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II

ÉCOLE SUPÉRIEURE DES
SCIENCES ET TECHNIQUES
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LA COMMUNICATION
(ESSTIC)



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Peace-Work-Fatherland

MINISTRY OF HIGHER
EDUCATION

THE UNIVERSITY OF
YAOUNDE II

ADVANCE SCHOOL OF
MASS COMMUNICATION
(A.S.M.A.C)

INTERNSHIP REPORT

**INTERNSHIP CARRIED OUT AT THE
COMMUNICATION DIVISION OF THE MINISTRY OF
DEFENSE FROM THE 4TH OF JULY TO THE 30TH OF
SEPTEMBER 2022**

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DEGREE OF ARTS (BA) IN INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION STUDIES

OPTION: CORPORATE COMMUNICATION

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Written By: FONKOU Wilfred Donald

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LIST OF ACCRONYMES AND ABBREVIATION

- **ASMAC:** Advanced School of Mass Communication
- **DIVCOM :** Communication Division, in french, Division de la Communication.
- **CDIVCOM:** Head of the Communication Division, in French Chef de la Division de la Communication.
- **TV:** Television
- **CRTV:** Cameroon Radio Television
- **USB:** Universal Serial Bus
- **CBMG:** Head of General Services in French, Chef Bureau des Moyens Généraux
- **BI:** Bureau Information Presse
- **CELCOM:** Head of Communication Cell, Chef Cellule Communication
- **CELPROD:** Head of Production Cell, Chef Cellule Production
- **LT:** Lieutenant
- **MC:** Master of Ceremony
- **GPIGN:** Multipurpose Intervention Group of the National Gendarmerie
- **COG:** Gendarmerie Operational Centre
- **CPPJ:** Refresher Centre for Judicial Police
- **CPTMO:** Refresher Centre for the Technics of Public Order
- **EIFORCES:** International School for Security Forces
- **BIR:** Rapid Intervention Battalion
- **BLI:** Light Intervention Battalion

- **RG:** Republican Guard
- **GP:** Presidential Guard
- **ECCAS:** Economic Community of Central African States

GENERAL INTRODUCTION


Introduction

The academic internship is an integral part of the professional communication training followed by the students of the Advanced School of Mass Communication (ASMAC). It takes place at the end of the academic year in an organization responding to the area of student training. Its duration varies depending on the student's level of study. Students are therefore expected to report on their stay in a professional environment through an internship report which will be evaluated by the school.

Thus, it is recommended that ASMAC students, in this case those in the Corporate Communication stream in the third year, are to complete an internship lasting three (03) months, in order to familiarize themselves with the rules of operation of the organization and integrate the organization so as to appropriate its dimensions: identity, culture, actors, activities. Each student is free to choose an organization. Our interest focused on the Ministry of Defence (MINDEF) at the Communication Division (DIVCOM) in particular, where we stayed at the Communication Unit, from Monday 04 July to Tuesday 30 September 2022, under the supervision of the Head of the Communication Division, Navy Captain ATONFACK GUEMO Serge Cyrille. In order to reflect our experience within this organization and to note the implementation of the knowledge acquired on university benches, this report briefly reviews the presentation of the organization and the course of the internship.

Data sheet of the Communication Division

Denomination	Communication Division
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Quality	Broadcast of radio and television contents
Creation	2005
Headquarters	Yaounde ; Rue de la réunification
P.O BOX	1162
Telephone and e-mail address	222226497 ; @mindefcm
Head of the Communication Division	Cyrille Serge Atonfack Guemo
Facebook, Tweeter, Instagram	@mindefcm
Legal status	Institutional
Slogan	Honneur et Fidélité
Colour Chart	Army green, red, yellow, blue, white
Broadcast Language	French and English
Major programs	Production of « Honneur et Fidélité » Magazine ; Production Radio Magazine « Honneur et Fidélité » ; media coverage on events in the Ministry of Defence
Logo	

CHAPTER I: GENERAL PRESENTATION OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

CHAPTER I: MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

The Ministry of Defence is the governmental body responsible for the execution of Cameroon's military policy and the military organization. Therefore, we will present the Ministry of Defence and its missions in Section I and ensue with its organization in Section II.

SECTION I: MISSIONS OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

In this section, we will start by looking back at the origin of the Ministry of Defence, from its inception till its reform (I) and then talk about the actual missions of the Ministry (II).

I) PRESENTATION OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

The presentation of the Ministry of Defence will start with its birth and the components of the defence forces within it (A) and then on the reforms in this ministry (B).

A) ORIGINS OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Here we will discuss the creation of the Ministry of Defence (1) and its defence force components (2).

1) BIRTH OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Formerly known as the Ministry of the Armed Forces, it was renamed as the Ministry of Defence when it was placed under the direct control of the Presidency of the Republic in 1985. The Ministry of Defence begins with the creation of the armed forces. This phase of the birth of the army lasted for two years from 1959 until the reunification of Western and Eastern Cameroon on 1 October 1961. It was on November 11, 1959 by ordinance n°59/57 that the Cameroonian army was created, with its organs which are the National Gendarmerie, the Army, the Navy and the Air Force whose mission is *'to ensure at all times, in all circumstances and against all forms of aggression, the security and integrity of the national territory as well as the lives of the people'* With the advent of independence, the name of the Cameroonian army was changed to the *'national armed forces'* in 1960. This, was to make a distinction between the Cameroonian forces and the French army which was present at the time on the national territory. It was also a question of reducing the ambivalence of roles and concentrating the defence on the effort to pacify the interior because of the armed rebellion in the Sanaga-Maritime, Wouri, Mungo and West zones.

Subsequently, we witnessed the 'Africanisation of the army, which was supported by a significant evolution of military manpower and by the 'Cameroonisation' with commands such as the national gendarmerie, on 12 February 1966, the army, on 01 April 1965, the Navy, on 11 July 1973 and the Air force, on 12 May 1973.

In 1983, the army was reformed with the creation of three military regions and three gendarmerie regions. In 1985, the Ministry of Defence was created in place of the Ministry of Armed Forces.

The Ministry of Defence is placed under the authority of the President of the Republic. According to law n° 67/LF/9 of 12 June 1967, on the general organization of defence, the Ministry of Defence is responsible for the execution of military defence practice and, in particular, for the organization, management, preparation for use and mobilization of all regular, auxiliary and supplementary forces, as well as the infrastructure required for them. It ensures, in particular, the military preparation and instruction of the reserves, the training of citizens with a view to their participation in defence against all forms of aggression.

In addition, the Ministry of Defence is responsible for the training of military, and auxiliary forces for civil defence missions (law reinforcement, protection of sensitive sites, civil protection, passive defence). In times of crisis, the Minister of Defence coordinates the defence forces and ensures the deployment of military and paramilitary forces according to the directives of the Head of State. It should be noted that the President of the Republic is the '*Head of the Armed forces*' according to the traditional and constitutional attributions of the presidential office, as he is 'Guarantor of the integrity of the territory' and ensures 'the internal and external security of the Republic'. The President of the Republic "*defines the defence policy and provides for its implementation*". According to article 9 of law n° 67/LF/9 of 12 June 1967 on the organization of defence, decisions on the military direction of defence concern, in particular, the definition of the goals to be achieved by the forces as a whole, the organization of the

command and the general distribution of forces, the approval of defence plans, the measures intended to provide for the needs of the forces, as well as the instructions to be given to the units or detachments placed at the disposal of international organizations. In addition to the legal means, the President of the Republic has at his disposal which makes up this immense and important function of sovereignty, a set of organizational measures of a technical nature, whose structure obeys to the dual civil and military aspect of defence.

2) REFORMS IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

The restructuring of the army took place after its establishment, which is seen as a significant phase in its organizational development. The precarious situation of Cameroon in the 1960s after its independence, had a lot to do with the restructuring of the army. The geopolitical and geostrategic context of Cameroon is characterized, therefore, by several types of threats, including invasion by a third country, cross-border conflicts due to ignorance or misunderstanding of the border by a neighbouring country, the probable threat of a coup d'état, and the major threat posed by the behaviour of the population due to the desire for rebellion or secession, etc. The organization of defence and security is modified to respond effectively to the new requirements of the geostrategic military and security environment. The first bases for the organization of African armies were launched at the independence of each state. It is generally the same organizational structure that is maintained for about 5 to 15 years following the accession to international sovereignty until 1975: this is the phase of the consolidation of the nation-state.

