Comprehensive Protection of Civilians 36/24, Civil Military Coordination, Peace Keeping and so on. (ASCII, Jimoh Faruk Toyin, personal communication, March 18, 2025).

Forty-two officers attended both the Junior Division (JD 31) and Senior Division (SD 11) Courses for the very first time in 2013 (CSC Adediran Adeyemi David, personal communication, January 30, 2025), since then, the NSCDC has been represented continuously at both the JD and the SD Courses at the Armed Forces Command and Staff College (AFCSC), Jaji, Kaduna. The Joint and Multi-Agency Training on Internal Security and Low Intensity Conflict Exercise - Haske Biyu is another intensive training by the Nigerian Military. In 2015, the Exercise admitted, for the first time, sixty-six officers of the NSCDC at the Armed Forces Command and Staff College, Jaji, Kaduna. The collaboration, relationship and partnership have never stopped since then. (CSC Adediran Adeyemi David, personal communication, January 30, 2025)

From the 17th of May to the 7th of June, 2013, officers attended the Basic Counter Terrorism Course at the Nigerian Army Training Centre, Kontagora, Niger State, by five hundred personnel, with the ten most outstanding joining the Special Forces in the same year, part of those mentioned above. Again in 2017, some officers attended the International Security Training Course at the 7 Guards Battalion Lungi Barracks, Maitama Abuja. (CSC Mohammed D Manga, personal communication, February 15, 2025). Almost all of the officers who attended these trainings and courses are instructors, they established the Drill and Regimentation Units and some also work in the seven Colleges and Academies of the NSCDC.

In 2012, three hundred NSCDC personnel went for Arms Training at the Nigeria Army Engineering Regiment, Ede, Osun State. (ACG Dr Hammed Abodunrin, personal communication, January 10, 2025). Also a course for Special Forces and Counter Terrorism in Kachia, Kaduna State. (CSC Mohammed D Manga, personal communication, February 15, 2025). In 2013, there was Basic Weapon Arms Handling at the 177 Guard Battalion Keffi, Nasarawa State, 72 Battalion Markudi, Benue State, Chari Magumeri Barracks, Lokoja, Kogi State and yet another Weapon Handling training in 2018, at Chari Magumeri Barracks, Lokoja, Kogi State. Interview with (CSC Yakubu Haruna, personal communication, February 5, 2025). In 2017, two hundred and seventy personnel went for Arms Training, Special Task Force Codenamed Operation Safe Haven in Jos, Plateau State. (ACG Dr Hammed Abodunrin, personal communication, January 10, 2025). When it comes to trainings

in Weapon Handling, the various State Commands worked with some Military Formations to get training for officers of the Corps, who will eventually train others in the NSCDC.

The Nigeria Army Resource Centre, Abuja, has been training the officers of the NSCDC in Professional Conflict Management and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), the training comes up from time to time. (ACC Abdulkadir Umar PhD, personal interview, December 10, 2024). Twenty officers in April 2022, in Maiduguri, Borno State, received training for Law Enforcement Officers on Human Rights, Humanitarian Law, Gender and Sexual Based Violence by Regional Stabilisation Facility. (DCC Habila Njida Madanda, personal communication, February 11, 2025). Also, in 2021, some officers were trained at the Centre for Strategic Research and Studies, National Defence College Abuja on Gender Training for Security Sector Institutions and Academies. The officers were introduced to Gender Mainstreaming and were to return to their various institutions to replicate the same knowledge. This training had all the security agencies in Nigeria, including the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) in attendance. This training was repeated on the 4th and 5th of March, 2025 at the Dr Ade Abolurin Auditorium, NSCDC NHQ, Abuja. The Training was titled: Gender Mainstreaming in Security Training: Equipping NSCDC Trainers for Integration. At the training, the Gender Policy for the NSCDC was reintroduced to the NSCDC. (ACC Olaina-Ladokun Grace Abosede, personal communication, April 11, 2025).

