

Examination of Institutional and Operational Constraints Affecting the Implementation of Nigeria's National Intelligence Strategy (NIS)

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Abstract
Nigeria's National Intelligence Strategy (NIS) was conceived as a framework to align intelligence priorities with national security objectives, harmonize fragmented agencies, and strengthen responses to transnational threats. However, its implementation has been undermined by persistent institutional and operational constraints. This study critically examines these challenges through the lens of the Security Governance Framework, which emphasizes the multi-actor nature of contemporary security involving states, regional organizations, and non-state actors. Using document analysis and content analysis, the research interrogates policy documents, scholarly literature, and empirical reports from ENACT Africa, UNODC, and the Small Arms Survey to identify recurring themes of fragmentation, resource scarcity, and weak regional cooperation. Findings reveal that institutional constraints such as overlapping mandates among the DSS, NIA, DIA, and Police Intelligence foster duplication of efforts and rivalry, weakening coherence and intelligence sharing. Weak policy enforcement further exacerbates insecurity, with over 6 million small arms circulating in Nigeria outside state control (UNODC, 2021). Political interference distorts intelligence priorities, diverting resources toward partisan interests rather than addressing transnational threats. Operationally, chronic underfunding, poor inter-agency collaboration, and technological gaps impede Nigeria's ability to counter illicit arms trafficking and organized crime. Case studies highlight Boko Haram and ISWAP's capture of weapons during raids on military bases, while corruption within security forces has facilitated arms diversion to criminal networks (Small Arms Survey, 2019). The study concludes that Nigeria's NIS faces a significant gap between its conceptual ideals—alignment, integration, and resource management—and its lived realities of fragmentation, corruption, and porous borders. Recommendations include strengthening inter-agency coordination, enhancing policy enforcement, increasing resource allocation, leveraging technology, combating corruption, and deepening regional cooperation with ECOWAS and international partners.

Keywords: Nigeria, National Intelligence Strategy, Institutional Constraints, Operational Challenges, Security Governance Framework

Introduction

In the contemporary security landscape, intelligence has become a cornerstone of national defense and global stability. Transnational threats such as terrorism, organized crime, cyber insecurity, and illicit arms trafficking transcend borders, requiring states to adopt comprehensive intelligence strategies that align with international norms and cooperative frameworks (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [UNODC], 2020). The globalization of crime networks and the proliferation of small

arms and light weapons (SALWs) have intensified the need for intelligence systems capable of integrating global best practices with localized realities (Small Arms Survey, 2021) [12].

Africa faces unique challenges in intelligence coordination due to porous borders, fragile institutions, and persistent conflicts. The African Union (AU) has emphasized the importance of intelligence-led approaches to counter terrorism and organized crime, particularly through initiatives such as the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA). However, weak institutional capacity and limited technological infrastructure hinder effective intelligence sharing across member states (ENACT Africa, 2022) [11]. The continent's vulnerability to arms trafficking, especially in conflict-prone regions, underscores the need for robust intelligence frameworks that can anticipate and disrupt transnational criminal networks.

West Africa is a critical hub for illicit arms trafficking, with the Sahel serving as a corridor for weapons that fuel insurgencies, terrorism, and organized crime (UNODC, 2020) [13]. Regional bodies such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) have attempted to harmonize intelligence efforts through conventions on small arms and collective security mechanisms. Nonetheless, operational challenges—including corruption, inadequate border surveillance, and poor inter-agency collaboration—continue to undermine regional intelligence effectiveness (Small Arms Survey, 2021) [12]. The persistence of arms flows across Nigeria, Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso illustrates the inadequacy of current intelligence responses.

Nigeria's National Intelligence Strategy (NIS) was designed to provide a coherent framework for addressing internal and external security threats, including terrorism, insurgency, and transnational organized crime. Despite its strategic vision, implementation has been constrained by institutional fragmentation, political interference, and resource limitations (UNODC, 2021) [14]. The country's intelligence agencies—such as the Department of State Services (DSS), National Intelligence Agency (NIA), and Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA)—often operate in silos, limiting the effectiveness of intelligence fusion and coordinated responses. These challenges weaken Nigeria's ability to counter illicit arms trafficking, which remains a significant driver of insecurity across the country.

