



CAS READING LIST

2021

**“ Not All Readers
Are Leaders, But
All Leaders Are
Readers ”.**

- Harry S. Truman





"To enhance and sustain critical airpower capabilities required for joint force employment in pursuit of national security imperatives".

Air Marshal IO Amao DFS GSS RBS GSM QFI psc fndu MSc MMSc

KEY DRIVERS

- ➡ Focus on doctrinal development and application of airpower in joint military operations.
- ➡ Pursue purposeful training and human capacity development.
- ➡ Sustenance of platforms and equipment serviceability through innovative maintenance methods and logistics support systems.
- ➡ Foster a disciplined workforce essential for combat readiness.
- ➡ Bolster morale by improving personnel welfare.

NIGERIAN AIR FORCE
Willing Able Ready

FOREWARD

Since 2009, our conventional war-fighting skills have been put to the test against a foe with asymmetric fighting skills and abilities. In recent times also, we have seen an upsurge in banditry, kidnapping, militancy as well as agitation by secessionist movements occasioned by killings of security agents and destruction of government facilities. With these challenges, the need to adjust and adapt our various platforms, weaponries as well as our core competence towards facing off these monstrous elements headlong, alongside other security agencies, has become expedient. As an Air Force, our heritage is based



on excellence and integrity as exhibited over the years by our dedicated officers, airmen/airwomen and civilian staff. These attributes have ensured that the Nigerian Air Force (NAF) remains a key player in the maintenance of security, law and order in our society.

My first Reading List as the 21st Chief of the Air Staff, therefore provides a range of

professional development opportunities to refocus our thinking on the challenges that confront us as a Service and a Nation. By design, my recommendations are not limited only to titles devoted to air power or air operations but extend into the equally important and relevant spheres of leadership, strategy, command, cybersecurity as well as public health. In creating this selection of 15 recently published books, I am convinced that this Reading List will provide a superb blend of historical insight and innovative projection to inform our future thinking. I

therefore challenge each of you to take deliberate steps towards expanding your horizon and understanding of our evolving national security environment, the threats we face and the tools required to confront them. I also encourage you to find time to think, reflect and read. Through the study of air power, leadership and strategy and other security-related issues, you will be equipping yourselves for future endeavours as we all join hands to build the NAF of our dreams. Happy reading.

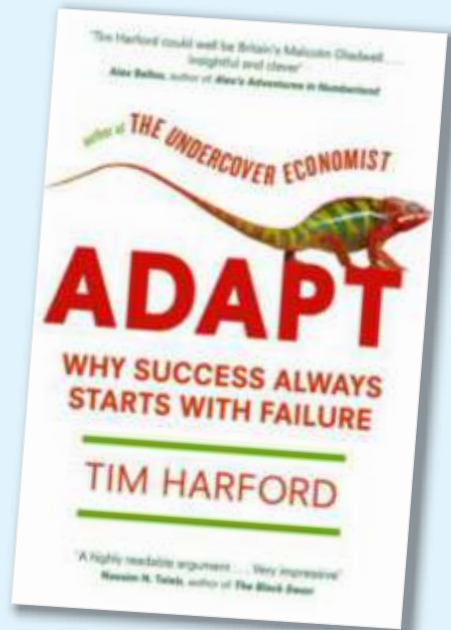
OLADAYO AMAO DFS GSS RBS GSM QFI psc findu MSc MMSc

Air Marshal
Chief of the Air Staff

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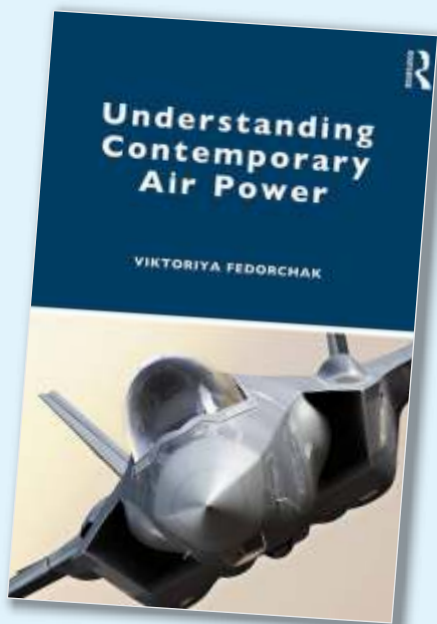
Author: Tim Harford**Title: Adapt: Why Success Always Starts with Failure**