The Army School of Physical Training (ASPT) Depot, Zaria, Kaduna, gave the Sport officers of NSCDC a BASICS ASPT Course from January to April, the INTERMEDIATE ASPT Course from May to August and the ADVANCE ASPT Course from September to December, 2024. (DSC Olaina Williams Babatunde, personal communication, November 14, 2024). It was the maiden Intensive Physical Training that involved Drills, Weapon Handling and all forms of fitness and physical exercises. All the officers are in their various State Commands, training other officers of the NSCDC. (DSC Olaina Williams Babatunde, personal communication, November 14, 2024).

There was a training on Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (Drone) Course by Nigeria Army, UAV Command, Maimalari Barracks, Borno State in June 2022, ten NSCDC personnel attended, also Internal Security/Low Intensity Conflict Operations Course at the Armed Forces Command and Staff College, Jaji, in April 2017, ten officers were trained. There was a Joint and Integrated Operations Planning Course at the Defence Intelligence Centre, Karu, Nasarawa State, in November 2018, where six personnel were trained. (DCC Habila Njida Madanda, personal communication, February 11, 2025).

The Senior Officers of the NSCDC are being trained by the National Defence College, Abuja, Nigeria, in Higher Military Defence and Strategic Studies annually for career progression. (ACG Dr Hammed Abodunrin, personal communication, January 10, 2025).

There is also, the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS), Kuru, Jos and the National Institute for Security Studies (NISS) Bwari, Abuja which has trained countless

number of officers at the top echelon and management level of the NSCDC. (CG (Rtd) Abdullahi Gana Muhammad, personal communication, April 9, 2025).

The Peace and Conflict Resolution (PCR) Department of the NSCDC was established in 2010, the history of the NSCDC will not be complete without the mention of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) which was brought into collaboration and partnership with the NSCDC through this department since 2013. The UNDP, for over two decades, has trained NSCDC officers, in Conflict Management and Peace Building. Today in 2025, all four hundred and seventy seven Divisional Offices of the NSCDC have a PCR Unit where Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR), most especially Mediation, is offered as a mechanism for Conflict Resolution to willing disputants or parties to a conflict accordingly as stated in section (u) subsection (vi) of the NSCDC 2007 Amendment Act, which states that, NSCDC “has the power to arrange and mediate in settlement of disputes among willing members of the public”. (NSCDC, n.d.; Matthew Alao, personal communication, February 19, 2025). Also, Section 1 subsection (a) states that the Corps has the power to “assist in the maintenance of peace and order and in the protection and rescuing of the civil population during the period of emergency”. (NSCDC, n.d.; Takwa Zebulon, personal communication, February 19, 2025).

Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) is a German Organisation, that is also worthy of mention in this work. It has been in collaboration with NSCDC since 2014 and has trained about four thousand officers on the use of the ADR spectrum for conflict management, peace building. (Samson Adeniran, personal communication, December 12, 2024). KAS has also contributed to the development of man-power development and capacity building of the officers of the NSCDC in the area of curriculum development for the seven Academies and Colleges of the NSCDC which are: The College of Security Management, Abeokuta, Ogun State, established in 2005, the Civil Defence Academy, Abuja, established in 2007, the College of Peace and Disaster Management, Katsina, established in 2011, the NSCDC Training School, Oji-River, Enugu State, established in 2013, the College of Amphibious, Bayelsa State, established in 2018, the NSCDC Command and Staff College, Plateau State, established in 2021 and the College of Weaponry, Tactical and Support Services, Nasarawa State, established also in 2021. (Adediran Adeyemi David, personal communication, January 30, 2025). The training manuals are developed and facilitated by Prof Tajudeen Akanji of Security Studies, Institute for Peace and Strategic Studies, University of Ibadan and Dr Uju Agomoh. (Prof Tajudeen Akanji, personal communication, February 13, 2025; Dr Uju Agomoh, personal communication, August 23, 2024).