Statement of the Problem

The effectiveness of Nigeria's National Intelligence Strategy is undermined by a combination of institutional and operational constraints. At the institutional level, overlapping mandates, weak legal frameworks, and political interference reduce the coherence of intelligence operations. Operationally, porous borders, inadequate technological infrastructure, and poor inter-agency collaboration hinder the timely collection, analysis, and dissemination of actionable intelligence. These constraints are particularly evident in Nigeria's struggle against illicit arms trafficking, which continues to fuel insurgency in the northeast, banditry in the northwest, and communal violence across the Middle Belt.

The persistence of these challenges raises critical questions about the viability of the NIS as a tool for national security. Without addressing institutional fragmentation and operational deficiencies, Nigeria risks perpetuating a cycle of insecurity that undermines both national stability and regional peace. This study, therefore, seeks to examine the institutional and operational constraints affecting the implementation of Nigeria's National Intelligence Strategy, with a focus on its capacity to counter illicit arms trafficking and transnational organized crime.

Research Questions

1. What institutional constraints affect the effective implementation of Nigeria's National Intelligence Strategy?
2. How do operational challenges hinder Nigeria's capacity to counter illicit arms trafficking and transnational organized crime under the NIS framework?

Research Objectives

1. To critically examine the institutional constraints that undermine the coherence and effectiveness of Nigeria's National Intelligence Strategy.
2. To analyze the operational challenges that impede the implementation of Nigeria's National Intelligence Strategy in addressing illicit arms trafficking and organized crime.

Conceptual Clarifications

Intelligence

Intelligence refers to the systematic collection, analysis, and dissemination of information to support decision-making in national security and defense (Lowenthal, 2017). It is not merely raw data but processed knowledge that enables governments to anticipate threats, manage risks, and design effective responses. In the Nigerian context, intelligence encompasses both domestic and foreign operations carried out by agencies such as the Department of State Services (DSS), National Intelligence Agency (NIA), and Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA).

In this study, intelligence refers to the systematic collection, analysis, and dissemination of information by Nigerian security agencies to anticipate, prevent, and respond to threats such as terrorism, organized crime, and illicit arms trafficking.

National Intelligence Strategy (NIS)

A National Intelligence Strategy is a framework that outlines a country's priorities, objectives, and mechanisms for intelligence operations. It provides direction for agencies to coordinate efforts against threats such as terrorism, organized crime, and arms trafficking (Office of the Director of National Intelligence [ODNI], 2019) [16]. Nigeria's NIS seeks to harmonize intelligence activities across multiple agencies, but its implementation has been constrained by institutional and operational challenges.

Nigeria's National Intelligence Strategy is defined here as the overarching framework guiding intelligence agencies in coordinating efforts to counter terrorism, organized crime, and illicit arms trafficking.

Institutional Constraints

Institutional constraints are structural and systemic limitations within organizations that hinder effective performance. In intelligence systems, these include overlapping mandates, weak legal frameworks, political

interference, and inadequate funding (Adebajo, 2021) [1]. Such constraints reduce coherence and weaken the ability of agencies to collaborate effectively.

Institutional constraints in this study refer to structural and systemic limitations—such as overlapping mandates, weak legal frameworks, political interference, and inadequate funding—that undermine Nigeria's intelligence agencies.

Operational Constraints

Operational constraints refer to practical challenges encountered during the execution of intelligence activities. These include porous borders, insufficient technological infrastructure, poor inter-agency collaboration, and limited human intelligence networks (UNODC, 2020) [13]. In Nigeria, operational constraints are particularly evident in the fight against illicit arms trafficking, where surveillance and enforcement capacities remain inadequate.

Operational constraints in this study refer to practical challenges—such as porous borders, inadequate technology, poor inter-agency collaboration, and weak intelligence-sharing—that hinder Nigeria's ability to implement its National Intelligence Strategy effectively.

Illicit Arms Trafficking

Illicit arms trafficking involves the unauthorized movement, trade, and distribution of small arms and light weapons (SALWs) across borders. It is a major driver of insecurity in West Africa, fueling terrorism, insurgency, and organized crime (Small Arms Survey, 2021) [12]. Nigeria's porous borders and weak enforcement mechanisms make it a hotspot for arms trafficking, undermining national and regional stability.

