

General Christopher Musa, CDS SOARING ON THE CREST OF EXCELLENCE



General Musa has been actively involved in addressing various security challenges facing Nigeria, including the ongoing conflict with Boko Haram and other terrorist groups in the Sahel region. He has also emphasized the importance of collaboration among security agencies and other stakeholders for enhanced national security. Furthermore, he has reaffirmed Nigeria's commitment to global peace and multilateral cooperation. Gen Musa today is the most experienced senior military combatant in the history of the Nigerian Army who through his antecedent has demonstrated great ability to handle, control and command strategic divisions and units of the Nigeria Army. He has acquired vast knowledge, participated and excelled in strategic training and Military operations both within and outside the country and all these have equipped him with the requisite capacity and experience to lead the nation's Armed Forces. Those who knew him in his days as a young officer described him as discipline, hardworking and committed to the cause of his fatherland. They described him as very watchful, tactful, diplomatic, emotionally intelligent, physiologically sound and God-fearing.

From the ashes of that harrowing war, the Nigerian Armed Forces remarkably rebuilt itself—not only as a formidable fighting force but as an enduring symbol of national resilience. Over the years, it has adapted to an array of new and critical roles: battling insidious insurgencies, providing essential

The Chief of Defense Staff Gen. Christopher Musa, was born on December 25, 1967 in Sokoto, but hails from Zangon Kataf in Kaduna State. He is a member of the 38th Regular Course of the Nigerian Defense Academy and was commissioned on September 21, 1991 into the Nigerian Army Infantry Corps. Musa holds a Master's in Defense Studies from the National Defense University in Beijing, China. He was appointed to the position on June 19, 2023, by President Bola Tinubu. General Musa is the 18th person to hold this role.

humanitarian relief during crises, supporting civil authorities in emergencies, and contributing significantly to peacekeeping missions across Africa. Under the leadership of Lieutenant General Christopher Musa as the Chief of Defense Staff, the Armed Forces of Nigeria has risen valiantly to the occasion, denying terrorists the opportunity to disrupt our socio-cultural heritage or smear the sanctity of our sovereignty. Nigeria has, for too long, contended with the enemies of peace and agents of chaos who have brought

terrorism to our borders and spawned a plethora of internal security challenges. The Nigerian Armed Forces, as an indispensable instrument of national unity, integration, and development, has made significant strides in innovation, research and development, civil-military relations, and technological advancement. These efforts are all geared towards better equipping the Nigerian soldier to effectively carry out their constitutional responsibilities.

Gen. Musa started his primary education from Marafa Danbaba Primary School in Sokoto from 1974-1978 and proceeded to Model Primary School Dorowa Road Sokoto between 1978 -1980 where he completed his early education. Between 1980- 1981 he attended Vocational Training Centre Gaummi Sokoto before proceeding to Federal Government College Sokoto from 1981 -1985 for his secondary education. Between 1985-1986 he went for his A levels in College of Advance Studies Zaria before proceeding to the Nigerian Defense Academy from 1986-1990 as a Member of the 38th Regular Course where he obtained his Bachelor 's degree. While in the Military he attended Mechanical Transportation Officers Course in 1992 and the Young Officers Course in Infantry in 1993. In 1998 he attended the Regimental Signal Course after which he was again nominated to attend the Junior Course at the Armed Forces Command and Staff College Jaji in 2000. Between 2004 to 2005 he attended the Senior Course at the Armed Forces Command and Staff College Jaji. As a result of his quest for excellence he advanced to the University of Lagos from 2007 to 2008 to acquire Advance Diploma in Security Management. He obtained an Advanced Diploma in Defense and Strategic Course from China- International College of Defense Studies National Defense university (ICDS-NDU)- ChangPing China and later obtained an MSc (Mil. Science) between 2012-2013 from the same institution. In 2017 he attended a Combined Joint Land Commander's Course on Leadership at the US Army War College.