### **Achievements of Collaborations on the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC)**

It is obvious that the NSCDC has lived up to expectation when it comes to the training and capacity building of its officers as it collaborates with national and international organisations

like the ICDO and the Nigerian military. This is a great achievement in addition to carrying out its mandate undeniably in providing safety of lives and security for both private and government properties. The NSCDC keeps demonstrating high level of professionalism and civility in service delivery, thanks to training, retraining, collaboration, manpower development and capacity building. Successes and achievements have been recorded in many other areas.

“Talking about achievements, when I went to Qatar for a meeting in 2018, after our briefs, the NSCDC was rated the 5th of all countries in the whole world which is a plus for us, because we have never been mentioned or rated before.”  
(CG (Rtd) Abdullahi Gana Muhammad, personal communication, April 9, 2025).

“I will go back to the time I went to Geneva for the meeting of ICDO in 2019, I had one of the shockers of my life. I was in a hurry to go and meet someone and they announced that after the meeting, there will be an award ceremony, where a few people will be honoured, just one or two people, so I was shocked when I heard “CG Civil Defence Nigeria, Abdullahi Gana for establishing Agro Rangers!” it was a great recognition for Nigeria and indeed the NSCDC.”

(CG (Rtd) Abdullahi Gana Muhammad, personal communication, April 9, 2025).

Even though the NSCDC has not started going for Peacekeeping and Peace Enforcement as a mission, the paramilitary outfit is involved in the use of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADRs) spectrum or mechanisms in the management of conflicts. The NSCDC has played a fundamental role in resolving inter personal, communal, organisational conflicts and has also superintended in maintaining peace in various parts of the country, sometimes coordinating or in collaboration with other security agencies most especially the Nigerian Military through its Civil Military programmes.

The NSCDC has made efforts and contributed to the fight against terrorism, insurgency, banditry and other forms of criminality predominantly in the North-Eastern Region of the nation Nigeria through the Counter-Terrorism Department. The NSCDC has been a part of so many Joint Task Forces (JTF) with the Nigerian Army, Nigerian Navy, the Nigerian Police, and others, playing a collaborative role in the security architecture of Nigeria. (ACG David I. Ojelabi PhD, personal communication, February 5, 2025).

The NSCDC, since its inception during the Nigerian Civil War, has been in the business of sensitisation, enlightenment and creating social stability through public awareness campaigns and outreach programmes. The NSCDC is constantly engaging with local communities and local vigilante groups in the area of security and intelligence gathering and also in promoting peace in the society. The NSCDC is constantly interfacing with the public through the Peace and PCR, Private Guard Company (PGC), Safe School Initiative, Public Relations and other Departments of the Corps. Sensitisation and Community Engagement is one of the main and core mandate of this security outfit. (ACG Lawal Muktar mni, personal communication, January 22, 2025)

Training, partnerships, capacity building and manpower development are the foundation on which the NSCDC as an organisation stands and it places premium on its officers and other ranks. One of the ways this is shown is by training and retraining. The NSCDC has invested in collaborations, training, capacity building, man-power development, partnerships and programmes, both nationally and internationally, for its personnel, enhancing their knowledge, skills, expertise and experience. This helps some of these officers stand shoulder to shoulder with their counterparts, not forgetting that a lot of them were very erudite even before joining the Corps. (ACC Attah Enemohi Victor, personal communication, January 22, 2025).

“I did a lot of local training, in the history of NSCDC, I was the first person to organise a basic training for 6 months in arms, I sent more than four thousand of my men to Civil Defence College, Katsina where they were trained, everywhere they go, they were called then ‘Gana boys’, it is a unique way to be remembered”. (CG (Rtd) Abdullahi Gana Muhammad, personal communication, April 9, 2025).