My reading list starts with Tim Harford's book, *Adapt*, which argues that today's challenges cannot be simply solved with ready-made solutions and experts' pieces of advice or opinions. This is because the world has become far too unpredictable and complex. For a fighting force like the NAF which is operating in a complex and dynamic environment, this book shows us a new and inspiring approach to solving the most pressing problems around us as well as serving as a handbook for surviving and prospering in a complex and ever-changing world.



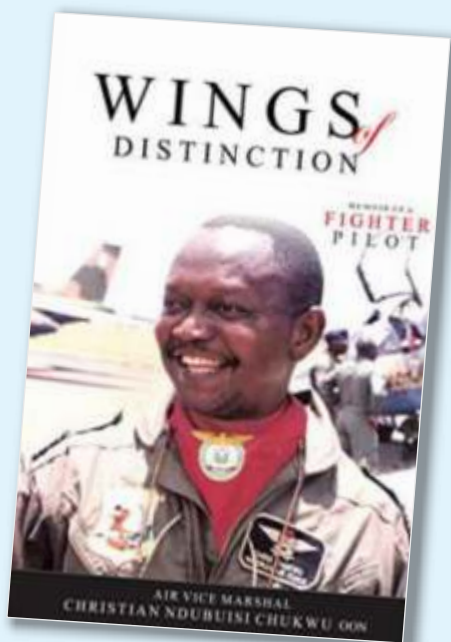
Title: Understanding Contemporary Air Power.

The book, *Understanding Contemporary Air Power*, takes a cursory look at the role of air power in the 3 main operational environments: conventional (inter-state) wars, peace-support operations and counterinsurgencies. In a balanced and systematic way, the book takes the reader through the strengths and challenges of deploying air power in the different environments using past campaigns involving the US Air Force with specific emphasis on key take-homes for future employment of air power. Another important takeaway from the book is the necessity of inter-service and cross-domain integration which is an area that I am sure the NAF can easily relate to.



Title: Wings of Distinction: Memoirs
of a Fighter Pilot

Perseverance, determination and hard work are succinctly captured in the book, *Wings of Distinction* by retired Air Vice Marshal Christian Chukwu. This book takes the reader through the writer's early life, his escapades as a renowned fighter pilot and his fulfilled life in the NAF having attained the enviable rank of 2-star general before retirement. Experiences shared here by the author are needed for the guidance and motivation of serving military personnel in the face of daunting national security challenges. It is no doubt a story of courage and adventures with extraordinary anecdotes.



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Authors: Peter Singer and Emerson Brooking

Title: LikeWar: The Weaponization of Social Media

It is easy for us as Nigerians and as a Service to relate to the book, *Like War: The Weaponization of Social Media*, because it aptly captures the clear and present danger that the misuse of social media presents to our national security. In recent times, we have witnessed how terrorists utilized the social media to misinform and sell their warped ideas to unsuspecting youths. Social media has also been used by fifth columnists to cause deep divisions along ethnic and religious lines which in some cases have had dire consequences on our Nation and politics. Spend time in perusing this book as it also contains some useful tips for employing the social media to own advantage



5

Author: Michael Bechthold

Title: *Flying to Victory: Raymond Collishaw and the Western Desert Campaign, 1940-1941*

In the book, *Flying to Victory*, Mike Bechthold delivers an insightful analysis of a military campaign from an air perspective, highlighting the challenges of forging a genuinely 'Joint' military front. The author emphasizes the contributions of an often-overlooked air force commander, and the importance of the relationship he formed with his army counterpart with key take homes on the importance of jointness in military operations. Bearing in mind that jointness could be one of the keys to solving our security impasse, I strongly subscribe to this book

