



# CAS READING LIST

2023 - 2024



*Reading is  
essential for those  
who seek to rise  
above the ordinary*

*- Jim Rohn*



# CONTENT

Page

Foreword

1

Warfare, Command and Capacity Building in Nigeria: Festschrift in Honour of Major General Ibrahim Manu Yusuf (Rtd) - *by Adam Ahmed et al.*

3

7 Deadly Scenarios - *by Andrew Krepinevich*

5

Security Protocols for Mitigating Threats to Civil Aviation - *by Group Captain John Ojikutu (Rtd)*

6

Deep Work - *by Cal Newport*

7

Leaders Eat Last - *by Simon Sinek*

8

On Operations: Operational Art and Military Discipline - *by Brett Friedman*

9

Connected Soldiers: Life, Leadership and Social Connections in Modern War - *by John Spencer*

11

21 Lessons for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century - *by Yuval Noah Harari*

12

Nudge: Improving Decisions about Health, Wealth and Happiness - <i>by Richard Thaler and Cass Sunstein</i>	14
The Prepared leader: Emerge from any Crisis more Resilient than Before - <i>by Erica James and Lynn Wooten</i>	16
Educating Air Forces: Global Perspectives on Air Power learning - <i>by Randall Wakelam, David Varey and Emmanuella Sica</i>	17
Command: The 21 <sup>st</sup> Century General - <i>by Anthony King</i>	19
The One Thing - <i>by Garry Kellar</i>	21
Alone at Dawn - <i>by Dann Schilling and Lori Chapman Longfritz</i>	22
Managing Generation Z – How to recruit, onboard, develop and retain the newest generation in the workplace - <i>by Robbin Peggi and Kat Clowes</i>	24

# FOREWORD

The security challenges facing our nation today call for robust, dynamic and proactive framework and strategy capable of dealing with the growing threats. Indeed, a strategy that not only tackles both local and transnational threats, but also recognizes the linkages between the two, and how they undermine our common existence is critical to finding lasting solutions to these malaises. Accordingly, a divergent and convergent thinking method where all voices are considered is deemed the best framework for tackling these seemingly intractable problems. Extensive research through constant reading is one of the recommended methods to widen our horizons in this regard. The more we read, the better we can build up and expand our knowledge, be open to fresh ideas and develop new strategies.

In line with the words of John F Kennedy, “Leadership and learning are indispensable from each other,” I remain an ardent reader, constantly seeking for opportunities to



broaden my perspectives. As the 22nd Chief of the Air Staff, I am still in pursuit of ideas and prospects that would compel me to think more broadly while engaging in constructive discourse. It is for these reasons that I am glad that my first Reading List, will enable us as airmen and airwomen refocus our thinking towards proffering new and innovative ways of solving the various security challenges confronting the Nigerian Air Force (NAF) and our dear Nation. The listed books were deliberately chosen and are not limited to air force or air operations but extend to the equally important and relevant spheres of leadership, strategy, command, generational shift and human resource management. I challenge each of you to take deliberate steps towards expanding your horizons and understanding of our evolving national and regional security environment, the threats we face and the tools required to confront them.

Part of reasons why the NAF remains a force to reckon with is hinged on our continuous quest for knowledge and our critical thinking mindset. To out-manuever and out-fight our current and future adversaries, we must also out-think their next move. We must therefore continue to seek efficient ways of confronting our challenges frontally as we join hands to build a better NAF and an even better Nigeria. Happy reading!



**HB ABUBAKAR**  
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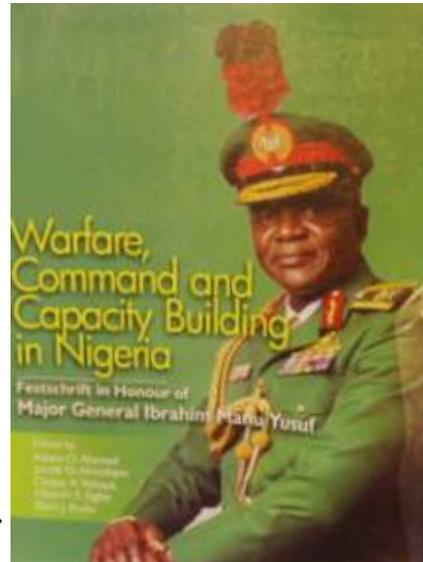
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**Title:** Warfare, Command and Capacity Building in Nigeria: Festschrift in Honour of Major General Ibrahim Manu Yusuf (Rtd)