Therefore, the restructuring of the army starts with the creation of the office of a Secretary General, to coordinate the activities of the central administration of the armed forces. He directly supervises tasks that fall under the competence of liaison and coordination, thus escaping the direct control of the military. Decree No. 72/356 of 25 July 1972 will bring a slight modification in the restructuring. This decree created the post of head of the military secretariat, who acted as

military advisor to the Minister of Defence or Secretary General. The political issue at stake was that the army could *'go into the barracks to take a step back and reflect on its fundamental problems*. The organization of the Ministry of Defence is governed by Decree No. 76/280 of 6 July 1976 on the reorganization of the Ministry. This decree stipulates that the ministry comprises a central administration composed of a special secretariat, a general secretariat and the joint coordination centre, a joint coordination committee which is, in fact, the consultation committee, and external services which are the specialized commands and the general delegation to the national gendarmerie.

In 1983, another decree implicitly reintroduced the three traditional armies and the national gendarmerie as major structural components of the Armed Forces. Decree n°83/389 had already created the Armed Forces General Staff, the classic structure for the preparation of military forces and the coordination of the action of the armies, both in peacetime and in wartime. The period from 1983 to 1992 was marked by an important event: the mutiny of 6 April 1984, which was quickly contained by *'the Cameroonian Armed Forces [who] thus provided a memorable example of loyalty and fidelity to the institutions of the Republic in the eyes of all Cameroonians and all admiring foreign observers'*. In 1992, another decree was signed by the President of the Republic, creating military land, air and sea regions. This decree stipulates that these regions constitute support and defence administration command districts in the execution of permanent and temporary missions of the armed forces. The military regions have an active role in maintaining or restoring public security and order where need be. *"The roles of the military regions could be over exerted, when necessary, through the creation of operational commands in their jurisdictions to ensure the defence of the territory in the event of a serious threat"*.

The year 2001 thus marked the professionalization of the army, which led to an integral reform of the social defence system in Cameroon. Some opinions purport that *"the military performs tasks contrary to its traditional roles. It*

therefore seems to be a necessary need in the face of new challenges, because opinions haunted by the democratic push of the people and the Western, mediatized representation of man in relation to human rights maintain that the excessive focus on internal security functions, which has characterized the army since its birth, leads the organization to be a prisoner of internal public security problems to the detriment of public freedoms, and its defence role, which should be primarily directed against external threats”. This reform focused on two major areas, namely the organization of the administration and command on the one hand and the status of personnel on the other. The army has also been reorganized by 21 decrees. The purpose for this, is to ensure that the Head of State, as an integrated actor in the military organization, is close to the soldier. The aim of this approach is to maintain within the armed forces personnel whose physical and intellectual aptitude enables them to carry out their missions with maximum efficiency, as a tool in motion. This undertaking will affirm a project thus launched by adapting the command to contemporary requirements, which translates into the re-dimensioning of the central administration, the strengthening of the central headquarters and the redeployment of the territorial military command, with the aim of generating an overall efficiency of the forces and maintaining a rapid reaction capacity in case of crisis.

As a result, a lot of emphasis is placed on the training of officers, who should put into practice the colouring of a modern army, through physical, moral and intellectual values. This reform made by the Head of State in 2001, previously difficult to understand, makes sense nowadays, in the face of the protean threats that surround Cameroon. As a result, it highlights the *'exceptional strategic tact of the president of the Republic'*. Thanks to this reform, Cameroon has been able to deal with the protean threats that it has encountered. This process of modernization of the defence forces provides appropriate tools for success and a permanent culture of strategic and operational adaptation. Successive victories against the Boko Haram sect, pirates who scour the coast, the residual fighters of

the Central African crisis, poachers and road cutters, cross-border banditry and serious crime, are in the vein of this perspective.

B) COMPONENTS OF THE DEFENCE FORCES

Every independent and sovereign State, with the exception of some with a special status (Vatican, Switzerland, etc.), has armed defence forces, which are a symbol of sovereignty and at the service of the Nation. Thus, the defence forces in Cameroon are divided into two categories: the armed forces on the one hand, equally composed of different units, and the specialized forces on the other.

1) ARMED FORCES

Still called regular forces according to article 20 of law n°67/LF/9 of 12 June 1967, they include the three traditional armies (land, air and sea) and the gendarmerie.

➤ National Gendarmerie

The Cameroonian National Gendarmerie, whose origins date back to 04 January 1920, is one of the oldest forces established in Cameroon. With the advent of independence in 1960, the rapid evolution of the young state will largely influence its organization with the creation of a unit of locally recruited auxiliaries of the gendarmerie. It is therefore by merging the auxiliaries of the French gendarmerie and the local forces of the Cameroonian guard that the Cameroonian gendarmerie was officially created on 01 April 1960. The military character of its statutes and the mixed nature of its service, which is both civil and military, gives it the power to constantly ensure the search for intelligence, the action of the judicial, administrative and military police through the networking of three regions, ten legions, five territorial gendarmerie groups, three road traffic groups with its twenty-five motorized road platoons, 71 companies and 486 gendarmerie brigades. The Cameroonian gendarmerie also participates in the maintenance of law and order through three groups of squadrons, twenty-six squadrons and 115 mobile platoons.

- **The missions**

The gendarmerie carries out three main categories of police missions: administrative, judicial and military. The administrative police, which must guarantee safety, tranquillity and the maintenance of public order, for which the gendarmerie remains responsible, covers 30% of the gendarmerie's missions. The judicial police represent approximately 50% of the missions entrusted to the gendarmerie. Its purpose is to record offences against the criminal law, to gather evidence and to seek out the perpetrators in order to bring them to justice. Finally, the military police are the intermediary between the military authority and the citizens. The gendarmerie exercises both the general military police of a preventive nature and the military judicial police with a repressive vocation.

In addition, the gendarmerie is also an implementing body for many other missions devolved to different ministerial departments, such as the economic police (control of patents, prices, etc.), the investigation of customs offences, road traffic control, surveillance of air navigation, airfields and maritime navigation. They vary according to peacetime and wartime.

The gendarmerie carries out missions for the Minister of Territorial Administration and the Minister of Justice and is also at the disposal of the other heads of ministerial departments within the framework of the missions devolved to it in accordance with the regulations.

As specific missions, the gendarmerie ensures the protection and maintenance of the internal security of the State and the military judicial police. In peacetime, the gendarmerie is responsible for the gathering of intelligence (i.e., any fact likely to have repercussions on the internal security of the State), the maintenance of law and order, the security of defence personnel, the security of persons and property, the management of the reserves and the preparation of mobilization.

In times of crisis or war, its missions will be to gather intelligence, maintain order at all costs, protect people and their property, and monitor sensitive points. It may also be called upon to take charge of the protection of certain category and

sensitive points, and to participate in war operations with its intervention units.

- **Specialized training**

There are also several specialized formations such as the operational command post with data transmission, the Polyvalent Intervention Group of the National Gendarmerie (GPIGN).

- **The Multipurpose Intervention Group of the National Gendarmerie**

It is designed to fight against organized crime. The GPIGN was created in 1995 by decree of the President of the Republic. It is deployed in the three gendarmerie regions (Yaoundé, Douala, Garoua). Its primary vocation is to initiate, train and retrain security forces personnel in protection and risky interventions in the various specialties that may interest them. It is one of the specialized forces of the national gendarmerie.

- **Other**

The Gendarmerie Operational Centre (COG) handles calls of distress by landline or mobile phone, free of charge. The Refresher Centre for Judicial Police (CPPJ) trains and develops personnel in technical and forensic policing. The Refresher Centre for the Technics of Public Order (CPTMO) is designed to retrain officers of the African mobile gendarmerie in law enforcement. This school, which has a regional vocation and whose technical reputation for maintaining public order is recognized throughout the continent, promoted the creation of the International School for Security Forces (EIFORCES) in May 2008, which is designed to prepare gendarmerie and police personnel for peacekeeping missions.