Empirical Review

The implementation of Nigeria's National Intelligence Strategy (NIS) is constrained by a complex interplay of institutional weaknesses, operational deficits, and regional pressures. While scholarly definitions of NIS emphasize alignment, integration, and resource management (ODNI, 2019; Treverton, 2015; Herman, 1996; Hulnick, 1999; Adebajo, 2021) [16][8][7][15][1], empirical evidence demonstrates that Nigeria's intelligence system struggles to translate these ideals into practice.

Nigeria's intelligence community is marked by fragmentation and rivalry among agencies such as the Department of State Services (DSS), National Intelligence Agency (NIA), Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA), and Police Intelligence. This duplication of efforts undermines coherence and integration, as highlighted by Treverton's (2015) blueprint for interagency collaboration [8]. Empirical studies confirm that weak institutional coordination has allowed transnational arms trafficking networks to exploit gaps in Nigeria's security architecture (ENACT Africa, 2020) [2].

Political interference further complicates implementation. Intelligence priorities are often shaped by ruling elites, reducing credibility and weakening alignment with national security objectives. UNODC (2021) [14] notes that despite Nigeria's legislative frameworks, enforcement remains inconsistent due to political and institutional weaknesses. Oversight mechanisms are underdeveloped, limiting accountability and transparency.

Operational challenges significantly hinder Nigeria's NIS. Chronic underfunding affects training, technology acquisition, and operational reach. Herman's (1996) resource-focused definition is relevant [7], but empirical evidence shows that resource scarcity alone cannot explain Nigeria's weak intelligence performance. UNODC (2018) [5] reports that seizures at borders account for less than 10% of interceptions, reflecting inadequate operational capacity.

Human capacity gaps also persist. Nigeria's intelligence agencies lack skilled analysts, language experts, and technical specialists. Locally made firearms—handguns, shotguns, and imitation rifles—are widespread, yet agencies struggle to track their production and distribution effectively (UNODC, 2021) [14].

Porous borders remain a critical vulnerability. The Small Arms Survey (2019) [4] maps trafficking routes through Niger, Mali, and Burkina Faso, showing how organized networks exploit ungoverned spaces and weak border security. Boko Haram and ISWAP have deliberately attacked military bases to seize weapons, underscoring operational vulnerabilities (UNODC, 2018) [5].

Corruption within security forces further undermines intelligence operations. Reports highlight how officials rent or sell weapons to criminals, eroding trust in intelligence-led enforcement (UNODC, 2018) [5]. In Nigeria, police officers have been arrested for renting Kalashnikov rifles and selling ammunition to local criminals, illustrating how corruption compromises operational effectiveness.

Nigeria's intelligence strategy must contend with regional instability in Mali, Niger, and Chad. Arms trafficking networks are highly organized, moving weapons across tri-border areas. The Small Arms Survey (2019) [4] describes trafficking south of the Niger River as "ant trade"—small-scale flows facilitated by local intermediaries.

International cooperation remains limited. Nigeria collaborates with ECOWAS, INTERPOL, and UNODC, but coordination is often reactive rather than proactive. ENACT Africa (2020) [2] emphasizes the need for targeted interventions to unravel complex criminal networks, yet Nigeria's intelligence agencies struggle to operationalize regional cooperation frameworks effectively.

Empirical evidence underscores that Nigeria's NIS faces constraints at three levels: institutional fragmentation, operational deficits, and regional pressures. These findings reveal a gap between conceptual definitions of NIS and Nigeria's lived realities. While ODNI (2019) [16] and Treverton (2015) [8] emphasize alignment and integration, Nigeria's intelligence system is undermined by corruption, porous borders, and weak interagency trust. Adebajo's (2021) contextual definition is valuable [1], but Nigeria's case requires empirical grounding in its institutional weaknesses and operational realities.

Theoretical Framework

The study of institutional and operational constraints affecting the implementation of Nigeria's National Intelligence Strategy (NIS) is best situated within the Security Governance Framework. Security governance theory emphasizes the multi-actor nature of contemporary security, recognizing that states, regional organizations, and non-state actors all play critical roles in addressing complex threats (Krahmann, 2003) [3]. This perspective is particularly

relevant to Nigeria, where national security challenges such as arms trafficking, terrorism, and organized crime transcend borders and require cooperative responses.