1

**Authors:** Adam Ahmed et al.

My maiden Reading List could not have started on a better note than with the book authored in honour of a senior colleague and an inspirational leader, Major General Ibrahim Yusuf (Rtd). The book, *Warfare, Command and Capacity Building in Nigeria: Festschrift in Honour of Major General Ibrahim Manu Yusuf (Rtd)* edited by Adam Ahmed et al., is an



an assemblage of critical discourse in honour of a quintessential Nigerian Army General and the 31st Commandant of the Nigerian Defence Academy (NDA). It is basically an assemblage of essays that speak to the dynamics of leadership through the nexus of warfare, command and capacity building. In terms of its broad structure and context, this 51-chapter book deals with issues around leadership, command and control

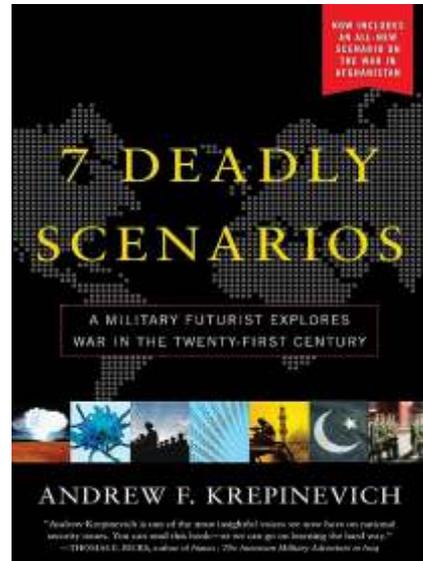
capacity building, counterinsurgency strategies and tactics, statecraft, science and technology, civil-military relations, approaches to asymmetric warfare, among other issues. These issues give impetus to the growing need for reshaping the landscape of national defence, security, peace and nation-building in the implicative context of leadership. It is a must-read for all officers at the military strategic level.

**Title:** 7 Deadly Scenarios

2

**Author:** Andrew Krepinevich

In *7 Deadly Scenarios*, Andrew Krepinevich describes the changing face of war in the 21st Century while identifying 7 deadly scenarios that threaten security moving forward. Relying on latest global and political trends and his knowledge of contemporary military history, Krepinevich starts each of the 7 scenarios in the context of current geopolitical realities and vividly tracks the path to crisis. The book takes you inside the corridors of power and defense planning while also exploring the United States military and political strategy in the past, present, and likely future. In summary, the book is about thinking of worst-case scenarios, the measures in place to respond and readiness to address them. This is a must-read book that will trigger discussions, thoughts and actions. I strongly recommend it to all current and future strategic thinkers.

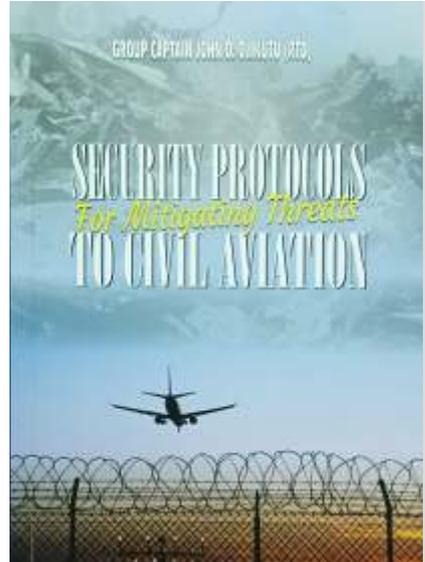


**Title:** Security Protocols for Mitigating Threats to Civil Aviation

3

**Author:** Group Captain John Ojikutu Rtd

In the book *Security Protocols for Mitigating Threats to Civil Aviation*, a retired NAF officer, Group Captain John Ojikutu, tries to expose the staff of the different government security agencies working at the nation's airports on the workings of aviation security and how to address the gaps therein. The book also contains case and work studies as well as checklist for the management of aviation security defence layers. It also recommends that the NAF, being a joint user with the civil aviation in over 12 Federal Airports, should be responsible for the management of security of these airports. To NAF Air Traffic Controllers, Intelligence, Regiment and Air Police personnel, this book is for you.