The Protection of Critical National Assets and Infrastructure is the core mandate and area of strength for the NSCDC, as it is empowered to protect critical national assets and national infrastructure. It has successfully protected pipelines, power installations, and other critical national assets from vandalism and sabotage, a role it also plays in collaboration, cooperation and, in some cases, coordination, according to the NSCDC Amended Act of 2007. (Ahmed Abubakar Audi, PhD, mni, OFR, personal communication, April 15, 2025).

The role of the NSCDC in anti-vandalism is a key mandate which the Corps has carried out with show of full capability, with great results recorded to its credit. The NSCDC has carried out its role through media campaigns, public enlightenment and orientation, uncovering vandals’ activities and arresting them, carrying out susceptibility test and threat analysis, planning, preparedness and rescue mission where necessary. (Alao, 2017).

### **The Challenges of Collaboration between the NSCDC, the ICDO and the Nigerian Military.**

“The NSCDC needs to pay up on its annual dues, it is owing an outrageous outstanding amount. Since this administration came on board, they have not paid annual dues and before Dr. Ade Abolurin left, we were owing the ICDO. Abdullahi Gana tried to pay some of it, which ran into thousands in Euros when he was the CG and we have accumulated a lot of outstanding and if we do not clear these arrears, it might affect our membership status, we might be relegated to observer status, therefore, we may stop getting the benefits of full membership.” (ACG Obasa Ayodeji, personal communication, February 2, 2024; CG (Rtd) Dr Ade John, Abolurin, personal communication, April 10, 2024).

“You can ask around, there was a time we went for a meeting in Algiers and I saw the NSCDC on the list of organisations owing the ICDO dues, I had to go to my account to withdraw some Euros to pay part of our dues, so that our name can be removed from the list of debtors. Immediately I came back to Nigeria, I left the office and up till now, I have not been paid back. The receipt was given to the present CG to work on since 2021 and he is still working on it, but I am sure that it is still the same challenge, if we put anything, they will remove it as far as it is not in the budget originally, and if it is not, the CG cannot pay, but I am sure he is working on it”. (CG (Rtd) Abdullahi Gana Muhammad, personal communication, April 9, 2025).

There is also a fundamental challenge with Counterpart funding in the NSCDC, as bureaucratic bottle necks and lack of political will makes it difficult for the organisation to fund its part of agreements reached with other organisations. There were a lot of trainings and courses by the Nigerian Army and other organisations that required counterpart funding and the NSCDC was noncompliant. (ACG David I. Ojelabi PhD, mni, fspsp, personal communication, February 5, 2025). Dr Ade Abolurin started the process of deploying officers to Geneva, but unfortunately, that process was aborted as soon as he left office. Dr. Ade Abolurin, because of his immense contribution and commitment to the ideals of the ICDO, he was actually offered an appointment to be first African Secretary General of the ICDO, an offer he humbly declined. In spite of his refusal, he was still made the Vice President of the ICDO General Assembly, a position he held from 2010-2014" (ACG Obasa Ayodeji, personal communication, February 2, 2024), after him, the NSCDC lost that opportunity, as none after him has been offered that position.

The immediate past CG of NSCDC, Abdullahi Gana Muhammadu, built on most of the legacies of Dr. Ade Abolurin by taking the relationship with the ICDO to a new level. He attended all the ICDO functions and events during his tenure, the Corps enjoyed more training and capacity building courses from the ICDO. In 2018, the French government sent a training team to the Corps to train our CBRN Unit on Explosive Ordnance Devices, this was facilitated by the ICDO. He initiated the process of establishing an International Civil Defence Organisation Training Centre in Nigeria which will ultimately be the training hub for African Civil Defence Institutions, this never happened. (ACG Obasa Ayodeji, personal communication, February 2, 2024)

“Right now, it is pertinent to state unfortunately, the NSCDC and indeed Nigeria is one of the few countries that are not represented at the ICDO Headquarters in Geneva, the Corps does not have its personnel deployed to the Secretariat.” (ACG Obasa Ayodeji, personal communication, February 2, 2024).