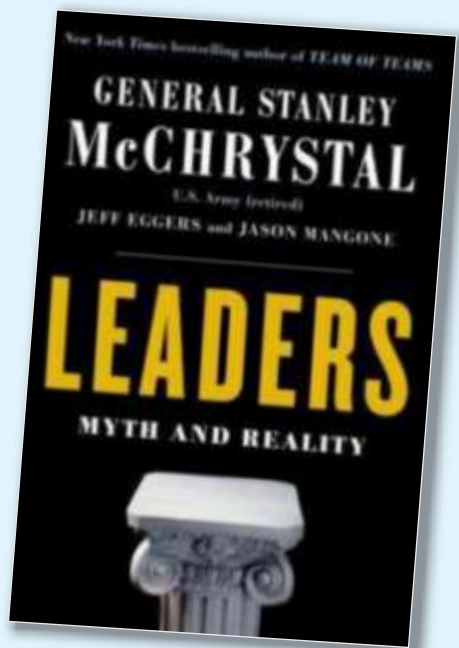


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Authors: Stanley McChrystal,
Jeff Eggers and Jason Mangone

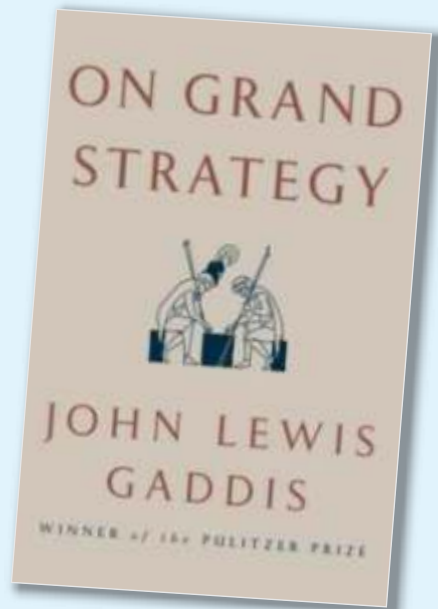
Title: Leaders: Myth and Reality

Leadership is analysed in, *Leaders: Myth and Reality*, by General Stanley McChrystal, a former Commander of US Joint Special Operations Command and his co-authors. The book delivers a profound analysis of 13 great leaders with a conclusion that different environments require different leaders. The book also noted that aspiring leaders will be best served by learning to discern what is required in each situation, rather than employing the same style or tactics in addressing different problems.



Title: On Grand Strategy

In *On Grand Strategy*, the world-renowned Cold War historian, John Lewis Gaddis, explores the difficulties of formulating strategies, using fascinating case studies and analogies. He provides a framework to aid decision-making in an era of growing complexity and uncertainty, as evidenced in Nigeria. For the strategic thinker at the highest echelon of Nigerian military command, this book is a must-have and must-read.



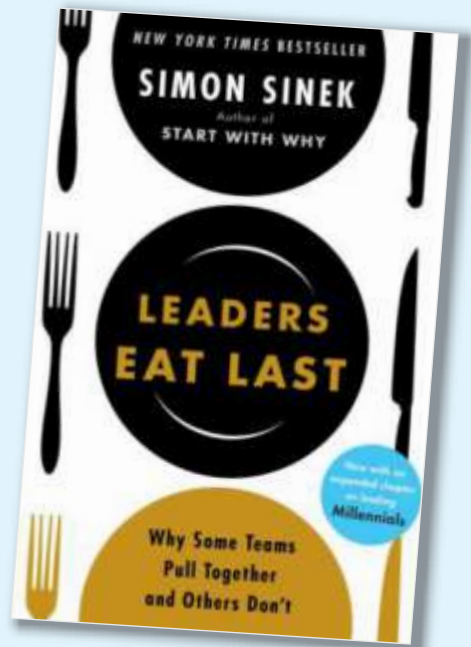
Title: Nigerian Air War in Sierra Leone
From the Cockpit of Aggressor 08

Air Commodore Abayomi Balogun (Rtd) authored the book, *Nigerian Air War in Sierra Leone: From the Cockpit of Aggressor 08*, where he captured his own account of the war in Sierra Leone as a member of the Aggressor Squadron and the decisive role played by the Nigerian Air Force in bringing the war to a conclusive end. It also captured the challenges faced by the NAF and lessons learnt which are relevant and relatable till date