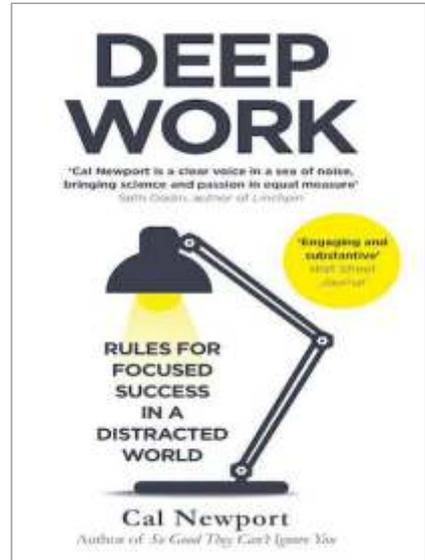


**Title:** Deep Work

**Author:** Cal Newport

4

In *Deep Work*, Cal Newport is of the view that in nearly all professions, cultivating a deep work ethic will produce enormous benefits. He then recommends a rigorous training schedule, presented as a series of 4 "rules" for transforming your mind and habits to support this skill. Deep Work is thus a vital guide to anyone in search of success in a highly distracted world.



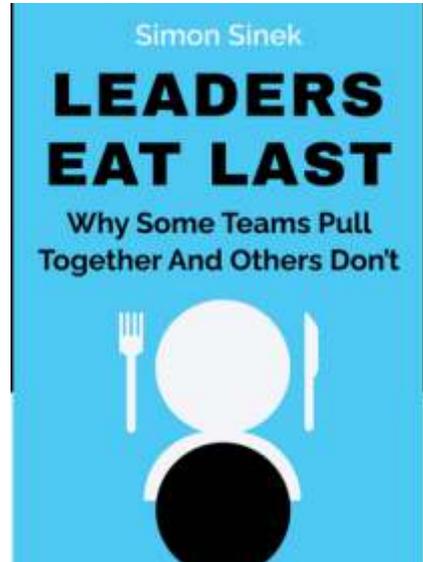
**Title:** Leaders Eat Last

5

**Author:** Simon Sinek

The book, *Leaders Eat Last*, by Simon Sinek is making its second entrance in the CAS Reading List having first appeared in 2021. This says a lot about its rich content vis-à-vis its importance to a fighting force like the NAF. Sinek was motivated to write this book when he undertook a visit to a US Marine Base where he watched as junior marines ate

first while their seniors took their place at the back of the line. Upon enquiry, he was told that, 'leaders eat last.' The symbolism here is that these simple gestures 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.

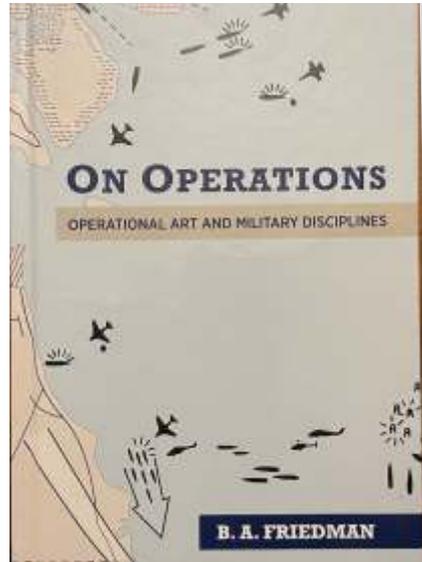


**Title:** On Operations: Operational Art and Military Discipline

**Author:** Brett Friedman

# 6

In *On Operations: Operational Art and Military Disciplines*, Brett Friedman went down memory lane to trace the history of the development of military staff, operational level of war and operational art. According to him, the operational level of war blurs the interaction between tactics and the logic of strategy. The consequence is that the operational level of war loses its value because there is simply no logical space for it. The end state here would then be that the operational level of war should be defined and distinguished by levels of command, scale, size and complexity. These situations are aptly captured in the book under 6 disciplines of operational art namely, administration, information, fire support, logistics and command and control. Friedman thus opines that an optimal warfighting system includes a



calculated relationship of tactics interacting with strategy, supported and enabled by operational art, professionally educated planners and appropriate organisational structures. This book will be of immense value to participants of our War Colleges, National Defence College as well as staff of operational units and theatres of operation as they continue to cross-examine the various interactions between tactics and strategy.

