

Facilitating Efficient Counterterrorism Approaches Through Transportation and Logistics in Nigeria

Adeniran, Adetayo Olaniyi

Department of Transport Management Technology, Federal University of Technology, Akure, Ondo State, Nigeria

Abstract

Due to the loss of human lives (military and civilian) as a result of insurgency in the Northern Nigeria and other criminal activities across the federation, it is needed to efficiently facilitate counterterrorism approaches which will render the terrorists impotent. Terrorism is the deliberate creation and exploitation of fear for bringing about political change. All terrorist acts involve violence or threat of violence. These violent acts include murder, kidnapping, bombing, and arson. They are committed by non-governmental groups or individual who are neither parts of nor officially serving in the military forces, law enforcement agencies, intelligence services, or other governmental agencies of an established nation. Terrorism has occurred throughout history for a variety of reasons. Its causes can be historical, cultural, political, social, psychological, economic, or religious or any combination of these. Despite the high intensity of terrorist attacks, there is need for not only effective but efficient facilitation of counterterrorism approaches by Nigerian military. Counterterrorism is the policies and methods used to deter and defeat terrorism. In other to facilitate counterterrorism approaches, manage Nigerian borders and state borders, and control migrants, there is need to understand what, how, and exactly does supply affects terrorism. Determination of spatial interaction of terrorist, careful analyzing transport demand/supply relationship, also the researcher recommends the construction of Vehicle Screening Point (VSP).

Keywords: Terrorism, counterterrorism, transportation, logistics, and Vehicle Screening Point (VSP).

1.0 Introduction

Due to the loss of human lives (military and civilian) as a result of insurgency in the Northern Nigeria and other criminal activities across the federation, it is needed to efficiently facilitate counterterrorism approaches which will render the terrorists impotent.

Terrorism is the deliberate creation and exploitation of fear for bringing about political change. All terrorist acts involve violence or threat of violence. These violent acts include murder, kidnapping, bombing, and arson. They are committed by non-governmental groups or individual who are neither parts of nor officially serving in the military forces, law enforcement agencies, intelligence services, or other governmental agencies of an established nation (Hoffman, 2008). Terrorism has occurred throughout history for a variety of reasons. Its causes can be historical, cultural, political, social, psychological, economic, or religious or any combination of these.

Despite the high intensity of terrorist attacks, there is need for not only effective but efficient facilitation of counterterrorism approaches by Nigerian military. According to Wilcox (2008), counterterrorism is the policies and methods used to deter and defeat terrorism. It involves the use of information gathering, law enforcement, diplomacy, military force, and protective security. Besides eliminating existing terrorists, effective counterterrorism also attempts to discover and remove the causes that motivate terrorists.

During the colonial era, Frederick Lugard (1858-1945), a British Soldier, explorer and diplomat who played an important role in Britain's colonial development in Africa attributed the major problem of Africa (Nigeria inclusive) is transportation; he said "give them transport, and the problem of Africa will be solved". The development of transport system led to the following; exploration of agricultural produce and natural resources for onward shipment into the domain of colonial master; facilitation of effective colonial administration; facilitation of effective security and national defense. The emphasis for this paper will be on the facilitation of effective security and national defense.

According to Oxford English Dictionary, transport was derived from two Latin words 'trans' which mean 'across' and 'portare' which mean 'carry'. This connects with the essence of transportation either in the developed and developing nations that cannot be farfetched or beyond the following: economic purpose, spatial interaction and social integration; without which it will be impossible for terrorist groups to launch attack. For an effective counterterrorism approach, the demand and supply of goods and services for the terrorist group should be blocked; geographically, movement of immigrants and emigrants should be checked; socially, intelligence findings should be carried out in a social platform.