“The importance of having personnel at the ICDO Headquarters cannot be overemphasised, this will go a long way in enhancing bilateral or/and multilateral agreements and relationship with the ICDO, other international institutions and development partners. This, of course, will

attract a lot of benefits for the Corps and Nigeria as a whole but it is not so. The NSCDC has limited international recognition, in spite of being a member of the ICDO, it faces the challenges of gaining full international recognition and support.” (ACG Obasa Ayodeji, personal communication, February 2, 2024)

There are opportunities for international training, man-power development and international collaborations, unfortunately such opportunities are allowed to waste. The NSCDC has the challenge of funding, inadequate funding or funding constraints, which is a major issue affecting the Corps in the area of training, operational efficiency and service delivery. (CG (Rtd) Dr Ade John, Abolurin, personal communication, April 10, 2024; CG (Rtd) Abdullahi Gana Muhammad, personal communication, April 9, 2025; Ahmed Abubakar Audi, PhD, mni, OFR, personal communication, April 15, 2025).

### Conclusion

The ICDO, the Nigerian Military, and some other organisations, have done well with the capacity building and training of officers in NSCDC, but much still needs to be done in the area of exchange programmes, secondments, foreign education programmes, operational and strategic trainings for officers, with the NSCDC seizing every opportunity, most of which are presented on a ‘Platter of Gold’ pro-bono. Most literature reviews discuss some aspects of NSCDC, but are silent on contribution(s) with the ICDO, the Nigerian Army and other national and international organisation on its training and the development of its operational capabilities through collaborations and partnerships. Isafiade Adewale Adebiyi a Deputy Commandant of Corps (DCC), who joined the NSCDC as a volunteer, attested to a training by the Nigerian Army in 1998 at Area 10 Parade Ground, Abuja (DCC Isafiade Adewale Adebiyi, personal communication, November 9, 2024), also, Gideon Adeoye Ishola a Commandant of Corps (CC), who also joined the NSCDC as a volunteer on the 18th of June, 1998, attested to have been trained by the Nigerian Army in Sobi Barrack in Ilorin, Kwara State, (CC Adeoye Ishola Gideon, personal communication, January 31, 2024), this was way before 2003, when NSCDC became a full-fledged paramilitary agency.

Contrary to popular opinion, the collaboration and relationship within the NSCDC, ICDO and the Nigerian Military has a history, and it is not parasitic, but symbiotic, in the sense that all the organisations gain from such collaborations, the net effect of which has considerably improved the capacity of the NSCDC and the personnel in the use of modern equipment in building the security architecture of Nigeria. There are testaments and proofs that ICDO and NSCDC have a strong affiliation, that the organisations have worked hand in hand with the Nigerian Military providing fundamental trainings to the NSCDC, making it an agency that enjoys and will continue to enjoy the full support in man-power development, trainings, capacity building and collaborations with the ICDO, the Nigerian Military, as well as other national and international organisations.

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SN	Persons interviewed	Age	Rank	Designation	Place of Interview	Date of Interview
1.	<u>Abdulkadir Alao Sulu</u>	59	ACG	Chemical biological Radiological Nuclear and Explosive.	National headquarters Abuja	9 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
2.	<u>Abdulkadir Umar</u>	45	ACC	Adin Officer	NHQ, Abuja	10 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2024
3.	<u>Abdullahi Gana Muhammad</u>	63	Rtd CG	Former Commandant General, NSCDC	Oke-Agbe, Garki II, Abuja.	9 <sup>th</sup> April 2025.
4.	ADAH Emmanuel U	43	SC	Officer	Anti-Human Trafficking, Irregular Migration and other Related Matters, NHQ	30 <sup>th</sup> April 2024
5.	<u>Adaralewa Michael Akintayo</u>	57	ACG	Osun State Commandant now ACG Crisis Management Directorate	Crisis Management Directorate, NHQ, Abuja.	2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2024
6.	<u>Adediran Adeyemi David</u>	43	CSC	Staff Officer to the State Commandant	Lagos State Command	30 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2025
7.	<u>Adeoye Ishola Gideon</u>	55	CC	Commandant Pension	NSCDC NHQ, Abuja	31 <sup>st</sup> Jan 2024
8.	<u>Ahmed Abubakar Audi, PhD, mni, OFR</u>	57	CG	Present Commandant General	National headquarters Abuja	15 <sup>th</sup> April 2025
9.	<u>Attah Enemohi Victor</u>	45	ACC	Department Of Training And Manpower Development	NHQ, Abuja	22 <sup>nd</sup> Jan 2025