Security Governance Framework

Security governance theory provides a lens for understanding how intelligence strategies must adapt to fragmented institutional environments and transnational threats. Adebajo (2021) [1] contextualizes NIS in Africa as a framework for harmonizing fragmented intelligence systems to address regional insecurity. In Nigeria, the multiplicity of intelligence agencies—such as the DSS, NIA, DIA, and Police Intelligence—illustrates the fragmented nature of security governance. The framework highlights the importance of coordination and harmonization across these actors to achieve coherence in intelligence operations. From a security governance perspective, institutional fragmentation in Nigeria reflects weak coordination mechanisms among intelligence agencies. Empirical evidence shows that duplication of efforts and rivalry undermine effective intelligence sharing (ENACT Africa, 2020) [2]. Political interference further distorts governance structures, as intelligence priorities are often shaped by ruling elites rather than national security imperatives (UNODC, 2021) [14]. Security governance theory explains these constraints as failures of institutional harmonization and accountability within a multi-actor system.

Operational deficits in Nigeria's intelligence system—such as resource scarcity, porous borders, and corruption—can also be understood through the security governance lens. Resource dependence and weak institutional capacity limit Nigeria's ability to manage transnational threats effectively. The Small Arms Survey (2019) [4] demonstrates how porous borders facilitate arms trafficking across the Sahel, overwhelming Nigeria's intelligence agencies. Corruption within security forces further undermines governance, as officials rent or sell weapons to criminals, eroding trust in intelligence-led enforcement (UNODC, 2018) [5]. These operational challenges reflect governance failures in managing resources, enforcing accountability, and coordinating responses across multiple actors.

Security governance theory emphasizes that national intelligence strategies cannot be confined to state-centric approaches. Nigeria's exposure to transnational threats—such as Boko Haram, ISWAP, and organized trafficking networks—illustrates the need for cooperative governance involving regional organizations like ECOWAS and international actors such as INTERPOL and UNODC. However, empirical evidence shows that Nigeria struggles to operationalize regional cooperation frameworks, limiting the effectiveness of its NIS (ENACT Africa, 2020; Small Arms Survey, 2019) [2][4]. Security governance theory thus provides a critical lens for analyzing how Nigeria's intelligence strategy is constrained by weak regional collaboration and limited multi-actor coordination.

The Security Governance Framework offers a robust theoretical lens for examining Nigeria's National Intelligence Strategy. It highlights how institutional fragmentation, operational deficits, and regional pressures are not merely technical challenges but governance failures within a multi-actor security environment. By situating Nigeria's NIS within this framework, the study underscores the need for harmonization, accountability, and cooperative governance to overcome constraints and enhance intelligence effectiveness.

Methodology

This study adopts a qualitative research design, employing document analysis and content analysis as its primary methods. These approaches are appropriate for examining institutional and operational constraints affecting the implementation of Nigeria's National Intelligence Strategy (NIS), as they allow for systematic interrogation of policy documents, scholarly literature, and empirical reports. Document analysis involves the systematic review and interpretation of existing texts to extract meaning, identify patterns, and generate empirical insights (Bowen, 2009) [9]. In this study, document analysis was applied to a range of sources, including: Nigeria's legislative and policy frameworks (e.g., Firearms Act of 1959, Terrorism Prevention Act of 2011), International reports such as UNODC firearms assessments (UNODC, 2018; UNODC, 2021) [5][14], Regional studies including ENACT Africa's report on firearms trafficking in Central and Western Africa (ENACT Africa, 2020) [2], and Scholarly works on intelligence strategy and governance (Adebajo, 2021; Herman, 1996; Treverton, 2015) [1][7][8]. This method enabled the identification of institutional weaknesses such as fragmentation, political interference, and weak oversight, as well as operational challenges including resource scarcity, porous borders, and corruption.

Content analysis was employed to systematically categorize and interpret themes emerging from the reviewed documents. According to Krippendorff (2018) [10], content analysis allows researchers to make replicable and valid inferences from texts to the contexts of their use. In this study, content analysis was applied to: Empirical reports from the Small Arms Survey (2019) [4] mapping cross-border arms trafficking, UNODC's West Africa TOC firearms report (2018) [5], Policy documents and scholarly definitions of NIS. The analysis focused on recurring themes such as institutional fragmentation, resource limitations, corruption, and regional cooperation gaps. These themes were coded and categorized under two broad dimensions: institutional constraints and operational constraints. The findings were then interpreted through the lens of the Security Governance Framework, which emphasizes the multi-actor nature of security governance and the need for harmonization across fragmented systems (Krahmann, 2003; Adebajo, 2021) [3][1].