Finally, in other to facilitate counterterrorism approaches, manage Nigerian borders and state borders, and control migrants, there is need to understand what, how, and exactly does supply affects terrorism. Determination of spatial interaction of terrorist, careful analyzing transport demand/supply relationship that is associated with terrorist groups expressed over a geographical space. In the situation whereby the supply of food is blocked, Nigerian borders are well manned, effective security checks on migration both inter-state and intra-

state, terrorist will be rendered powerless and this can only be efficiently achieved through transportation and logistics approach, the researcher also recommends the construction of Vehicle Screening Point (VSP).

This paper identifies the following;

1. The general concept and causes of terrorism;
2. Funding, interconnection and characteristics of terrorists;
3. Structure of terror;
4. The general concept of counterterrorism;
5. Facilitating counterterrorism through spatial interaction model;
6. Roles of transportation and military logistics in facilitating counterterrorism;
7. Recommending infrastructural model of Vehicle Screening Point (VSP).

2.0 Literature Review

2.1 Terrorism

Terrorism is the deliberate creation and exploitation of fear for bringing about political change. All terrorist acts involve violence or threat of violence. These violent acts include murder, kidnapping, bombing, and arson. They are committed by non-governmental groups or individual who are neither parts of nor officially serving in the military forces, law enforcement agencies, intelligence services, or other governmental agencies of an established nation. Terrorists attempt not only to sow panic but also to undermine confidence in the government and political leadership of their target country, to frighten and thereby intimidate a wider audience, such as a rival ethnic or religious group, an entire country and its political leadership, or the international community as a whole. Terrorism is therefore designed to have psychological effects that reach far beyond its impact on the immediate victims or object of an attack (Hoffman, 2008).

There is considerable variation on how country laws define terrorism; most countries around the world regard terrorism as a crime. For instance, the United Kingdom legislation titled Terrorist Act 2000 states that terrorism is the use or threat of action designed to influence the government or to intimidate the public or a section of the public for the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause. The definition according to United Kingdom has influence on the United States, Canada, and Israel's definition. They defined terrorism as violent act dangerous to human life that appears to be intended to;

1. Intimidate or coerce a civilian population;
2. Influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion; or
3. Affect the conduct of a government by assassination or kidnapping (United States Code, Title 18, Section 2331 (18 USC 2331)).

Terrorism as witnessing in Nigeria most especially in the Northern region have tear apart the social fabric of the northern region by destroying agriculture, businesses, cultural life and the mutual trust upon which the Nigerian society is based. Terrorism often targets and victimized innocent civilians in order to create an atmosphere of fear, intimidation, and insecurity. Hoffman (2008) argued that terrorists deliberately direct attacks against large numbers of ordinary citizens who simply happen to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. As against the perspective of Hoffman or to buttress his perspective, terrorists deliberately direct attacks against large numbers of ordinary citizens who gather in the right place and at the right time such as place of worship, market, bus terminals. Some attacks target diplomats and diplomatic facilities such as embassies and consulates; military personnel and military bases; business executives and corporate offices; and transportation vehicles and facilities, such as airlines and airports, trains and train stations, buses and bus terminals, and subways. Their actions require no explanation or justification outside the terrorist group itself or its supporters.

2.1.1 Causes of terrorism

Terrorism has occurred throughout history for a variety of reasons. Its causes can be historical, cultural, political, social, psychological, economic, or religious or any combination of these. Some countries have proven to be particularly susceptible to terrorism at certain times, as Italy and West Germany were during the 1970s. Terrorist violence escalated precipitously in those two countries for a decade before declining equally dramatically. Other countries, such as Canada and The Netherlands, have proven to be more resistant, and have experienced only a few isolated terrorist incidents (Hoffman, 2008).

In general, democratic countries have provided more fertile ground for terrorism because of the open nature of their societies. In such societies citizens have fundamental rights, civil liberties are legally protected, and government control and constant surveillance of its citizens and their activities is absent. By the same token, repressive societies, in which the government closely monitors citizens and restricts their speech and movement, have often provided more difficult environments for terrorists. But even police states have not been immune to terrorism, despite limiting civil liberties and forbidding free speech and rights of assembly. Examples include Russia under tsarist rule and the Communist-ruled Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, as well as the People's Republic of China, Myanmar, and Laos (Hoffman, 2008).