**Title:** Connected Soldiers: Life, Leadership and Social Connections in Modern War

**Author:** John Spencer

# 7

The book, *Connected Soldiers: Life, Leadership and Social Connections in Modern War* by John Spencer, highlights how the US military has changed with the influence of instant communications, social media pressures, and the impact of frontline and home front distractions. Specifically, Spencer brought out the effects of these distractions as well as the challenges of creating unit and task cohesion, teamwork, trust and social cohesion. He then stresses that bonds between soldiers are developed and greatly enhanced through shared hardships and considerate, competent lower cadre leadership. Our training institutions have a lot to pick here for their students and participants.

## CONNECTED SOLDIERS

Life, Leadership, and Social Connections in Modern War



"Wonderfully stimulating, thoughtful, and thought-provoking."

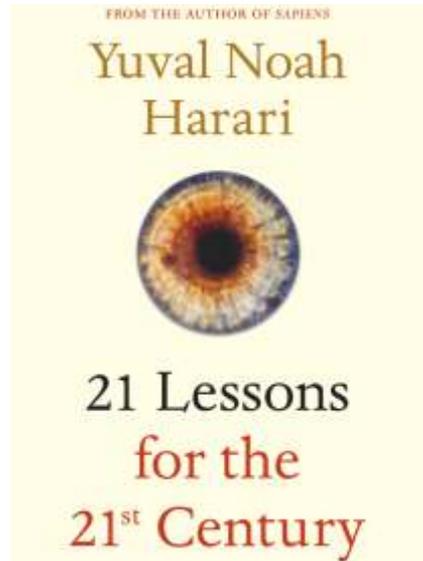
**Title:** 21 Lessons for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

**Author:** Yuval Noah Harari

8

The book, *21 Lessons for the 21st Century* is, as the title suggests, a loose collection of essays, in which Yuval Noah Harari lays out a disturbing vision of humanity's predicament. He argues that though liberty and freedom in political and economic life are the predominant ideologies of the 20th Century, they are however inadequate to

manage the global challenges of the 21st Century posed by emerging technologies such as social media and impending ecological changes, among others. He also notes that as technology advances faster than our understanding of it, hacking and other illegalities become tactics of war just as social media are now fertile recruiting grounds for terrorists. Harari then addresses the challenges of navigating life in the face of constant and disorienting change and raises the important



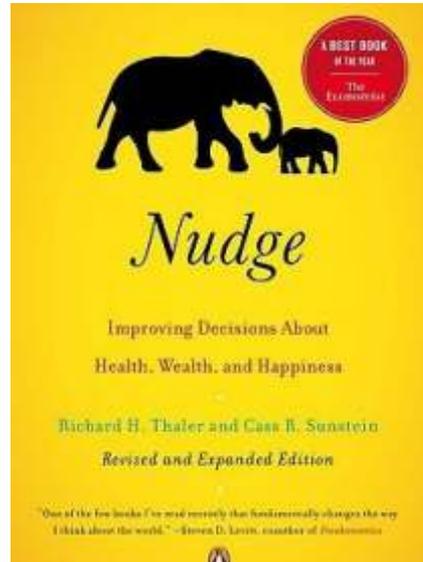
questions we need to ask ourselves to survive. Basically, this book untangles political, technological, social and existential issues and offers advice on how to prepare for a very different future from the world we now live in. If the role social media played when a NAF Mi-171E helicopter crashed in Niger State is anything to go by, this book may just provide us a workable strategy on how to tackle the threat social media poses to our national security.

**Title:** Nudge: Improving Decisions about Health, Wealth and Happiness

9

**Authors:** Richard Thaler and Cass Sunstein

Each day we face countless decisions that test our self-control. While we don't always make the “best” choices for ourselves, we often realize that we should find a way to reduce temptation. Yet we are reluctant to voluntarily give up choices or to have them taken away. Instead, we often want something even more once it's expressly forbidden, a phenomenon known as “reactance.” In *Nudge: Improving Decisions about Health, Wealth and Happiness*, Richard Thaler and Cass Sunstein build on these insights, offering a solution to the dilemma of self-control, as well as the problems caused by its close relatives, decision-making biases and social influence. They argue that we can actually use these potential pitfalls to our advantage in presenting choices, thereby encouraging better



individual decisions and improving the welfare of society as a whole. Nudge is an engaging and important book that attempts to tackle the major problems of the 21st Century, not just in our own country, but on a global scale. The authors also generated proposals that are certain to stir discussions on a variety of timely issues.