The combined use of document analysis and content analysis provided a robust methodological foundation for examining Nigeria's National Intelligence Strategy. Document analysis ensured systematic engagement with relevant texts, while content analysis enabled thematic categorization and interpretation. Together, these methods, guided by the Security Governance Framework, facilitated a comprehensive understanding of the institutional and operational constraints undermining the implementation of Nigeria's NIS.

Institutional Constraints

Nigeria's National Intelligence Strategy (NIS) is undermined by institutional weaknesses such as overlapping mandates, weak policy enforcement, and political influences.

Nigeria's intelligence community is composed of multiple agencies—the Department of State Services (DSS), National Intelligence Agency (NIA), Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA), and Police Intelligence—each with overlapping responsibilities. This duplication of roles leads to rivalry, poor coordination, and duplication of efforts. ENACT Africa (2020) [2] highlights that firearms trafficking networks exploit these institutional gaps, moving weapons across porous borders with minimal detection. The lack of a unified intelligence architecture undermines Treverton's (2015) vision of integration and coherence [8]. In 2018, Nigerian security forces intercepted a shipment of over 2,000 pump-action rifles at Apapa Port in Lagos. Investigations revealed that multiple agencies had prior intelligence but failed to coordinate effectively, allowing the shipment to enter the country before detection (UNODC, 2018) [5]. This illustrates how fragmented mandates weaken operational effectiveness.

Weak Policy Enforcement

Nigeria has legislative frameworks such as the Firearms Act (1959) and the Terrorism Prevention Act (2011), but enforcement remains inconsistent. UNODC (2021) [14] estimates that over 6 million small arms are in circulation in Nigeria, most outside state control. Weak enforcement undermines the coherence of the NIS and its ability to align intelligence priorities with national security objectives. The Small Arms Survey (2019) [4] found that 70% of illicit arms in West Africa originate from poorly secured government stockpiles, underscoring weak enforcement and accountability.

Political Influences

Political interference distorts intelligence priorities. Herman's (1996) resource-focused definition of NIS overlooks how ruling elites often shape intelligence agendas for partisan purposes [7]. Adebajo (2021) [1] notes that intelligence agencies in Africa, including Nigeria, are frequently deployed to monitor political opponents rather than focus on transnational threats. This politicization reduces credibility and weakens strategic alignment. During Nigeria's 2019 elections, reports surfaced that intelligence agencies were tasked with monitoring opposition activities rather than focusing on Boko Haram's resurgence in the northeast (Adebajo, 2021) [1]. This diversion of priorities illustrates how political influences undermine the effectiveness of NIS.

Operational Challenges

Operational challenges such as resource limitations, poor inter-agency collaboration, and technological gaps further impede the implementation of Nigeria's NIS, particularly in addressing illicit arms trafficking and organized crime.

Resource Limitations

Nigeria's intelligence agencies suffer from chronic underfunding. UNODC (2018) [5] highlights that seizures at borders account for less than 10% of intercepted firearms, reflecting inadequate operational capacity. The Small Arms Survey (2019) [4] estimates that 350 million small arms are in circulation globally, with 100 million in Africa and 6 million in Nigeria alone. This proliferation overwhelms Nigeria's under-resourced intelligence agencies. In 2017, customs officials intercepted 661 pump-action rifles concealed in a container in Lagos. The operation revealed severe resource gaps, as intelligence agencies lacked the scanning technology to detect the shipment earlier (UNODC, 2018) [5].

Poor Inter-agency Collaboration

Treverton's (2015) emphasis on integration is undermined by Nigeria's weak inter-agency collaboration [8]. Rivalries between agencies hinder intelligence sharing, leaving gaps exploited by organized crime. ENACT Africa (2020) [2] documents how trafficking networks in Central and West Africa operate through decentralized "ant trade" routes, moving small quantities of arms across borders undetected due to poor intelligence coordination. In 2019, Nigerian authorities reported that arms traffickers used motorcycles and small vehicles to move weapons across the Niger border in small consignments, evading detection due to poor intelligence collaboration (Small Arms Survey, 2019) [4].