In broad terms, the causes that have commonly compelled people to engage in terrorism are grievances

borne of political oppression, cultural domination, economic exploitation, ethnic discrimination, and religious persecution. Perceived inequities in the distribution of wealth and political power have led some terrorists to attempt or overthrow democratically elected governments. To achieve a fairer society, they would replace these governments with socialist or communist regimes (Hoffman, 2008).

Some terrorist organizations are sponsored by the State. Thus, the State supply arms, money, and a safe haven, among other things to the group. In doing so, it has transformed ordinary groups, with otherwise limited capabilities, into more powerful and menacing opponents. State sponsorship have improved the training of terrorists and facilitate planning and operations.

2.1.2 Funding and interconnection of terrorist

Terrorist pay their way with funds raised through front businesses, drug trafficking, credit card fraud, extortion, and money from covert supporters. They use ostensibly charitable organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) for funding and recruitment. Money for their operations is transferred surreptitiously through numerous banks, money exchanges, and alternate remittance systems (often known as “hawalas”) some legitimate and unwitting, others not. The terrorist threat is a flexible, transnational network structure, enabled by modern technology and characterized by loose interconnectivity both within and between groups. Terrorists work together in funding, sharing intelligence, training, logistics, planning, and executing attacks (National strategy for combating terrorism, USA, 2003).

2.1.3 Characteristics of terrorists

One major characteristic is that terrorists do not commit actions randomly or senselessly. Every terrorist wants an attack to generate maximum publicity because media attention helps achieve the intimidation needed for terrorism’s success. Accordingly, terrorist acts are carefully planned.

Several essential elements go into planning a major terrorist attack. Planning begins with gathering detailed reconnaissance and intelligence about a target: its defenses, vulnerabilities, and patterns of daily activity. Meanwhile, logistics specialists ensure that all the supporting tasks are accomplished. These tasks include assembling the weapons and other supplies and communications equipment needed for the operation, arranging for safe houses and transportation for the terrorist attack team, and mapping escape routes.

2.1.4 Structure of terror



Figure 1: Structure of terror.

Source: National strategy for combating terrorism. USA, 2003.

Despite their diversity in motive, sophistication, and strength, terrorist organizations share a basic structure as depicted in figure 1 above. This is also referred to as the hierarchical structure of terror which occurs sequentially.

1. Underlying conditions: This includes; poverty, corruption, religious conflict and ethnic strife. It creates opportunities for terrorists to exploit. Some of these conditions are real and some manufactured. Terrorists use these conditions to justify their actions and expand their support. The belief that terror is a legitimate means to address such conditions and effect political change is a fundamental problem enabling terrorism to develop and grow.
2. International environment: This is the boundaries within which terrorists’ strategies take shape. As a result of freer, more open borders this environment unwittingly provides access to havens, capabilities, and other support to terrorists. But access alone is not enough.
3. States: This can also be referred to as country. Terrorists must have a physical base from which to operate. Whether through ignorance, inability, or intent, states around the world still offer havens both physical (e.g., safe houses, training grounds) and virtual (e.g., reliable communication and financial networks) that terrorists need to plan, organize, train, and conduct their operations.
4. Organization: Once the terrorist have entrenched in a safe operating environment, their organization can begin to solidify and expand. The terrorist organization’s structure, membership, resources, and security determine its capabilities and reach.
5. Leadership: This is at the top of the structure. The terrorist leadership provides the overall direction and strategy that links all these factors and thereby breathes life into a terror campaign. The leadership becomes the catalyst for terrorist action. The loss of the leadership can cause many organizations to collapse. Some groups, however, are more resilient and can promote new leadership. Others have adopted

a more decentralized organization with largely autonomous cells.

2.2 Counterterrorism

Counterterrorism is the policies and methods used to deter and defeat terrorism. It involves the use of information gathering, law enforcement, diplomacy, military force, and protective security. Besides eliminating existing terrorists, effective counterterrorism also attempts to discover and remove the causes that motivate terrorists (Wilcox, 2008).