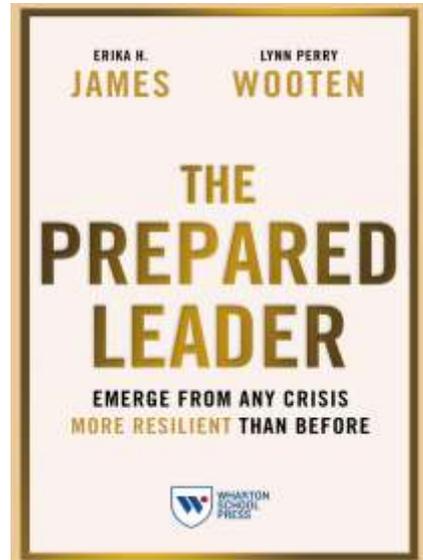
**Title:** The Prepared leader: Emerge from any Crisis more Resilient than Before

**Authors:** Erica James and Lynn Wooten

10

The book, *The Prepared Leader: Emerge from any Crisis more Resilient than Before*, by Erica James and Lynn Wooten, provides a roadmap for leaders to help them lead through any crisis. It also provides tools and frameworks for addressing and learning from crises. The book also provides insights into what you need to know

to become a Prepared Leader, including; The 5 phases of crisis management, the skills you need for each phase and making the right decisions under pressure. Others are; How to avoid common mistakes, building a crisis leadership team and how to lead one that you've inherited. As military personnel, we are often confronted with one crisis or another and this book might just be what we require to prepare us to handle them.

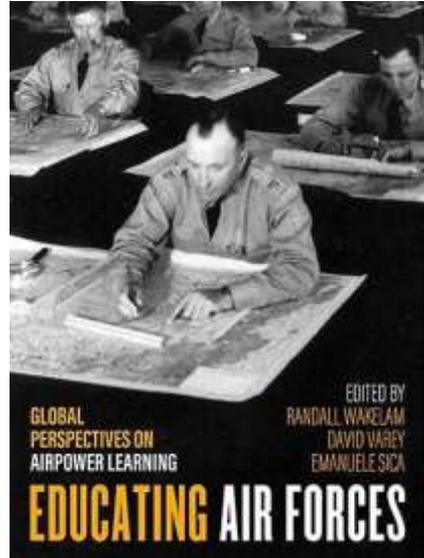


**Title:** Educating Air Forces: Global Perspectives on Air Power learning

**Edited By:** Randall Wakelam, David Varey and Emmanuella Sica

11

Featuring contributions from eminent scholars, this volume of the book, *Educating Air Forces: Global Perspectives on Air Power Learning*, edited by Randall Wakelam, David Varey and Emmanuella Sica, surveys the learning approaches globally employed by air forces as well as their effectiveness. The book also reveals how



experiential learning and formal education are not only inextricably intertwined, but also necessary to cope with advances in modern warfare. The contributors also discuss the successes and failures of European air force learning programs between the Great War and World War II and explore how the tense Cold War political climate influenced the creation, curriculum and results of various programs. They also consider how educational programs are adapting to troops' needs

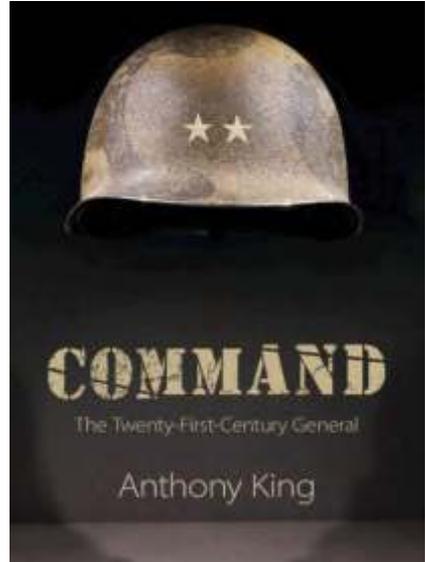
amid the demands of modern warfare. A lot of lessons can be taken here. Our current security environment should be the determinant of the contents of the learning curriculums of our various training institutions. This book will thus be useful in all NAF training institutions.