- **The Infantry**

The Infantry, as its name indicates, is a territorial army and an essential tool for the national soil. It acts on the ground, in direct contact with the adversary, the parties involved and the population. It is the essential component of defence, characterized by the flexible use of its conventional forces adapted to the various situations identified by our doctrine use of the forces, the flexibility of its organization and the relative importance of its numbers. It is the component that

materializes the sovereignty of the nation, makes the decision in the land battle, allows the control of a land space in the long term and the prolonged control of a situation in a theatre of operation.

As the spearhead of the battle group and the decision-making element for which all other forces intervene, the infantry is organized into a number of components capable of dealing with any form of conventional land aggression.

➤ **Air Force**

The Cameroonian Air Force was formed following Cameroon's independence in 1960. It permanently ensures, within a global defence system, the "air" component of the preservation of the nation's interests. The effort that the State puts into it, stems from the specific qualities of any air force, namely, combat readiness and the capacity for long-distance intervention. On a daily basis, the air force monitors and controls the national airspace in order to defend the territory against any potentially hostile air threat.

Its mission is to ensure the surveillance, protection and defence of the airspace, the support and back up of other defence forces as well as the surveillance and protection of airport facilities in liaison with the Ministry of Transport. As specific missions, the transport and liaison service carry out, in peacetime, logistical missions, regular transport missions or, on request, public service missions linked to national economic development in liaison with the national air transport companies.

The Cameroonian Air Force is organized into squadrons (fighter and support, transport and assault, liaison and observation, reconnaissance and anti-tank helicopter), battalions of air riflemen and air commando riflemen, support and training elements made up of air bases (Douala, Yaoundé and Garoua), specialized organizations (surveillance and detection center, technical supply, overall and technical inspection) and schools. Like those of the army, the people of the air force are distributed in the three joint military regions.

➤ **The Navy**

Responding to the need to secure Cameroon's maritime approaches, the national navy saw the light of day on 5 May 1961 with the reception by the State of Cameroon of three naval units: "the Cameroon Fatherland", "Independence", and "Reunification". Entrusted from this birth to French technical assistance, it was transferred to Cameroonian command in 1973.

The French Navy contributes to national defence through the surveillance of territorial waters and the conduct of State action at sea in liaison with the merchant navy and customs services; support and assistance to other defence forces; the protection and defence of the national maritime, river and lake approaches and areas, as well as that of facilities essential to the life of the nation in the immediate vicinity of the coastline. Today, the national navy has a headquarters located in Yaoundé headed by a rear admiral; structures located on the maritime façade in particular; surface forces made up of flotillas, armed with patrol boats and launches; marine and combat swimmer forces made up of three marine battalions and a company of combat swimmers; support organizations including three naval bases, a shipyard, schools and training centers. The coherent system enables it to carry out its traditional missions of defending territorial waters and leading the State's action at sea. Within the specific framework of the latter mission, the Navy carries out public service missions, in particular the search for and rescue of human lives at sea, environmental protection, the fight against pollution at sea and the safety of navigation, as well as general police and sovereignty missions at sea, in this case maritime surveillance, controls, the fight against illicit trafficking, and the maintenance and restoration of order in the maritime space.

2) SPECIALISED ARMED FORCES

➤ National Fire Fighters Corps

The President of the Republic by decree n°86/286 created the National Fire Fighters Corps on 5 April 1986. This new body inherited the de facto infrastructures and means of intervention of the communal fire brigades. The

youngest members were incorporated into the defence forces and underwent military training. The others served as decision-makers. The major reform took place on 25 July 2001 as part of the reform of the defence forces, with decree n°2001/84 on the reorganization of the national fire brigade. This decree makes the National Fire Fighters Corps a specific inter-army military formation for civil protection. It also creates three fire brigades that follow the configuration of the three joint military regions and the national training centre in Kribi.

- Missions

The mission of the national fire brigade is to fight fires and the aftermath of any other calamity; to rescue people and protect property; to take part in studies and preventive actions in its field of competence; to participate in disaster management.

➤ The Rapid Intervention Battalion

The Rapid Intervention Battalion (BIR) was created in 1999 under the name of Light

Intervention Battalion (BLI), according to Decree No. 99-16 of 1st February 1999. It was created to deal with the new threats to territorial security, notably the highway bandits in the North and the Far North. The Light Intervention Battalion is a formation of the general infantry reserve specialized in combat raiding craft. The BLI was created in a context of rising cross-border crime, accentuated by the phenomenon of road cutters and the multiplication of uncontrolled armed groups in the ECCAS (Economic Community of Central African States) area. The creation of the BLI follows the failure of the regular army and the gendarmerie to deal with the phenomenon in the regions of Adamawa, the North, the Far North and the East. This failure by the regular forces is linked to the fragmented context of the Cameroonian army, with poorly equipped regular units and special forces that benefit from a special regiment. The BLI competes in the fight against new forms of crime with the GPIGN (Polyvalent intervention Group of the National Gendarmerie), which fights against organized crime. But the BIR quickly

distinguished itself from the rest of the special forces because of the success it achieved. In 2001, the BLI was entrusted to AVI Abraham SIRVAN, a retired Colonel from the Israeli army and former defence attaché at the Israeli embassy in Yaoundé, who was linked by a private contract to the presidency. It then becomes the BIR and depends directly on the Presidency of the Republic.

❖ **BIR Strategic and operational**

The BIR is currently the most equipped and trained force in Cameroon. It is truly the heart of the territory's defence and security system. The BIR is currently deployed on a fourfold plan: securing the Bakassi peninsula; the fight against road blockers; it is associated within each military region with the rapid intervention brigade; and presidential security. The BIR's missions have expanded enormously in ten years. With 4,000 men, versatile war material (land, sea and air) and adequate training, the BIR elements now play a leading role in the defence of the territory. In Bakassi, it is BIR-DELTA, a group of BIR, which ensures the security and protection of the territory against acts of piracy, ransom and sabotage of all kinds. The BIR-DELTA has a warship, boats, radars and a helicopter. It also benefits from the support of the air force, which monitors the area with two planes. The Marine Commando Forces, the Combat Paddlers and the Special Amphibious Battalion also help the BIR in this task.

➤ **The Presidential Guard**

The Presidential Guard was born in a context of the president's distrust of the Republican Guard (GR). The elements of the GR, most of whom were nationals of the former president's region, were suspected of still being loyal to him. Even before the bloody episode of April 6, the president was already preparing to make a text to remove them from his security. It is known that the construction of presidential charisma in Cameroon is based on the ethnic factor. Decree No. 84-113 of 11 April 1984 was signed to dissolve the command of the Republican Guard. The elements previously in this command were put at the disposal of the General Delegate to the National Gendarmerie. Those benefiting

from the pecuniary and in-kind advantages of their former jobs retained them on an individual basis until 30 June 1984. The equipment of the armoured squadron and the artillery group of the ex-RG are transferred to the Headquarters. The equipment of the foot squadron group, the cavalry squadron and the music squadron were transferred to the General delegation for the National Gendarmerie. The guarding and protection of the palace was temporarily carried out by a formation of the General Headquarters. The guarding and protection of the other presidential palaces and residences are ensured by the territorial competence of the Gendarmerie Legions.

According to decree no. 85/738 of 21 May 1985, creating the Presidential Guard, the GP is a corps of specialized armed forces whose mission is to guard and protect the palace and the president of the Republic. In addition to this main mission, the GP also honours the head of state and foreign heads of state. It also protects the presidential palaces and residences in the various regions. The Presidential Guard is present and honours major events. The GP does not depend on the Ministry of Defence. It depends directly on the President of the Republic.

II) MISSIONS OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

The main mission of the armed forces has always been the defence and ensuring the security of the country's territorial integrity (A), but these defence forces can also be developmental and social actors (B).

A) DEFENCE AND SECURITY

We will firstly discuss about defence, which is no longer solely military, but now affects all areas (1) and then security (2).

