

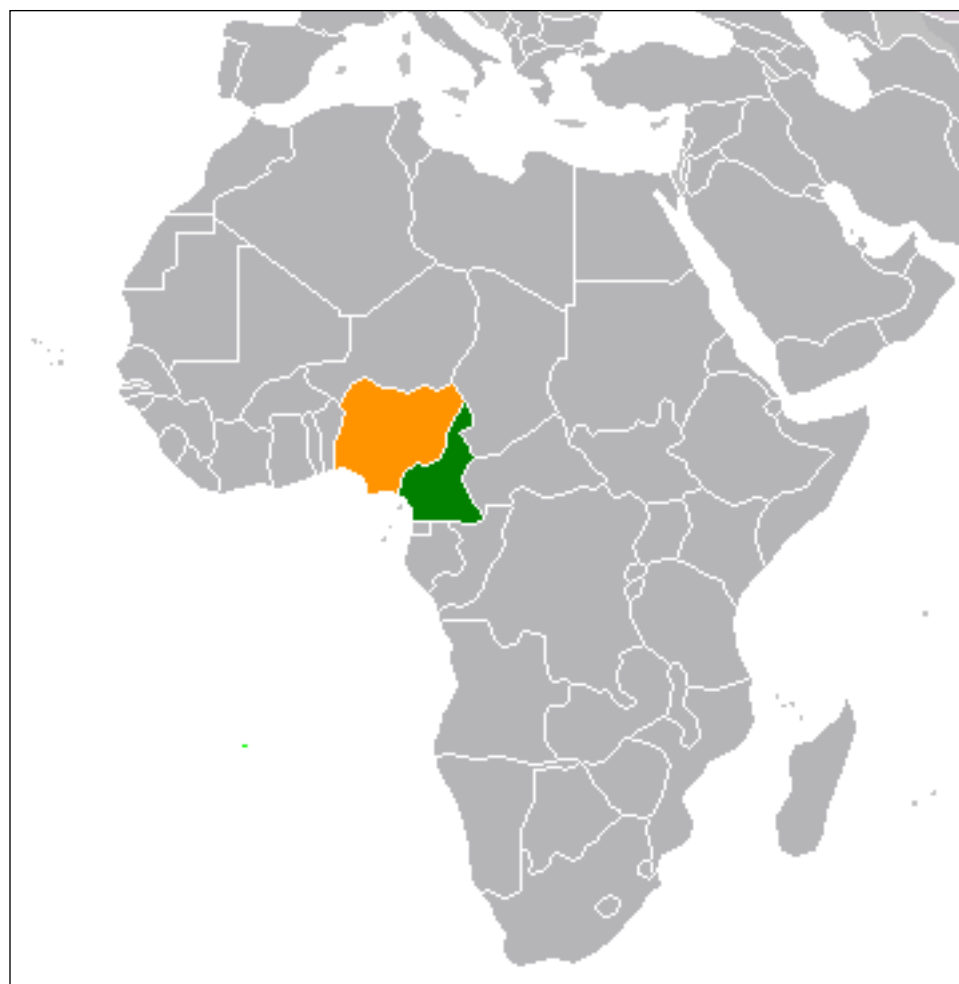


Nigeria's Chukwu on Cross-Border, Counter-Boko Haram Operations

OE Watch Commentary: Director of Army Public Relations Texas Chukwu has become one of the prominent voices reporting on the Nigerian army's efforts to counter Boko Haram. He releases messages through, among other means, Twitter and an army website. On 15 September the accompanying excerpted message from Chukwu was posted on the website, *Press Release Nigeria*, about joint efforts to neutralize Boko Haram members in two villages in Borno State, Nigeria, which border Cameroon.

According to Chukwu, Boko Haram was using those villages to launch attacks on both countries along their mutual border. Describing the Nigerian and Cameroon troops as "gallant," Chukwu listed the weapons that they recovered from the Boko Haram bases, including AK-47 rifles, improvised explosive devices, and suicide belts. Other items found included a Boko Haram flag and several motorcycles and bicycles and Chukwu noted five Boko Haram members were killed. Evidently, the Boko Haram members in these bases were not as well equipped as some of the members who have been seen in recent Boko Haram videos with Turkish-made Otokar tanks and rocket launchers that can shoot up to a range of 10 kilometers. Such weapons were almost certainly pilfered from the Nigerian or neighboring armies.

Chukwu called on civilians to continue to report on suspicious movements to the army, so that more trans-border operations with Cameroonian troops can be conducted. Though Nigeria's public relations in the counter-insurgency has been highly criticized for delays in responding to major incidents, such as the 2014 Chibok kidnapping, and sometimes covering up or even distorting important details of Boko Haram attacks, Chukwu's approach and constant updates on the counter-insurgency appear to represent a shift in Nigeria's strategic communications. At the very least, his messages help keep the Nigerian public informed of counter-insurgency operations that otherwise might not get reported on in either Nigerian or international media. **End OE Watch Commentary (Zenn)**



Map showing the locations of both Cameroon and Nigeria.

Source: By Aquintero82 [CC BY-SA 4.0 (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>)], from Wikimedia Commons, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cameroon_Nigeria_Locator.png.

“Members of the general public are advised to report any suspicious movements or activities to the law enforcement agents for prompt action.”

Source: “Nigeria-Cameroonian Troops Jointly Eliminate Boko Haram Terrorists,” *Press Release Nigeria*, 15 September 2018. <https://prnigeria.com/2018/09/19/nigeria-cameroonian-boko-haram/>

Troops of 21 Special Armoured Brigade deployed in Operation Lafiya Dole, in a joint trans-border operation with troops of the Cameroonian Defence Forces neutralised five (5) Boko Haram Terrorists in the border villages of Yabiri Kote and Bula Dadobe of Bama Local Government Area, Borno State. The joint operations, nicknamed “Operation Rainbow 15” which were conducted from Saturday 15 – Sunday 16 September 2018, came on the heels of the discovery of makeshift bases, established by the terrorists in Yabiri Kote and Bula Dadode from where they launched attacks on villages in Cameroon and Nigeria. During the joint trans-border operations, the gallant troops recovered some items from the terrorists. The trans-border operations have successfully cleared the insurgents from the general area of Kote Kura. Members of the general public are advised to report any suspicious movements or activities to the law enforcement agents for prompt action.