Counterterrorism is conducted in a variety of ways which involves the gathering of information about terrorists, using that information to prevent terrorist attacks and to prosecute terrorists, working with other countries to curb global networks of terrorists, and discovering and disrupting the financial resources used to support terrorism. In addition, effective counterterrorism often includes the use of sanctions against other nations that sponsor terrorism or allow terrorists to operate on their soil, and in extreme cases, it involves the use of military force. In other to enhance effectiveness, counterterrorism requires winning public support against terrorism so that terrorists are isolated and lack popular support (Wilcox, 2008). In order to efficiently facilitate counterterrorism, there is need for efficient management of Nigerian borders as shown by the Directorate of Border and Transportation Security which is responsible for preventing terrorists from entering the United States; for protecting air, land, and sea transportation systems; and for enforcing immigration laws.

During the colonial era, Frederick Lugard (1858-1945), a British Soldier, explorer and diplomat who played an important role in Britain's colonial development in Africa attributed the major problem of Africa (Nigeria inclusive) is transportation; he said "give them transport, and the problem of Africa will be solved". The development of transport system led to the following;

1. Exploration of agricultural produce and natural resources for onward shipment into the domain of colonial master. As a result of these, other significant infrastructures were developed.
2. Facilitation of effective colonial administration.
3. Facilitation of effective security and national defense.

The emphasis for this paper will be on the facilitation of effective security and national defense. According to Oxford English Dictionary, transport was derived from two Latin words 'trans' which mean 'across' and 'portare' which mean 'carry'. This connects with the essence of transportation either in the developed and developing nations that cannot be farfetched or beyond the following: economic purpose, spatial interaction and social integration; without which it will be impossible for terrorist groups to launch attack. For an effective counterterrorism approach, the demand and supply of goods and services for the terrorist group should be blocked; geographically, movement of immigrants and emigrants should be checkmated; socially, intelligence findings should be carried out in a social platform.

2.2.1 Facilitation of counterterrorism through spatial interaction model

According to Transport Geographers, spatial interaction model relates to the estimate flows between locations because the flow enhances the evaluation of demand (existing or potential) for transport services. Spatial interaction model is that assumption that movement or flows are a function of the attributes of the locations of origin, the attributes of the locations of destination and the friction of distance between the concerned origins and destinations. The general formula of the model is $T_{ij} = f(V_i W_j S_{ij})$. Where T_{ij} is the interaction between location i (origin) and location j (destination), the units of measurement are varied and can involve people, tons of freight, traffic volume, etc. It also concerns a time period such as interactions by the hour, day, month, or year. V_i is the attributes of the location of origin i , variables often used to express these attributes are socio-economic in nature, such as population, number of jobs available, industrial output or gross domestic product. W_j is the attributes of the location of destination j , it uses similar socio-economic variables to the previous attribute. S_{ij} is the attributes of separation between the location of origin i and the location of destination j , this is also known as transport friction, variables often used to express these attributes are distance, transport costs, or travel time (Jean, Claude and Brian, 2006).

Moreover, when determining the spatial interaction of terrorist, it is a realized movement of terrorists, their freight and information necessary to launch attack in a particular place. It has to do with an origin and a destination. Therefore anti-terrorist or military should carefully analyze transport demand/supply relationship that is associated with terrorist groups expressed over a geographical space. It is expedient that spatial interactions to cover a wide variety of movements such as journeys to survey before attack would be launched, migrations of terrorists, fixing of weapons (bombs) in the public facilities, the transmission of information or capital, and others to enhance effective realization of their attack mission.