1) DEFENCE

Article 1 of Law No. 67/LF/9 defines defence as the means *'to ensure at all times, in all circumstances and against all forms of aggression, the security and integrity of the State, within the framework of national sovereignty'*. It is a

principle of permanency which simply means that in national defence, the words "peacetime" and "wartime" have no real meaning. In the 1980s, *"defence should be seen as the set of ways and means that the nation puts in place to achieve its ends, i.e., to face the different forms of threats"*. National defence is essentially manifested through the existence of the armed forces. As provided for in the Constitution, the President of the Republic is supremely responsible for the defence policy. As such, he is the guarantor of national independence, the nation's external security, territorial integrity and respect of treaties.

The need for protection against all forms of aggression establishes the principle of the universality of overall defence. Defence therefore takes different forms depending on the areas under threat: since anything can be attacked, everything must be protected, whether it is a civilian or military infrastructure. Even if it is commonly accepted that defence calls above all on the armed forces and that the defence missions entrusted to the army command the operational capacities that the military apparatus must possess, namely: deterrence, prevention, protection of the national territory and projection beyond national borders, far from constituting the exclusive domain of the military. Defence embraces all the activities of the country. Although national defence is essentially manifested by the existence of armed forces, it also relies on many other instruments of power, such as social, cultural, diplomatic, and especially economic realities, whose determining role cannot be denied. The presidential instruction of 1st September 1972, on defence, does not only deal with military defence, even if, just after the troubled period, the priorities of the moment should logically go to this aspect of national defence. The need for a civil and economic defence was seen as an indispensable complement to the military aspect, in a tripartite vision of a global defence.

Military defence ensures above all the integrity of the territory, the independence of the country, the survival of the population and the protection of

national wealth. It opposes aggression and, in the event of invasion, drives out or destroys the aggressor and, at the very least, limits the extent of the occupation by preserving the necessary bases for internal resistance. It is exercised in the parts of the national territory occupied by enemy forces and aims at the liberation of the territory and the rapid restoration of the legal authorities to their full powers.

There are therefore three forms of military defence of the national territory corresponding to the different areas of sovereignty:

- Land military defence, which is primarily civil. In peacetime, it is permanently ensured by police, gendarmerie and civil security means. In wartime, it is provided by the army and the participation of the army in security missions, which can therefore be requested by divisional officers and governors.
- Military air defence is about surveillance and policing the skies. It requires a capability to detect, identify and control aircraft entering the territory and a capability to destroy hostile aircraft.
- The objective of military maritime defence is to monitor the approaches to the sea fronts, to detect and assess the threat and to counter actions against the national territory by sea or against national interests in the maritime approaches and in the coastal or maritime areas where the country has exploitation rights.

The aim of civil defence is to develop the moral capacity of the population to resist the effects of aggression, to ensure the protection of the organizations that condition defence and public life, to reduce the vulnerability of the population and essential installations and to

implement the measures or assistance that this vulnerability requires in all circumstances. In other words, it aims at the material and moral safeguarding of the population and everything that makes it possible to reduce their vulnerability to disasters of any kind. Defence covers at all times the specific but complementary elements of civil protection, civil security units, the fire brigade, the national police (public security and border police), the national gendarmerie as well as those of the services responsible for transport (road safety),

communications, energy, public health, etc.

Economic defence encompasses the set of measures aimed at guaranteeing essential economic flows, maintaining or restoring this flow in the event of a problem and distributing these resources in a situation of shortage. It aims essentially to place the country's economic potential at the service of general defence policy in order to ensure the support of the armed forces and the life of the nation in the event of a threat to its territorial integrity. It also pursues the dual objective of ensuring, at all times, the reduction of the country's vulnerabilities, in particular, in basic services (food, water and energy, supplies, transport, telecommunications, etc.) and the proper distribution of resources in times of crisis. For Guy JENGU, in his course on National Defence, *"The functioning of economic defence is based on two principles, namely the recognition of a certain priority for the needs of the army and the control of the economy, i.e., the involvement of the State in the economy when national defence is at stake"*.

Diplomatic defence, on the other hand, aims to resolve rivalries and conflicts between nations without resorting to arms. It is the act or activity of preventive defence, as it seeks to obtain, by peaceful means, respect for the rights and safeguarding the interests of the nation. However, today it is difficult to draw the line between diplomacy and military, as there is no longer a clear separation between the concepts of crisis, conflict and war.

2) SECURITY

The definition of defence given by law n°67/LF/9 includes security, whose meaning, although implicit, has not been clarified by the law. Security and national defence appear as two multi-dimensional concepts related to the same reality, which is the protection of beings in their relationship with the environment. Thus, security can be defined as *"the set of mechanisms that ensure the respect and protection of institutions, public liberties, people and property; it allows prevention or fighting against threats to the integrity of human life, in adaptive interaction with the natural and social environment"*. The concept of

security refers to civil defence, which can also have recourse to military defence under the conditions laid down by law. According to Decree No. 2002/003, the mission of security is also carried out by the “Delegation for National Security”, which, in addition, *'ensures the respect of the execution of laws and regulations, the exercise of administrative and judicial police... also contributes to national defence'*.

However, Article 14 of the said decree observes that in times of turmoil, the police forces may intervene jointly with the military defence forces. However, in an operational command situation, the role of the mobile intervention groups is to participate in combat actions with corps units. The military defence forces working in conjunction with the police in times of disturbance are the national gendarmerie. It participates in the maintenance of law and order. The gendarmerie carries out three categories of missions: administrative, judicial and military police.

B) AN ARMY AT THE SERVICE OF DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL ISSUES

The armed forces do not only participate in ensuring the defence and security of the country. They are also at the heart of the functioning of the state, through their participation in nation building. Thus, the armed forces are not only involved in the development of the country (1), but also in the social aspect (2).

1) AT THE SERVICE OF DEVELOPMENT

The army appears to be the only force that is truly organized in society. As a result, it can play an imminent role in globalization and the development of the economy. This is seen at the level of its leadership, i.e., in the operational management of major works. Thus, the army is chosen through the military engineering to build roads, bridges or to execute other public works.

Military engineering refers to *"all the techniques for attacking and defending places and posts and for building the infrastructure necessary for combat armies"*. It is by the body of troops, by extension, of the army. An

engineer, also known as a combat engineer (in Anglo-Saxon armies), is a soldier who specializes in military engineering techniques and their implementation in combat conditions. Thus, military engineers can perform a wide variety of tasks such as fortifications, construction or repair of roads, railway bridges or any transport infrastructure, breaking or destroying minefields, etc. Generally speaking, they must enable or destroy the enemy's weapons. In general, it must enable or facilitate the movement or support of friendly forces and impede the movement of enemy forces. Military engineers continue to demonstrate their expertise in the field of infrastructure construction, water treatment techniques, electro-mechanics, population relief, to name but a few.

The military engineers carry out three main types of missions:

- ❖ Major missions such as various support to combat units (mobility support, counter mobility, crossing, safeguarding (protection, simulation));
- ❖ Specific tasks such as participation in the socio-economic development of the country;
- ❖ In exceptional missions, the military engineers are directly involved in unravelling combat, attacking strong points with the use of flame-throwing rifles, and in maintaining order in the first and second categories. On the socio-economic level, it is one of the indispensable pillars of the army. In many countries, there has always been an appreciation of how the defence forces can serve as a driving force for development. It has a vocation to support the development of the national economy through the construction of social infrastructure.

This unit has, to its credit, several achievements, since the 1970s, such as the Bikoko-Lolodorf, Bafang- Yabassi, Mintom- Alan- Mbaham axes. We can also mention, among others, the works carried out in 2015-2016, namely: the lining of the inner courtyard of the Helios headquarters, the development of the Court of Honor of the CNSP headquarters, the rehabilitation of a 20 km of road in Mvengue, the development of access roads to the Catholic University of Central

Africa in Nkolbisson and Ekounou, the construction and development of the Japoma road, the construction of classrooms in the Far North, etc.