Gen. Musa has held several Command appointments as an Officer in the Nigerian Army. In 1991 he was a platoon Commander at the 192 Bn while he was also promoted to become the Intelligent Officer of the same Battalion between 1993-1994. He also held the position of the Administrative Officer at the 2 Div. Camp (Garrison) from 1995- 1999 before becoming the Pioneer Adjutant of 195 Battalion in 2000. From 2001 – 2002 he was the Operation Officer NIBBATT 8 UNAMSIL and the 2ic of 195 Bn between 2002-2003. He was also moved to 149 Bn from 2005- 2006 as the 2ic. As a result of his discipline, competence and dedication to duty he was appointed as the General Staff Officer1 Training/Operations at HQ 81 Division from 2006-2007 after which he was deployed to 73 Bn and appointed as the Commanding Officer from 2007-2009. Between 2009 - 2011 he was promoted to the position of Assistant Director Operational Requirement at Department of Army Policy and Plans. He was again appointed as Infantry Representative/Member Training Team at HQ Nigerian Army Armour Corps from 2011-2012 before becoming Deputy Chief of Staff Training/Operation at Infantry Centre and Corps between 2013-2014. In 2014-2015 he was appointed as the Chief of Staff at HQ 2 Division of the Nigerian Army. Between 2015-2017 he was appointed as the

Commandant Depot Nigerian Army. In 2017, he was appointed as Principal Staff Officer (combat Arms) at army HQ Department of Projects and Programmes and also Pioneer Executive Director Nigerian Army Farms and Ranches Ltd.

In 2018 he was appointed Commander 82 Division Task Force Brigade OPLSAT HOLD in the North East. In 2019 he was appointed Commander Sector 3 OPLAFIYA DOLE and Commander Sector 3 Multinational Joint Task Force in the Lake Tchad Region. Between 2019-2020 he was appointed as Chief of General Duties TRADOC. In 2020 he was appointed to the strategic position of Director Campaign Planning/Training AHQ DATOPs. In 2021 he was appointed to the position of Senior Research Fellow Nigeria Army Research Centre and also to the position of Theatre Commander JTF (NE) OPHADIN KAI.

Besides these strategic command appointments General Musa has also attended and participated in different Military Operations prominent amongst which are, OP MESA, OP SECOND HEAVEN, OP FOCUS RELIEF, (Joint Training/Ops with the US Troops in 2000), United Nation Mission in Sierra Leone – 2001 – 200. OP HAKURI – 2002 – 2003, OP SAFE CONDUCT – 2007, OP RESTORE HOPE – 2007 – 2008. OP SAFE CONDUCT – 2015. OPAYAMAPATUMEH – 2018. OPLAST HOLD – 2018. OPLAFIYA DOLE – 2019. Multi-National Joint Task Force Lake Tchad – 2019. OP KANTANA JIMLAM – 2020. JTF (NE) Op HADIN KAI – 2021 till date.

General Musa is without doubt one of the most decorated and honored senior officers in the Nigerian Army. Some of these honors and Awards amongst others include BSc Hons (Chn) NDA – 1990. UNAMSIL Medal – 2002. Passed Staff Course (psc) – 2004 – 2005. Forces Service Star – 2003. Meritorious Service Star – 2009. Distinguished Service Star – 2015. Member Nigerian Institute of Management – 2008. Advance Diploma in Security Management at University of Lagos – 2008. Member Nigerian Institute of Industrial Security – 2008. General Operation Medal – 2009. Command Medal (CO 73 Bn) – 2009. Chief of Army Staff Commendation Award – 2009. Silver Jubilee Medal – 2010. Meritorious Service – 2012. Fellow-NDU (ICDS-NDU)- ChangPing China – 2013. Masters in Military Science at the ICDS-NDU China – 2013. Diploma in Defense and Strategy ICDS-NDU Chin – 2013. Centenary Medal – 2014. Distinguished Service Star – 2016. Training Support Medal – 2017. OP LAST HOLD Medal – 2018. OP LAFIYA DOLE Medal – 2019. MNJTF Medal – 2021. Grand Service Star (GSS) – 21 Sep 21. Field Commander Medal of Honor (FCMH) – Jun 21 – till date. Operation HADIN KAI Medal (OPHK) – Jun 21 – till date. The ever smiling, amiable, focused and serious minded General Musa is happily married to Mrs Lilian Oghogho Musa and they are blessed with four children. According to General Musa is greatest hobby is serving humanity. It is no gainsaying that General Christopher Gwabin Musa the current Chief of Defence Staff is really soaring on the crest of excellence with his commitment, hard work and dedication to the cause of his fatherland and this has anchored him on the Wings of Destiny in the annals of the Nigerian Nation.