Furthermore, there are three interdependent conditions necessary for a spatial interaction of terrorists to occur;

1. Regional Complementarity: There must be a supply and a demand between the interacting locations. For the successful realization of terrorist attack, they identify a source for the supplying of food, arms and ammunitions. Therefore, in other to efficiently tackle the terrorist group, there will be need for Nigerian

- military to block source of illegitimate procurement of supplies before their will be any exchange.
2. **Intervening Opportunity:** There must not be another location that may offer a better alternative as a point of supply for the terrorists. It should also be noted that terrorist groups may prefer to source for supply in a location that is not far from the location of attack target, therefore, there is need for proper findings by the military to identify nearest locations where supplies can be made readily available for the terrorist.
 3. **Spatial Transferability:** The supply freight, terrorists or information being transferred must be supported by transport infrastructures, implying that the origin and the destination must be linked. In this case, Nigerian military should strictly monitor all transport infrastructures be it road, rail, water, air, pipelines, etc.

2.2.2 Facilitation of counterterrorism through military logistics

The origin of the term logistic is the Greek *logistikos*, meaning ‘skilled in calculating’. It was initially developed in the context of military activities in the late 18th and early 19th centuries and it launched from the military logistics of World War II. It was initially a military activity concerned with getting soldiers and munitions to the battlefield in time for flight. Military typically incorporate the supply, movement and quartering of troops in a set. Military logistics is the planning and carrying out the movement and maintenance of military forces. In its most comprehensive sense, it is those aspects or military operation that deals with design, development, acquisition, storage distribution, maintenance, evacuation and disposition of materials. Transportation of personnel, acquisition or construction, operating and exposition of facilities, acquisition or furnishing of service, medical and health service supply.

The quote of United Nations Doctrine Publication No4 state that the most important principle of logistics is providing the right support, at the right time, in the right place. There is need to understand what, how, and exactly does supply affects counterterrorism. In the situation whereby the supply of food is blocked, Nigerian borders are well manned, effective security checks on migration both interstate and intrastate, terrorist will be rendered powerless and this can only be efficiently achieved through transportation and logistics approach.

Physical distribution of terrorist supplies refers to the physical movement of food and ammunitions from the point of purchase to the domain of terrorist group. Logistics is part of the supply chain process that plans, implements, and controls the efficient, effective forward and reverses flow and storage of goods, services, and related information between the point of origin and the point of consumption in order to meet terrorist requirements.

The further tendency of logistics in the early 21st century is logistics alliance, Third Party Logistics (TPL) and globalized logistics. It is clearly obvious that a well integrated transport system is valuable for an efficient counterterrorism approach in Nigeria. The flow of information has been recognized alongside the importance of materials flows in the logistics channel. The flow of information has enhanced effective counterterrorism successes in the United States. Through the intensive use of Logistics’ ICT, namely, acquisition, communication, and identification technologies, the information flows are efficiently used by the defense sector and have competitive advantages over the terrorist group.

General components of logistics system

The closely linked components of the logistics system are listed below and will be explained with respect to counterterrorism:

1. Logistics services
2. Information systems
3. Infrastructure/resources

Logistics services: Logistics services support the movement of terrorist materials, weapons and ammunitions from inputs through production to consumers (terrorists), as well as associated waste disposal and reverse flows. They include activities undertaken in-house by the users of the services (e.g. storage or inventory control at a manufacturer’s plant) and the operations of external service providers. They comprise physical and non-physical activities (e.g. transport, storage and supply chain design, selection of contractors, freightage negotiations respectively). Most activities of logistics services are bi-direction. Hence, for proper conducts of counterterrorism, it is expedient for the blockage of physical flow of materials, weapons and ammunitions.

Information systems: This includes formulating models on how to lurching attacks and management of decision making, and more important issues are tracking and tracing both on the sides of the terrorists and the opponents. In counterterrorism, essential data and consultation must be facilitated through intelligence gathering, send of spies in other to disrupt their models and confuse the decision makers in the side of the terrorists.

Infrastructure or resources: This comprises of human resources (Counterterrorism Militants), financial resources from the government, well-packaged military materials, and warehouses for supplies, transport and communication gadgets. These will be used to physically combat the terrorist group without any fear on the side of government militants.