2) SOCIAL ACTIONS

The army is a microcosm that is often poorly understood by the outside observer. It obeys specific codes. But spontaneously, it evokes the ideas of esprit de corps, attachment to certain values and represents an opening adjuvant for harmony and perpetual stability. This military institution also strives to produce and preserve a feeling of trust within its ranks, through its many social actions, which aim to balance and improve the living conditions of the members of the military family, including assistance to the orphans of soldiers who have died in combat. It is following this practice of "support to fallen patriots", i.e., a focus on the "equal opportunity plan", that the Minister of Defence imposes a social commitment to the most disadvantaged members of our society, in particular the wards of the Nation. It is in this sense that the Minister Delegate at the Presidency in charge of Defence, Joseph Beti Assomo made a gesture full of humanity on Friday, 2 September 2016, on the eve of the start of the 2016-2017 school year. He handed over batches of supplies to orphans of soldiers who fell in operations. These batches of school supplies were accompanied by financial assistance.

In towns, the army has made military medical centers and training nurses available to its elements and the population. The same overflow is observed at the mortuary of the Yaoundé military hospital, located in Ekounou. It has a capacity of about 300 places. This morgue is 75% used by civilians. The burials on Thursdays and Fridays show the high level of demand from the population.

SECTION II: ORGANISATION OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

In order to carry out its responsibilities, the Ministry of Defence is organized both administratively and strategically (I) and operationally (II).

I) ADMINISTRATIVE AND STRATEGIC ORGANISATION

The Ministry of Defence comprises the administrative side, which is composed of all the services that the Minister has under his authority (A), as well as the strategic side managed by the Joint Staff (B).

A) ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANISATION

According to Article 4 of Decree No. 2001/177, the Ministry of Defence comprises the central administration with its various structures (1) and a joint coordination committee and external services (2).

1) CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

The central administration of the Ministry of Defence comprises several structures that are under the direct authority of the Minister of Defence. These structures are the following: The minister's private secretariat; The military secretariat; The ministerial reserve; The central administration of the national gendarmerie; The general staffs are composed of the Army General Staff, the Air Force General Staff and the National Navy General Staff; The general control of the armies; The General Inspectorate of the Armed Forces; The Logistics Advisor; The Technical Advisors; The Defence Attachés; The Military Cooperation Division; The Central Directorate of Military Production, Industrial Workshops of the Armed Forces and Reintegration; The Communication Division; The Military Security Division.

2) JOINT COORDINATION COMMITTEE AND EXTERNAL SERVICES

The role of the Joint Coordination Committee is to assist the Minister of Defence in an advisory capacity. Thus, it meets, on the initiative of the Minister, after authorization and approval of the agenda by the President of the Republic. As such, the committee comprises the following members by right: the Secretary

of State for Defence, the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, the Chief of Staff of the President of the Republic, the Secretary General of the Ministry, the Chiefs of Staff of the Army, the Air Force and the National Navy, the Commander of the National Fire Brigade and the Central Coordination Director. The Inspector General of the Armed Forces, the Inspector General of the National Gendarmerie, the Controller General of the Armed Forces, the territorial military commanders and the directors of the central administration is convened by the Minister according to the nature of the problems examined.

However, the minister may summon any other person because of his or her competence. As for the external services of the Ministry of Defence, they are the subject of specific texts. However, they include the territorial commands of the gendarmerie, those of the armies, the CNSP, the military courts, the military hospital formations, the social organizations and the military services and establishments.

B) STRATEGIC ORGANISATION

We speak of strategic organization with reference to the Armed Forces General Staff, because it is responsible for carrying out the will of the politician during a crisis. Therefore, we will talk about the Joint Staff (1) and the services that are attached to it (2).

1) ARMY STAFF

The Infantry, the Air Force and the Navy have a certain number of forces. They each have their own staff and are organized around an echelon called the Defence Headquarters (EMA). Placed under the authority of a general officer, Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, the EMA assists the Minister Delegate at the Presidency in charge of Defence in all matters relating to the use of forces and their organization (setting up, preparation, maintenance and conditioning). It is responsible for the support of the forces and the preparation of their operational engagement. In this capacity, and by delegation from the Minister, he has authority over the chiefs of staff of the three-armed forces, and over the territorial

commands. In times of crisis, the Chief of Defence Staff may, through a presidential decree, be appointed Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces. He then directly assists the President of the Republic in the exercise of his constitutional duties as Head of the Armed Forces who may entrust him with the command of military operations.

2) SERVICES ATTACHED TO EMA

The EMA comprises several structures, each with a specific role: The Special Secretariat and the Legal, Diplomatic and Gendarmerie Advisers. Within the Armed Forces Staff, we have the essential tools to detect as early as possible the potential factors of a crisis, to present to the political decision-maker a choice of military option likely to be implemented and to lead, if necessary, the commitment of forces. We have:

- ❖ The Command of the Joint Schools and Training Centre (COMECIA); The Staff of the Command of the Joint Schools and Training Centre; The Directorate of Joint Commissariat; The Directorate of Military Engineering; The Directorate of Joint Equipment; The Military
- ❖ Intelligence Centre; The Military Operations Command; The Historical Service of the Armed Forces, which is responsible for the history of the armed forces, regulates military traditions, codifies military customs and practices, and supplies and maintains museums. In addition, we also have services that are placed under the authority of the Chief of the Defence Staff, such as the Directorate of Operational Health, and the Army Staff Company participates in the garrison service.

II) OPERATIONAL ORGANISATION OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

It refers to the joint military regions (A) and military sectors (B).

A) JOINT MILITARY REGIONS

The military regions were reorganized in 2014 (1) and again in 2018 (2) by presidential decree.

1) TERRITORIAL REORGANISATION OF THE DEFENCE FORCES IN 2014

Since 2014, the territorial command of the army has been organized into four joint military regions (RMIA). In addition to the third military region based in Garoua, in the North, a new one will be set up in Maroua, in the Far North. A Gendarmerie region that follows the same organization as the joint military region. The Far North is a region that suffers from repeated attacks by members of Boko Haram. The national territory is thus divided into four Joint Military Regions and four Gendarmerie regions. The tightening of the defence forces in the Far North of the country was intended to bring the army closer to the areas of terrorist operations. In the past, the 3rd Joint Military Region based in Garoua covered the three regions of northern Cameroon, which made it slow to react quickly to an attack, especially in terms of logistical mobilization. This is largely what justifies the creation of new command units.

2) THE BIRTH OF RMIA 5

On 21 February 2018, the President of the Republic signed 25 decrees reorganizing the territorial military command, including the creation of a fifth joint military region. The number of RMIA was thus increased from four to five. The break-up of the second region, which covered the Littoral, South West, North West and West regions, comes after the crisis in the North West and South West regions. This crisis, which is still raging, is causing many deaths among civilians and in the ranks of the forces of order. Thus, the president is strengthening the security apparatus to respond to the threat declared in Cameroon by the secessionist front.

The new military region becomes the fifth. It covers the West and the North West and is based in Bamenda, the capital of the North West region. RMIA 5 will be commanded by Brigadier General Agha Robinson Ndong. Another decree among the 25 presidential decrees creates the fifth gendarmerie region also

covering the West and the North West, with its headquarters in Bamenda. It is headed by Brigadier General Bouba Dobekreo.

The commander of an RMIA is responsible for commanding the administration and support of the units of organic or adapted formations in his region, for the preparation and conduct of defence missions in accordance with the provisions of the regulations, for the general discipline of civilian and military personnel in the region, for the organization of personnel recruitment operations in liaison, where appropriate, with the national gendarmerie region, for the collection, centralization and dissemination of defence intelligence, and for monitoring issues of armed forces' participation in the region's economic and social development.

B) MILITARY SECTORS

The decree of 14 August 2014 changed the name of the land military sector to military sector in order to fully restore the latter. The military sectors are subdivisions of the joint military region. Each military sector covers the jurisdiction of an administrative region. Since 21 February 2018, Cameroon now has 5 RMIA with military sectors (1), which have specific missions (2).