Technological Gaps

Nigeria's intelligence agencies lack modern surveillance and data integration systems. UNODC (2021) [14] notes that poor integration of intelligence databases makes it difficult to track organized crime patterns. Boko Haram and ISWAP have exploited these gaps by attacking military bases to seize weapons. Between 2015 and 2018, Boko Haram captured hundreds of rifles and thousands of rounds of ammunition during raids on Nigerian military bases in Borno State (Small Arms Survey, 2019) [4]. In 2015, Boko Haram attacked a military base in Monguno, Borno State, seizing large caches of arms and ammunition. The incident highlighted Nigeria's technological and operational weaknesses in securing stockpiles and monitoring insurgent activities (UNODC, 2018) [5].

Corruption in Security Forces

Corruption within security forces further undermines intelligence operations. UNODC (2018) [5] reports that officials have been implicated in renting or selling weapons to criminals. In 2016, police officers in Nigeria were arrested for renting out AK-47 rifles to local gangs. This case illustrates how corruption erodes trust in intelligence-led enforcement and compromises operational effectiveness.

Institutional constraints—such as overlapping mandates, weak enforcement, and political interference—combine with operational challenges—such as resource scarcity, poor collaboration, and technological gaps—to undermine Nigeria's National Intelligence Strategy. Empirical evidence shows that illicit arms trafficking and organized crime thrive in this environment, with millions of small arms circulating outside state control and insurgent groups exploiting governance failures. Addressing these constraints requires strengthening inter-agency collaboration, investing in technology, and insulating intelligence operations from political manipulation.

Conclusion

The implementation of Nigeria's National Intelligence Strategy is constrained by a combination of institutional and operational weaknesses that undermine its coherence and effectiveness. Institutionally, overlapping mandates among agencies such as the DSS, NIA, DIA, and Police Intelligence

create duplication of efforts and rivalry, weakening coordination and intelligence sharing (ENACT Africa, 2020) [2]. Weak policy enforcement further exacerbates the problem, with over 6 million small arms circulating in Nigeria outside state control (UNODC, 2021) [14]. Political interference distorts intelligence priorities, diverting resources toward partisan interests rather than addressing transnational threats (Adebajo, 2021) [1].

Operationally, chronic resource limitations, poor inter-agency collaboration, and technological gaps impede Nigeria's ability to counter illicit arms trafficking and organized crime. UNODC (2018) [5] reports that seizures at borders account for less than 10% of intercepted firearms, reflecting inadequate operational capacity. Boko Haram and ISWAP have exploited these weaknesses, capturing weapons during raids on military bases, while corruption within security forces has facilitated the diversion of arms to criminal networks (Small Arms Survey, 2019) [4].

Taken together, these institutional and operational constraints reveal a gap between the conceptual ideals of NIS—alignment, integration, and resource management—and Nigeria's lived realities of fragmentation, corruption, and porous borders. The Security Governance Framework provides a useful lens for understanding these challenges, emphasizing the need for harmonization across multiple actors and cooperative approaches to transnational threats (Krahmann, 2003) [3].

In light of the conclusion, the paper recommends the following:

Strengthen Inter-agency Coordination

Establish a centralized intelligence coordination body to harmonize mandates and reduce duplication. Implement joint task forces for arms trafficking and organized crime, ensuring real-time intelligence sharing across agencies.

Enhance Policy Enforcement and Oversight

Review and update outdated legislation such as the Firearms Act (1959) to reflect contemporary security realities. Strengthen parliamentary and judicial oversight of intelligence agencies to reduce political interference and improve accountability.

Increase Resource Allocation and Capacity Building

Allocate greater funding to intelligence agencies for training, surveillance technology, and border control infrastructure. Invest in human capacity development, including specialized training for analysts, language experts, and technical specialists.

Leverage Technology and Data Integration

Develop integrated intelligence databases to track arms trafficking and organized crime patterns. Deploy advanced scanning and surveillance technologies at ports and borders to improve detection rates.

Combat Corruption within Security Forces

Introduce stricter vetting and monitoring mechanisms for personnel in sensitive intelligence and security roles. Establish whistleblower protections and anti-corruption units within intelligence agencies to deter illicit arms diversion.

Strengthen Regional and International Cooperation

Deepen collaboration with ECOWAS, INTERPOL, and UNODC to operationalize regional frameworks against arms trafficking. Participate actively in intelligence-sharing initiatives across the Sahel to counter transnational organized crime.

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