In other to facilitate counterterrorism approaches, manage Nigerian borders and state borders, and control migrants, the researcher hereby recommends the construction of Vehicle Screening Point (VSP). With the increasing volume of population and the dominancy of road transport system which results into increased rate of

motorization, congestion on highway; immigrating and emigrating of people becomes pertinent which allows easy movement or free flow of dangerous goods, and terrorists. It has become essential to construct an infrastructural model which will include several sub-systems or components that will properly manage the ground movement at major point of intersection in virtually all states and major on entry points across the federation in order to improve safety and facilitate effective counterterrorism. This will be discussed in the next sub-topic.

2.2.3 Facilitating counterterrorism through Vehicle Screening Point (VSP)

VSP is an infrastructure that will be constructed across a particular point on the highway such that all to and fro movements of vehicles and passengers will take place through it and the structure will facilitate revenue generation; and vehicles, goods and passenger checks. This structure will be constructed several meters long such that it can accommodate five (5) long trucks. Inside the building are facilities, and equipment that will enhance various services.

Design selection

Engineers must consider several factors when designing VSP. They consider the distance to cover before and after the infrastructure, the features to be encapsulated inside the structure (offices, parking spaces, crest and trough to ply by the motorists, security planning approaches). Engineers must also anticipate the type of traffic and the amount of load which must be allowed in the structure such that this amount will be in specification to the amount of loads that must be in standard for the highway.

Strategically, kilometers before the structure in both directions, computerized security and tracking systems will be mounted such that when the security devices detects an oncoming vehicle carrying harms, ammunitions and weapons, heading towards the structure, it will alert the security agents ahead such that counter attack would have carried out before the vehicle approaches the structure.

Inside the structure are offices for different organizations such as military, paramilitary, tax collector, road safety, research office, fire, ICT, warehouse, guest rooms. On the road path in the structure, there will be a speed breaker with crest and trough; this will reduce the speed of vehicles plying the structure and enhance effective checks. Parking space will be constructed outside the structure to accommodate impounded vehicles.

Advantages of the structure

1. It will facilitate zero tolerance of criminal activities on highway and other places across the federation.
2. It will serve as a source of generating revenue for the government through effective toll collection.
3. It will result to safety of the road users and the various agencies directly or indirectly involved in carrying out the task.
4. It will result to direct and indirect employment.
5. It will enhance effective vehicle count for future research and development.
6. Weighing of vehicle will result to increasing the life expectancy of highway.
7. The movement of aged vehicles will be discouraged.
8. It will enhance enforcement of uniform traffic regulation and prevent misalignment of responsibilities.

3.0 Conclusion

Terrorism has occurred throughout history for a variety of reasons. Its causes can be historical, cultural, political, social, psychological, economic, or religious or any combination of these. Terrorism is the deliberate creation and exploitation of fear for bringing about political change. All terrorist acts involve violence or threat of violence. These violent acts include murder, kidnapping, bombing, and arson. They are committed by non-governmental groups or individual who are neither parts of nor officially serving in the military forces, law enforcement agencies, intelligence services, or other governmental agencies of an established nation.

Despite the high intensity of terrorist attacks, there is need for not only effective but efficient facilitation of counterterrorism approaches by Nigerian military. Counterterrorism is the policies and methods used to deter and defeat terrorism.

Finally, in other to facilitate counterterrorism approaches, manage Nigerian borders and state borders, and control migrants, the roles of transportation and logistics cannot be overemphasized, hence there is need to understand what, how, and exactly does supply affects terrorism. Determination of spatial interaction of terrorist, careful analyzing transport demand/supply relationship. The researcher also recommends the construction of Vehicle Screening Point (VSP).

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Corresponding Author

ADENIRAN, Adetayo Olaniyi is a graduate of Ladoke Akintola University of Technology (LAUTECH), Ogbomoso, Oyo State, Nigeria where he bagged his first degree in Transport Management Technology, 2014. He is currently a Master student of Transport Management Technology (2015/2016) at Federal University of Technology, Akure, Ondo state, Nigeria.

His field of interests are transport development, transport policy, operation research, quantitative techniques and air transport management.