1) ORGANISATION OF MILITARY SECTORS

The territorial jurisdictions and command posts of the military regions of Cameroon, since the decrees of 21 February 2018:

RMIA 1: Centre, South, East region with Yaoundé as command post

- ❖ First Military Sector (SM1): Territorial jurisdiction: Central Region, Command Post Yaoundé; Seventh Military Sector (SM7): Territorial jurisdiction: Southern Region, Command Post Ebolowa; and 8th Military Sector (SM8), Territorial jurisdiction: Eastern Region, Command Post Bertoua

RMIA 2: Littoral and South West region, Douala command post;

- ❖ 2nd Military Sector (SM2): territorial jurisdiction: Littoral region, Douala command post and Tenth Military Sector (SM10): territorial jurisdiction: South West region, Buea command post

RMIA 3: Adamawa region, North region (excluding Mayo Louti department), Garoua command post;

- ❖ 3rd Military Sector (SM3): territorial jurisdiction: Northern Region, command post Garoua; and Fifth Military Sector (SM5): territorial jurisdiction: Adamawa Region, command post Ngaoundere

RMIA 4: Far North region, Mayo-Louti department in the North region, command post in Maroua

RMIA 5: Bamenda

- ❖ 6th Military Sector (SM6): Territorial jurisdiction: North West region, command post Bamenda, and Ninth Military Sector (SM9): Territorial jurisdiction: West region, command post Bafoussam.

The national gendarmerie is also organized into 5 territorial commands called gendarmerie regions. Each gendarmerie region has the same territorial jurisdiction as the joint military region.

2) FUNCTIONING OF MILITARY SECTORS

Constituting land subdivisions of the RMIA, the military sector is placed under the authority of a commander, an officer appointed by presidential decree. He is assisted by a second-in command and a chief of staff.

The commander of a military sector is responsible for the general discipline of the military and civilian personnel of the sector, for the control, surveillance and protection of the ministerial military bodies, establishments, workshops, shops, depots and infrastructures placed under his responsibility, for the organization of the material operations of personnel recruitment and in liaison with the gendarmerie legion, for the follow-up of the mobilization of the reserves, and for the collection, centralization and dissemination of defence intelligence.

The military sector commander, by delegation of the RMIA commander, ensures the control, surveillance and protection of the common or specialized ministerial organizations, establishments, workshops, warehouses, depots and military infrastructures located in the sector and placed under his responsibility.

CONCLUSION OF THE CHAPTER

In sum, in order to respond appropriately to any situation, Cameroon commits its defence forces as permanent sentinels, capable of preventing threats, thanks to a good organization of the means to face all situations at any time; of dissuading, in order to avoid aggression by persuading the adversary that his aggression would not be profitable for him; of defending the integrity of the national territory (territory itself, air space, territorial waters) and of our fundamental interests; to constitute actions in favour of peace and for the respect of national law. As can be seen, Cameroon is prepared for any eventuality, in order to be able to respond 'under any circumstances' and in an appropriate manner to a sudden aggravation of the situation or to a strategic surprise as the history of humanity knows how to give so many examples. It was therefore at the Ministry of Defence that we chose to carry out our internship, in particular in the Communication Division for a period of three months.

**CHAPTER II:
PRESENTATION OF THE
COMMUNICATION
DIVISION OF THE
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**

PRESENTATION OF THE COMMUNICATION DIVISION

The Communication Division (DIVCOM) was created in 1975 under the name Bureau Information Presse (BIP). The decree n°2001/195 of 25 July 2001 on the reorganization of the army, creates the Communication Division which will replace the BIP, within the Ministry of Defence. The DIVCOM will thus be operational in 2005, with Lieutenant Colonel ADECK TINGWE Moise as its first chief. He coordinates the information coming from the different corps of the Army (the Army, the Air Force, the National Navy, the National Fire Brigade). Each corps has a communication unit placed under the supervision of the DIVCOM, the showcase of the Ministry of Defence.

"Honour and Fidelity", the radio magazine of the Cameroon Defence Forces, is the flagship programmed of DIVCOM, broadcast every Saturday from 2pm to 3pm, on the 88.8 frequency of the national station of Cameroon Radio Television (CRTV). Through this weekly programme, DIVCOM aims at promoting the army-nation link, while informing the population throughout the country on defence and security issues. It also aims to promote the image of the Ministry of Defence. Therefore, the role of DIVCOM is to ensure the department's relations with the public and private media; to conduct the information actions entrusted to it by the Minister; to ensure, in accordance with the Minister's directives, the cohesion of information and communication actions conducted by the Ministry of Defence's bodies and services; to contribute to a better knowledge of the Ministry's activities; to produce the Ministry's written and/or audio-visual documents. In addition, it ensures the vision with the services concerned, the coverage of operations and events of interest to the Ministry.

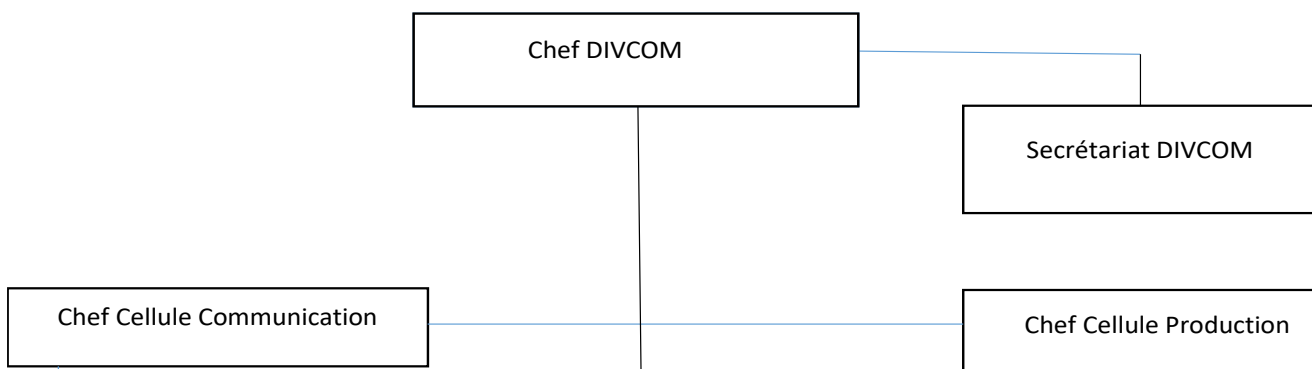
Furthermore, DIVCOM is placed under the authority of an officer appointed by presidential decree. Since March 2019, Commander ATONFACK GUEMO Serge Cyrille is the new head of the Communication Division. He replaces Colonel BADJECK Didier.

DIVCOM is made up of different sub-departments, which are divided into:

- ❖ A secretariat;
- ❖ A general resources office carries out activities such as administrative management (reception services, mail management, management of water, electricity and telephone consumption); management of the fleet of commercial vehicles (company vehicles and rental vehicles used by staff); management of common resources (maintenance, hygiene and security of buildings, booking of meeting rooms, management of office furniture, etc.); management of travel (booking and purchase of airline tickets, accommodation, etc.); management of stocks (computer, maintenance and security consumption, etc.), etc.
- ❖ An administrative office is responsible for coordinating the activities of the DIVCOM; managing personnel with regard to leave and punishment; producing administrative papers;
- ❖ The communication unit is responsible for the production of radio programs and the bi-yearly magazine "Honneur et Fidélité".
- ❖ The production unit includes the photo, video, archive and sound desk. Its mission is to ensure media coverage, in terms of sound, photography and video. It produces images for magazines and other brochures when necessary; provides videos and photos, and sound elements to the Ministry of Defence's Intelligence Service.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART OF THE DIVCOM

I- Organizational chart of the DIVCOM



CHAPTER III: OVERVIEW OF THE INTERSHIP

WELCOME AND ORIENTATION

The internship began on Monday, July 4, 2022, at 8:00 a.m., at the Ministry of Defense, Communication Division. The civilian and military personnel gather every morning for a review of the workforce of the structure. This review is characterized by a row call made by the duty officer. This is a practice which bare the footprint of the army. It should be noted that this practice is done every morning at 8 a.m. and every evening at 4 p.m.

Subsequently, a presentation of the division was made by Lieutenant Tarh Tarh Wolowa, the duty officer, who gave the directives and also recalled the

principles of operation in terms of discipline. Then followed the presentations of each employee be it civilian or military to the interns. We had an exchange with the Maître Principal (MP) EDOU, Head of the GMO, where orientations were given to better our stay in the Communication Division at the Ministry of Defense.