10	<u>Avodele Obasa</u>	54	ACG	ACG Anti-Vandal	NHQ Abuja	2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb 2024
11	<u>Avuba Musa Ngadina</u>	46	SC	Special Forces	Civil Defence Academy (CDA), Sauka, Abuja	4 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2025
12	<u>David I. Ojelabi PhD, mni, fspsp</u>	55	ACG	ACG Operations	NHQ, Abuja	5 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2024
13	<u>Dr Hammed Abodunrin</u>	58	ACG	Commandant Safe School.	Crisis Management Department NHQ, Abuja	10 Jan 2025
14	<u>Dr Ade John Abolurin</u>	69	Rtd CG	Former Commandant General, NSCDC	Abeokuta, Ogun State	10 <sup>th</sup> April 2024
15	<u>Dr Uju Agomoh</u>	50+	Executive Director	Dr/ Facilitator Konrad Adenauer Stiftung	Prisons Rehabilitation and Welfare Action (PRAWA)	23 Aug 2024
16	<u>Habila Niida Madanda</u>	53	DCC	ACG Adim Officer.	NHQ, Abuja	11 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2025
17	<u>Isafiade Adewale Adebiyi</u>	53	DCC	HOD Sports	Nasarawa State Command	9 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2024
18	<u>Isah Mohammed Kabir</u>	41	CSC	Office Staff	FCT Command	26 <sup>th</sup> April 2024
19	<u>Lawal Muktar mni</u>	58	ACG	ACG, Training and Manpower Development	National headquarters Abuja	10th Feb 2025
20	<u>Matthew Alao</u>	60	Team Lead, Governance, Peace and Security	United Nations Development Programme	Abuja, Nigeria	19 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2025
21	<u>Mbatsay V. Sabastine</u>	42	DSC	Instructor	NSCDC College of Support Services and Arms Training Udege, Nasarawa State.	15 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2025
22	<u>Muslimah Malomo</u>	54	CC	Head Public Guard Company	Zone 14 FCT, Abuja.	5 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2025

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23	Nwamini Uzoma Victoria	40	SC	Admin	Civil Defence Academy(CDA), Sauka, Abuja.	7 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2025
24	Odebiri Olusola James	43	SC	Officer	DCG Administration Office, NHQ	29 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2025
25	Okoro Onyemaeche Kingsley	57	ACC	Training and Manpower Development	National headquarters Abuja	3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2025
26	Olaina Williams Babatunde	40	DSC	Training/ Sports	Lagos State Command.	14 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2024
27	Opara Kenechukwu Charles	58	CC	Head Training and Manpower Development	National headquarters Abuja	3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2025
28	Oyedoyin Oyewole Clement	38	ASC1	IT/Data Support Officer	Office of the DCG (Administration) NHQ	23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan 2025
29	Prof Tajudeen Akanji	60+	Prof	Prof/Facilitator Konrad Adenauer Stiftung	Security Studies institute for Peace and Strategic Studies, University of Ibadan.	13 Feb 2025
30	Samson Adeniran	50+	Senior Program me Manager	Konrad Adenauer Stiftung	10 Tapeta Street, Wuse 2, Abuja, Nigeria	12 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2024
31	Yakubu Haruna	42	CSC	Office	Office of the ACG Training And Manpower, NHQ, Abuja.	5 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2025

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