

National Security Leadership in Africa: Paradigm Shift in Leadership Methodology

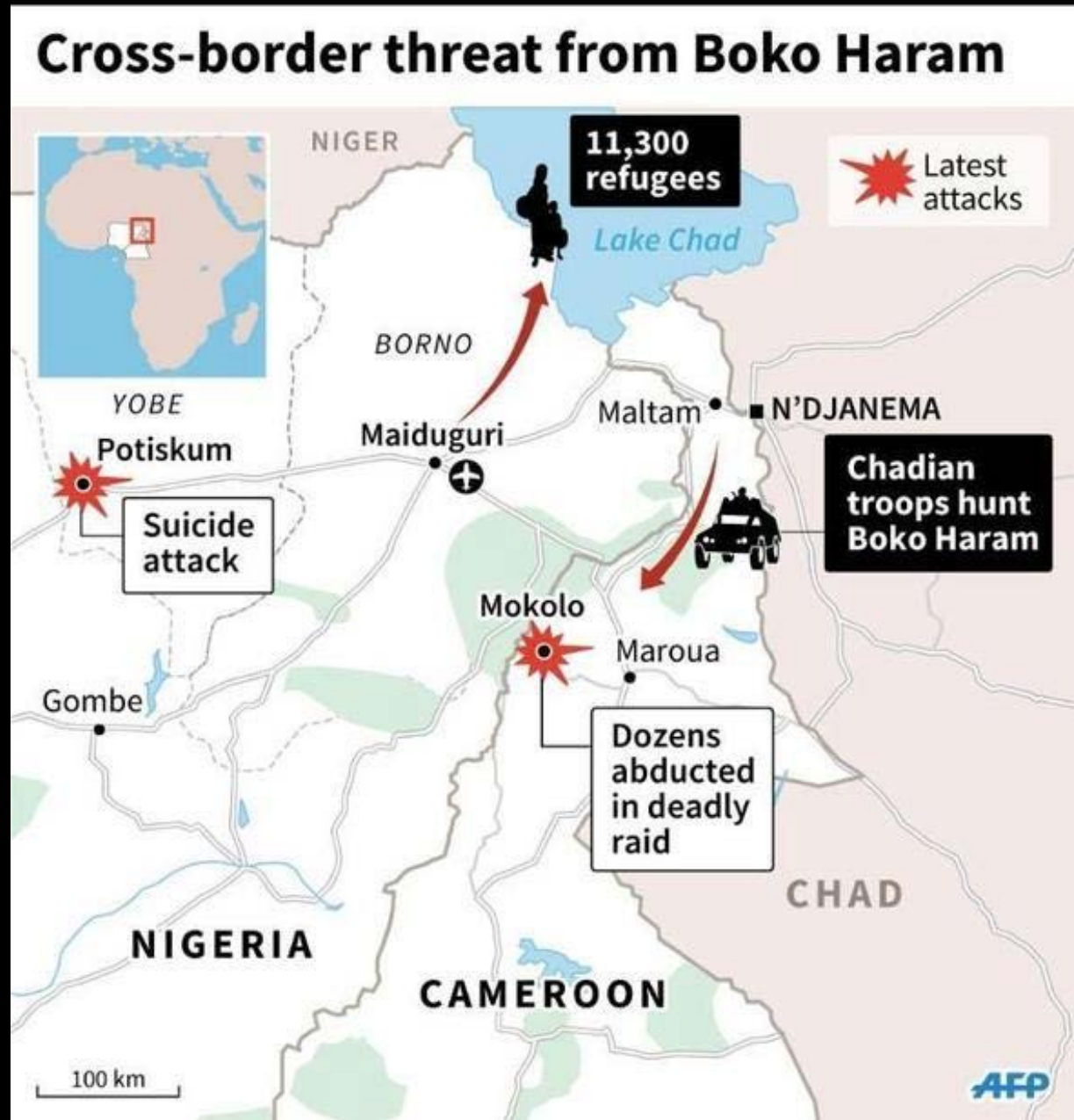
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National Security Threats in West Africa

- These threats include dangers to countries strategic interest, values, and welfare.
- They can be endogenous, exogenous, or transnational in nature.
- In West Africa these threats may embody uncertainties with varying degrees of objectives and end states.
 - Low intensity threat levels -> Highly violent and dangerous dimensions
 - Ex: Uncertainty of human development, youth unemployment, and land distribution and ownership rights are all characterized as low intensity threats, if left neglected can escalate into violent threats.
 - Violent threats have the capabilities to transcend national borders and affect the stability of neighboring countries.

Examples of current National Security Threats in West Africa

- Violent Extremist Organizations and Terrorism:
 - Boko Haram: In the axis region of Nigeria, Cameroon, and Niger.
 - Armed Violence among Fulani, Dongo, and Dozos: Affecting the territorial sovereignty of Mali
 - Al Qaeda in the Maghrib (AKIM)



Key Attributes of Security Sector Leaders

- Leaders must gain a realistic awareness of internal and external threats and understand the socio-political dynamics in the region.
- **VISION:** Have clarity of intentions and foresight of likely outcomes.
- **TRUST:** Must lead a process devoid of personal interest nor biases and submit to transparency to gain citizens trust and confidence.
- **LEGITIMACY:** Contributes to gaining the publics' trust and command the respect of subordinates.
- **ACCOUNTABILITY AND INTEGRITY:** Must remain accountable for their actions and decisions.

Key Attributes of Security Sector Leaders Con't

- **HONESTY & HUMILITY:** As a leader you have to be honest with yourself about your decisions.
 - Leaders need to have the requisite skills, knowledge, or the technical acumen of competence to gain the public trust to achieve desired or strategic goals, objectives, and missions.

Leadership Challenges

- The multiplicity of military and security forces under variety of command elements will make it very difficult to articulate clear threats to national security.
- Lack of coordination between or among security agencies competing for attention and resources.
- More examples:
 - Lack of financial and logistical supports
 - Very limited tactical and technical capabilities

“Good intentions, clear objectives and mission accomplishment do not ascend into victory without timely financial and logistical supports.” - BJS

Governance Process

- Legitimacy and acceptance: Attained thru an inclusive process of consultation with cross section and segments of society.
 - Civil Society organizations
 - Religious communities
 - Student organizations
 - Media
 - Political parties
 - Rural peripheral communities
 - Other branches of government



Leveraging Partnerships

- Leveraging regional and international partnerships harness the synergy of resources, capabilities and political support
 - EX: ECOWAS, ECA, and SADC all have security protocols which seek to preserve the peace and stability of the region for broad base development.



Thank You

Any Questions?