Among other things, he addressed citizenship issues. Because the trainees (civilian and military) must participate in the construction of Cameroon through positive contributions and to improve the functioning mechanisms of the structure. We have been inquired once again to be disciplined. Because discipline is the major strength of the army. After all these, didactic material was given to us to begin the internship.

OVERVIEW OF THE INTERNSHIP

Introduction

During the 12 weeks of internship, we had to accomplish several duties but first of all we had to get a hold of the background history of the cabinet of the ministry of defence, specifically at DIVCOM, from its structure, down to its missions. This had as objectives to help us understand better how this “particular” institution works. Our internship was full of exchange and various tasks performed like, the writing of articles, positions of communication strategies for projects like “Back to school” and more. All this performed and assigned tasks helped us gain in experience.

Summary of the internship and experience gained

These were tasks performed during the internship and from which were profitable to us in terms of acquired knowledge and garnered experience.

Task 1: listening to the radio broadcasting programme “Honneur et Fidelite”.

The first week of internship was marked by our initiation to the listening of the radio broadcasting program “Honneur et Fidelite”. The purpose of this exercise is to get interns to have an overview of what this program is all about and also enable them to better understand its objectives in order to be able to propose original content which could improve the program and quality of broadcast offered to its audience. This radio broadcasting programme is one of the major communication media used by MINDEF to promote its image and activities through well-elaborated themes exposed to its audience, the review of major events that happened during the previous week, important decrees, and the broadcast of events regarding private affairs of the MINDEF’s personnel.

Task 2: media monitoring

Media monitoring is a process of collecting publicly available pieces of information featuring a particular topic. It is based on analysing a diverse range of media platforms in order to identify issues that can be used. Our media monitoring here was focusing mainly on security related topics which had as an aim to enable the high command have an over view of the security state of the country and also to be able to forecast and anticipate future situations in order to further propose suitable solutions which could prevent or solve a particular situation.

Task 3: Participation to the editorial meeting every Mondays.

The editorial meeting held at the DIVCOM is held every Monday morning to give the opportunity to employees of the DIVCOM to give their impressions regarding the broadcasted edition of the radio broadcasting programme “Honneur et Fidelite” of the previous weekend. This meeting is also meant for the employees of the DIVCOM to propose and discuss on the next subject matter for the following weekend.

Task 4: elaboration and proposal of a communication strategy for the incident regarding IE explosion at the Mokolo market

due to the ongoing security crisis in our country, we were asked to elaborate a communication strategy and campaign aimed at increasing the level of awareness and understanding of various major actions undertaken by the MINDEF to ensure the safety and security of its population nationwide. This communication strategy consisted in communicating on the potential existence of future threats and on how to handle any situations which could seem threatening to them and their environment.

Task 5: elaboration and proposal of the back-to-school campaign for the MINDEF

this was an exercise submitted to our attention in order to help the DIVCOM elaborate a campaign strategy which was to be disseminated on its various social media platforms. This exercise always had as an objective to assess our knowledge on media planning and the elaboration of a communication strategy.

Task 6: proposal of a strategic analysis regarding media monitoring

This was an exercise submitted to our attention which aims at carrying out a critical analysis of the various trending events found in the various platforms available online and on TV, this analysis will provide the top command with an overview of the security state of the country, followed by proposals made to solve or improve the current situation, this will be achieved through concrete solutions.

Task 7: participation in the media coverage of the handing over of command ceremony of the first Gendarmerie region at the Head Quarter Brigade

This ceremony took place on July 22 2022 in the courtyard of the headquarter brigade. Brigadier General Elias TONGUE was promoted as the new commander of the First Gendarmerie Legion on July 14 by the Head of state Paul BIYA. The installation was presided by the Secretary of State for Defence in charge of the National Gendarmerie Mr Galax ETOGA. This exercise enabled us to have a better understanding of a media coverage procedure and protocol in

place at the ministry of defence. During this exercise, we had to produce reports on this event, with the objective of assessing to better understand the relevance and importance of this ceremony.

Task 8: participation in the media coverage of the handing over of command ceremony at the International War College of Yaoundé.

The ceremony took place on July 28 2022 at the courtyard of the Yaoundé international war college. The Brigadier General NKA Valere was appointed new commander of the International War College in replacing Colonel LOTI TIOKAP Pierre. This ceremony was presided by the Major General Philippe MPAY. This exercise helped us gain more knowledge of media coverage procedure at the ministry of defence regarding events dealing with operational command.

Task 9: participation in the media coverage of medal award ceremony of French cooperants

This ceremony took place on July 14 2022 at Hall of acts at the ministry of defence. This ceremony was to honour and decorate three French cooperants who came to an end of their mission in Cameroon. This ceremony of distinction was presided over by the Minister Delegate at the Presidency in charge of defence, BETI ASSOMO Joseph. This exercise took us deeper into the process of media coverage at the ministry of Defence and the relationship the ministry of defence shares with journalists as a whole.

Task 10: participation in the media coverage of the ceremony for the presentation of trophies won by the various teams of the Armed forces and Police Teams, FAP

This ceremony took place on August 12, 2022 at the Hall of Acts of the ministry of defence. This was aimed at decorating the various athletes of FAP teams with medals for their outstanding performances in different competitions. This ceremony was presided over by the Minister Delegate at the Presidency in charge of Defence BETI ASSOMO Joseph. During this ceremony, we were asked

to hand out reports of the ceremony and its various features and particularly on what was essential to take away from the event.

Task 11: participation in a working session in regards to the production and proposal of the 2023 New year calendar for the MINDEF

This is a yearly exercise through which the staff of the DIVCOM sit and all together propose elements to be inserted in the New year calendar. During this working session, the main activity to be featured on the calendar is selected, generally it is chosen according to a major event hosted by or presided by the President of the republic, who is the Commander-in-chief of the Armed forces. This is the occasion to determine the outlook of the calendar that is its design and the presentation of the content to be inserted in it. Tasks are given to some staff members to determine the message to be highlighted on the calendar, which is generally selected from the President's speech of the previous year, a selection of the various images to be used as content of the calendar is equally important. This work is carried out under high scrutiny and in accordance with the chosen activity.

Task 12: participation in a working session for the elaboration and proposals of a theme to be featured in the December special edition of the "Honneur et Fidelite" magazine

This is an exercise done every end of year, which consists in proposing various issues to be discussed in the magazine's special edition. During this exercise, we talk about the various trending issues which could be inserted in the magazine, the presentation of the magazine and other features of the magazine.

Task 13: the writing of a brief for the magazine "Honneur et Fidelite".

In the preparation and elaboration of the special edition of December regarding the magazine "Honneur et Fidelite", we were asked to write a short article on the topic concerning the place of religion in the Armed forces and its significance to soldiers. This was indeed to permit us leave our imprint at the MINDEF's Communication Division.

Task 14: Workshop on the role of a team press officer at the DIVCOM

This was a workshop organized by the Chief commander of the DIVCOM with objectives to train and give an opportunity to some members and interns who had never had a first-time experience of the job, to have a broad knowledge on the responsibilities of a team press officer at the DIVCOM. It should be noted that this responsibility had its own peculiarities in the DIVCOM.

Task 15: Proposal of messages for the “Africa Amnesty Month” at the African Union

The month of September, of each year till 2020, was declared as “Africa Amnesty Month” for the surrender and collection of illegally owned weapons/arms. During our internship, we were asked to come up with a paper which was supposed to be sent to the African Union as part of our contribution to the fight against the proliferation of illegal weapons.

**CHAPTER IV: ACQUIRED
EXPERIENCE,
PROBLEMS
ENCOUNTERED AND
SUGGESTIONS**

ACQUIRED EXPERIENCE

I. Introduction

The purpose of an academic internship is to apply the knowledge acquired during the academic year, more also, it is the opportunity to imbibe new knowledge and skills during the duration of the internship. During the course of our internship, we carried out several activities which put in to practice our various experiences and also enabled us to learn some new skills. Some of these acquired skills include; the production of a communication campaign, the elaboration of a communication plan, the duties of a team press officer at the DIVCOM. These acquired skills will enable us to be more adapt at a professional level, in order to be more competitive in the employment market.