Title: Leaders Eat Last

Simon Sinek was motivated to write *Leaders Eat Last* when he undertook a visit to a US Marine Base. During the visit, Sinek watched as the most junior Marines ate first while the most senior Marines took their place at the back of the line. Upon enquiry as to why this was so, he was told that, 'leaders eat last.' The symbolism here is that these simple gestures directly reflect positively on the battlefield. Great leaders sacrifice their own comfort, even their own survival, for the good of their subordinates. Is this possible in our clime? Should we imbibe this practice? This is a must-read for all SNCOs and officers of the NAF



10 **Author:** Dandridge M Malone

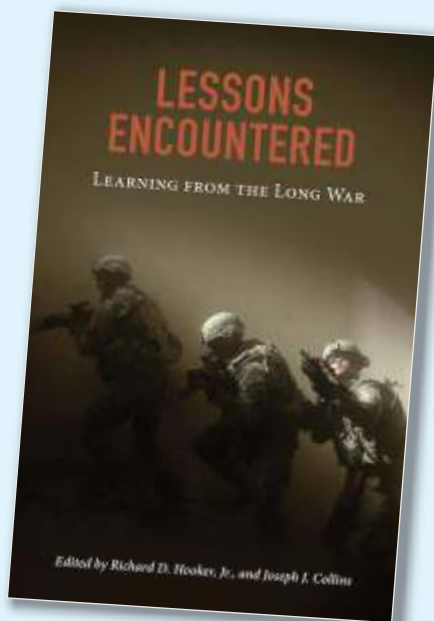
Title: Small Unit Leadership: A Commonsense Approach

The book, *Small Unit Leadership: A Commonsense Approach* by Dan Malone describes vividly the demands of the battlefield including how to prepare airmen/soldiers and units for battle. While individual heroic actions can sometimes turn the tide of battle, the real key to success on the battlefield has always been well-trained soldiers in well-trained units. Our regiment personnel, especially, will surely find this book educative and interesting



**Title: Lessons Encountered:
Learning From The Long War**

In this volume of *Lessons Encountered: Learning from the Long War*, an attempt is made at assessing long wars involving the United States military, especially the campaigns in Afghanistan and Iraq. The book focuses on strategic decisions and developments of land wars as well as the status of the United States as a great power and the dominance of its Navy and Air Force within their respective domains. The Armed Forces of Nigeria is currently involved in what could rightly be termed a long war with terrorists in the north east of the country. There should therefore be a lot to assimilate here especially for officers at the strategic military level



12 **Author:** Air Commodore Darlington Abdullahi (Rtd)

Title: The Boko Haram Phenomenon and Terrorism in Nigeria

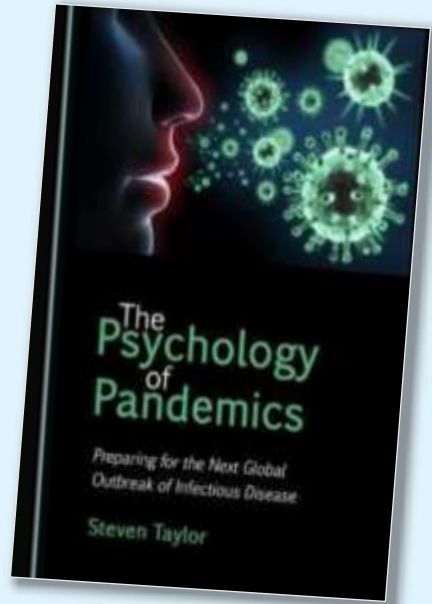
In Air Commodore Darlington Abdullahi's book, *The Boko Haram Phenomenon and Terrorism in Nigeria*, issues relating to terrorism globally and in Nigeria were highlighted. Specifically, the book attempts to trace the origin of terrorism in Nigeria, the insurgents, what they want, their tactics, the counterinsurgency, regional and global support, lessons learnt and the way forward. It also provides some data regarding various aspects of the insurgency and counter-insurgency operations. An important feature in the book is the 'Darlington's National Crisis Management Loop' meant to assist governments to recover from various forms of crises, especially those attributed to poor governance at different levels