**Title:** Command: The 21<sup>st</sup> Century General

**Author:** Anthony King

12

In the wake of the US military campaigns in Afghanistan and Iraq, military decision-making appears to be in crisis and several senior officers have been subjected to intense and sustained public criticism. Taking these interventions as a starting point, *Command: The 21st Century General*, by Anthony King examines the transformation of



military command in the 21st Century. Focusing on the army division, the book argues that a phenomenon of collective command is developing. In the 20th Century, generals typically directed and led operations personally, monopolising decision-making. They commanded unilaterally and at times heroically. As operations have expanded in range and scope, decision-making has multiplied and diversified. As a result, command is becoming increasingly professionalised and

collaborative. Through interviews with several retired military personnel, this book provides a unique insight into the transformation of command as obtainable in most militaries.

**Title:** The One Thing

**Author:** Garry Kellar

13

In *The One Thing*, Garry Kellar enumerates the benefits of prioritizing a single task as well as examples of how to engage in tasks with a singular focus. People are using this simple, powerful concept to focus on what matters most in their personal and work lives. By focusing their energy on one thing at a time, people are living more rewarding lives by building their careers, strengthening their finances, losing weight and getting in shape, deepening their faith, and nurturing stronger relationships. The book also dwells on how to deal with difficult situations, achieve better results in less time, build momentum toward personal goals, remain focused and master what matters to you. This book is recommended to young and vibrant Non-Commissioned Officers as well as lower cadre officers.



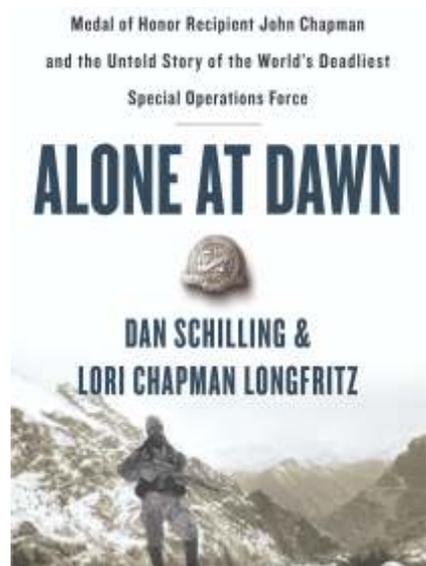
**Title:** Alone at Dawn

**Authors:** Dann Schilling and  
Lori Chapman Longfritz

14

In *Alone at Dawn*, Dann Schilling and Lori Chapman Longfritz narrated a real-life account of the brave John Chapman, and his heroic one-man exploit during the war in Afghanistan, as he sacrificed his life to save the lives of 23 colleagues. John Chapman's subsequent display of incredible courage, first saving the lives of his SEAL

teammates and then single-handedly engaging 24 adversaries to save the lives of an incoming rescue team, posthumously earned him the United States Armed Forces Medal of Honour. Chapman is the first airman in nearly 50 years to be given the distinction reserved for America's greatest heroes. *Alone at Dawn* is also a behind-the-scenes look at the Air Force Combat Controllers: the world's deadliest and most versatile special operations force, whose members must not only



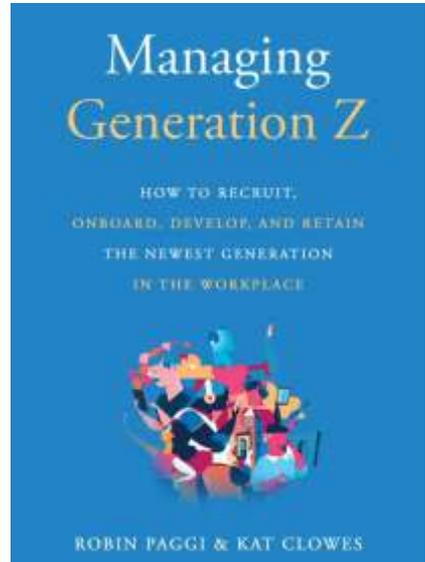
exceed the qualifications of Navy SEAL and Army Delta Force teams but also act with sharp decisiveness and deft precision, even in the face of life-threatening danger. For the NAF Regiment and Special Forces, this book will motivate you to rededicate yourselves, while in the line of fire, for the service of our dear nation.

**Title:** Managing Generation Z – How to recruit, onboard, develop and retain the newest generation in the workplace

15

**Authors:** Robbin Paggi and Kat Clowes

The book, *Managing Generation Z – How to recruit, onboard, develop and retain the newest generation in the workplace*, by Robbin Paggi and Kat Clowes, is a must-read for those in NAF’s Directorate of Personnel Management. A new generation of young men and women are being recruited and enlisted into the NAF workforce, mostly

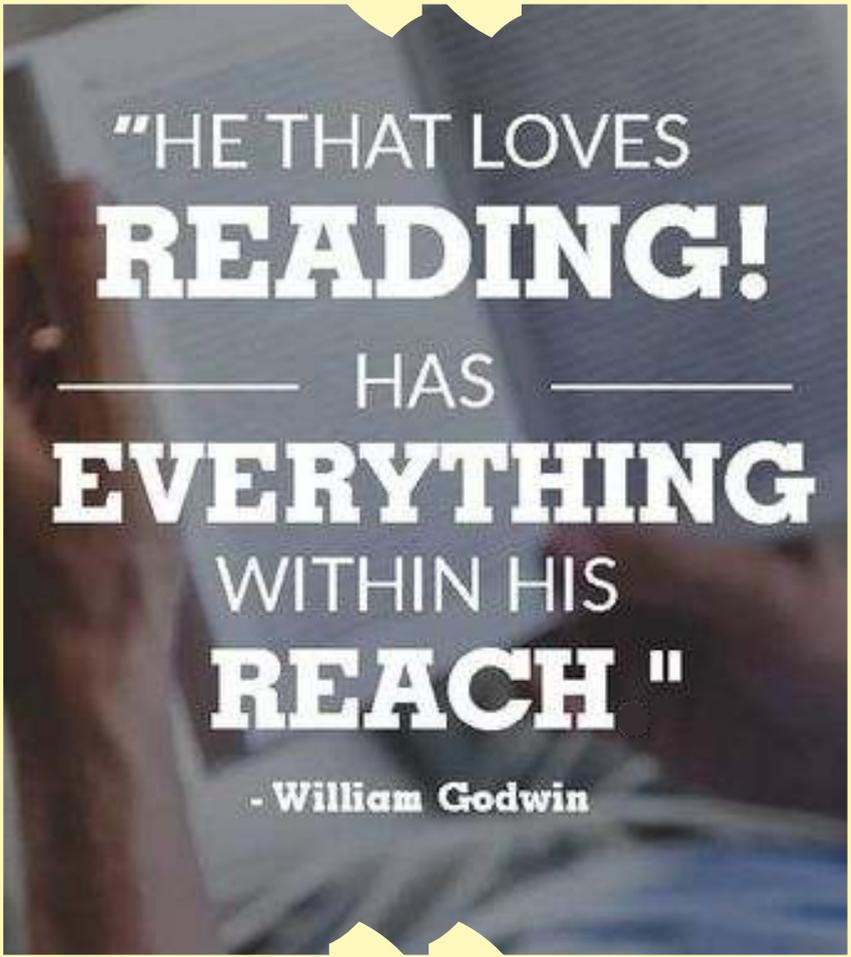


born after 1996, who are also referred to as the ‘Gen Z’. Having grown up with smartphones, social media and minimal exception to privacy, Gen Zs have a unique culture and working style that can be baffling to their Millennial and Gen X senior colleagues. In this book, Robin Paggi, a veteran human resource manager, and Kat Clowes, an educational consultant who has worked with hundreds of Gen Zs, join forces to provide employers and managers a practical, easy-to-

understand guide to the new generation defining the future of work. Based on their in-depth knowledge of Gen Z habits and real-world experience of how generational miscommunications can cause serious personnel problems, the book also gives managers at all levels a plan for getting quality work from Gen Z employees while avoiding cultural clashes at the office.

Thought majority of NAF Gen Zs are seemingly well-educated and significantly tech-savvy, while being eager to meet expectations and loyal to the Service, many are lacking in the basics of professionalism, workplace communication and the unwritten social rules older generations instinctively expect. Consequently, many have been found wanting in flagrant disobedience of the Defence Headquarters' social media Policy for members of the Armed Forces of Nigeria. This book could therefore be handy to NAF administrative and personnel management staff as they device the most effective ways in managing our Gen Zs and enhancing productivity.





"HE THAT LOVES  
**READING!**

— HAS —  
**EVERYTHING**  
WITHIN HIS  
**REACH "**

- William Godwin





# NIGERIAN AIR FORCE

*Willing Able Ready*

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