13 **Author:** Steven Taylor

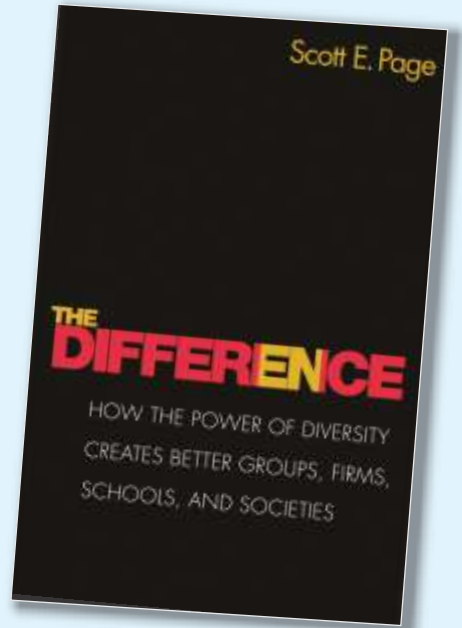
Title: The Psychology of Pandemics: Preparing for the Next Global Outbreak of Infectious Disease

Scientists have since predicted that future pandemics are likely to be more frequent, spread rapidly, kill more people and inflict even worse economic hardship as a result of human activities on the environment. As security operatives, we must be able to decipher the implications of these pandemics on our national security. In *Psychology of Pandemics*, the psychological reactions to pandemics, including maladaptive behaviours, defensive reactions and reviews of the psychological vulnerability factors that contribute to the spread of diseases and distress are well analysed and documented



Title: The Difference

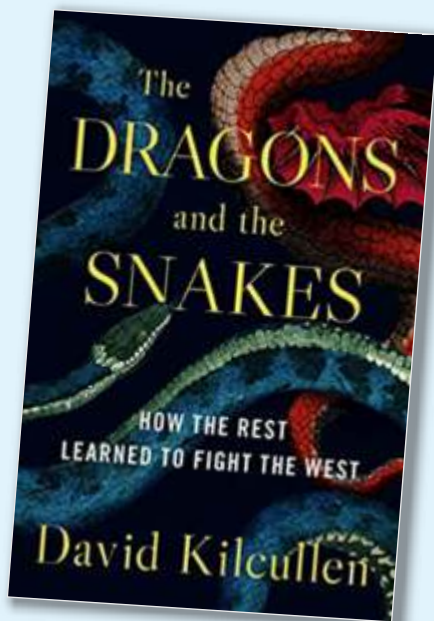
In *The Difference*, Scott Page reveals that progress and innovation may depend less on lone thinkers with enormous IQs than on diverse people synergizing and capitalizing on their individuality. The author shows how groups that display a range of perspectives outperform groups of like-minded experts. Diversity yields superior outcomes, and the author did a marvellous job in proving that. There is so much to take in this book which could enhance our quest for enhanced jointness in our current and future operations.



15 **Author:** David Kilcullen

Title: The Dragons and the Snakes: How the Rest Learned to Fight the West

What caught my attention about the book, *The Dragons and the Snakes: How the Rest Learned to Fight the West* by David Kilcullen, is its title. However, its content is even more riveting and captivating. The book is basically about how Western dominance over a particular period has created a fitness landscape that forces adversaries to adapt in ways that present serious new challenges to America and its allies. As a nation confronting terrorism and insurgency, this book should interest any law enforcement agent.



Let me state here that the books in this list are easily accessible online and can also be found in most bookshops nationwide at affordable prices. Efforts are also on to make the books available on proposed NAF e-library scheduled to come on stream soon. I hope the books offer a valuable insight into contemporary and emerging challenges as we build the Nigerian Air Force of the future. I encourage you to develop yourselves personally and professionally through reading some if not all of them. Keep Reading!

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**“ READING
CAN SERIOUSLY
DAMAGE YOUR
IGNORANCE ”.**

- Rishi Kumar





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Willing Able Ready

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