1. Details on acquired experience

I. Acquired skills on the proposal and elaboration of communication strategies for the “the back to school” and the explosion of an IED (improvised Explosive Device) at the Mokolo Market.

Our exposure to such an exercise had various objectives and also contributed in our advanced learning of the specifications of the communication policy at the Ministry Defence who is under a certain number of restrictions regarding its communication. We had to come up with communication strategies that had to stay in line with the communication protocol and procedure followed by the ministry of defence. This exercise made us acquire some knowledge on the various methods and procedures used by the MINDEF. Furthermore, this exercise helped to polish our skills on the elaboration of a communication strategy through working in different scenarios and contexts.

II. Acquired skills on the role and responsibilities of a team press officer at the DIVCOM.

During our internship, we had the opportunity to be enlightened on the role and responsibilities of the team press officer at the DIVCOM. This knowledge was acquired during a workshop that was organized with the objective of initiating the whole personnel of the DIVCOM on the role and responsibilities of a team press officer at the DIVCOM. During this workshop, we were given some of the responsibilities of a team press officer, some of which were:

- ❖ The establishing of a press file which contains the list of accredited media for the coverage of an upcoming event presided over by the Ministry of Defence.
- ❖ The dissemination of the various media coverage requests to the various people in charge of the media outlets.
- ❖ Ensure the logistic support of the transportation of the various media entities.
- ❖ The establishing of a list of all the accredited media organs who will cover the upcoming event which is to be confirmed by the Commander in charge of the DIVCOM etc.

Some explanations were given on the way of managing journalists and on the way to conduct and forward the various feedbacks collected from the various media bodies which is to be forwarded to the Commander of the DIVCOM.

III. Acquired skill on the writing of a brief article.

During our internship, we were privileged to get an invitation granted by the Commander in charge of the DIVCOM to write a brief article which was to be revised and published in the end of year special edition of the “Honneur et

Fidelite” magazine, we wrote about the place religion holds and its importance to soldiers in the accomplishment of their missions. This exercise enabled us to get some insight on ways of drafting an article for a military magazine.

IV. Acquired skills on media monitoring and the proposal of a strategic analysis aimed at proposing solutions to prevent or remedy a situation or incident.

During our internship, we were tasked with media monitoring both online and on social media. This media monitoring was carried out every week and was submitted the on the following week for revision and appreciation. This exercise, was linked to the proposal of a strategic analysis of the media monitoring done online and on social media. This strategic analysis is aimed at presenting the collected facts on a critical point of view and to come up with possible solutions aimed at solving or preventing a situation or incident. This exercise enabled us to polish our critical thinking and ameliorate our knowledge on online and social media media monitoring.

PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED

Introduction

During our internship, we experienced some issues as time went by. These problems encountered were of diverse natures, ranging from a lack of internet connection, to limited access to information, restriction on the dissemination of some information, absence of appropriate documentation on procedures and protocol regarding communication (external and internal), absence of

identification plates in the building of the DIVCOM. All problems encountered were due to voluntary and involuntary human doing.

1) MUTISM:

The army has always been called and regarded as the 'great mute'. This is a characteristic of the army corps that can be described as silence. It is not easy, let alone obvious, to obtain information within the Ministry of Defence, as much information is subject to the seal of confidentiality. As a result, the subjects raised are treated superficially. However, at the end of our time here, we left the Ministry, certainly enriched, but convinced that we had not reached the end of the tunnel in our research.

Lack of internet connection: During our internship, we faced some complications at the level of the access of internet in the building of the DIVCOM. This absence of internet made researches and the writing or submission of projects on due time complicated.

Limited access to information: the sensitive character of the institution made it quite hard to obtain information regarding the realization of some projects or the dissemination of some information. Prior to the access to certain information, an authorization was often needed from the most competent authority in the service. This made our work a tad bit hard due to the sensitive character of the institution.

Restriction on the dissemination of some sensitive information: regarding the subject matter the ministry of defence deal with, the information granted and published for its various targets is highly scrutinized and should be done with top management's credential. The proposal of some communication strategies regarding some security incidents couldn't see the light of the day due to the implication of some sensitive information which had to be granted to the public.

Absence of appropriate documentation on procedures and protocol regarding communication (external and internal): during our internship, we

encountered a certain number of problems regarding the procedure and protocols to be used by new employees and interns on the production and submission of content and supports. A lot of things were handled through improvisation. Individuals who are generally responsible for doing these various tasks or productions were hardly available talk less of accessible. This made our work as interns a little complicated due to the fact we always were required to get in touch with these individuals to access extra knowledge of a specific subject matter which was sometimes only given to us verbally.

Absence of identification plates in the building of the DIVCOM: The building hosting the communication Division has little or no identification plates, the identification plates which identify the building of the communication division is placed at the side of the building. In the building, we barely have identification plates that serve as orientation to visitors in the building. This renders the mobility for visitors quite complicated and brings in the need for a guide to direct a visitor to a specific office.

B) DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED IN OUR WORK

We will discuss the lack of sources of information (1) and the delay in our work (2) as difficulties encountered in our work.

1) LACK OF SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

We chose to work on internal communication associated with Communication Division of the MINDEF, given our basic training. But one of the difficulties we encountered in our work was the lack of sources of information and restrictions in the conduct of an internal audit aimed at evaluating the various communication tools used in the Division and also to assess the interaction between the employees which is a determinant factor in improving on the productivity of their external communication. This lack of information made it quite difficult to properly assess the internal communication of the Communication Division and to bring forward

adequate proposals susceptible to solve or ameliorate the interaction and internal communication.

2) DELAY IN WORK:

We had a big delay in our work because of the restrictions to the access of some information DIVCOM. During our internship, we had as main source of information, the method of observation which was our main source of evaluation and measurement. The submission of an audit to the hierarchy was not approved because of the sensitive character of the organization which left us no choice but to proceed in proposing adequate solutions to some specific problem based on our observations which had to be done with time in order to be accurate.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Here we will discuss recommendations at both the administrative (A) and staff (B) levels

A) RECOMMENDATIONS AT THE ADMINISTRATIVE LEVEL

We will talk about the reinforcement of the computer equipment (1) and the improvement of the internet connection (2).

1) IMPROVING THE INTERNET CONNECTION

It is impossible to work without a stable internet connection, especially for the team in charge of monitoring online media. It is therefore necessary for other Internet stations to be integrated to facilitate the speed of the work of monitoring online media. This online media monitoring is a tedious job which requires a constant internet connection. Furthermore, the administration and up keep of the various social media pages of the ministry makes it an absolute necessity for the DIVCOM to improve its internet connection.

Improve the accessibility of sources of information.

It is important for such a unit to possess a variety of sources of information which will render and improve on the completion of projects and work submitted to employees and interns at the DIVCOM. This source of information could be made available through the creation of a library at the DIVCOM. This will greatly contribute in facilitating the access to information.

The creation of procedural manual and improvement of communication protocols

The establishment of a documentation presenting and orienting the various communication activities at the DIVCOM will greatly promote awareness on communication procedures and protocols for the DIVCOM's employees including interns. This will greatly contribute in improving the output of the DIVCOM, which will eventually promote and increase the popularity of this unit.

Installation of identification plates in the DIVCOM building

The installation of identification plates in the DIVCOM building will better improve circulation and the orientation of visitors. It should be noted that these identification plates are a communication medium which inform on a solicited department and its functions to its external public, it is therefore essential for such an institution to promote awareness on its building and the various units that compose the DIVCOM.

CONCLUSION

Our first part of our internship report covers in detail the presentation of the ministry of defence and the various units and institutions that compose it, to the presentation of the communication Division which was our main focus point during this internship. During this internship, we garnered a lot of experience and knowledge on the proper functioning of the DIVCOM in particular and of the Ministry of Defence as a whole. We also experienced some difficulties in obtaining access to certain information which greatly impacted the realization of the various projects we proposed. Nevertheless, our time at the DIVCOM was replete with benefits in our training as corporate communication professionals, owing to the fact that this internship helped us polish some skills pertaining to some corporate communication tools like media monitoring and the elaboration of communication strategies.

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ANNEX



Figure 1: screenshot of the proposed questionnaire, meant to be administered to the employees of the DIVCOM.

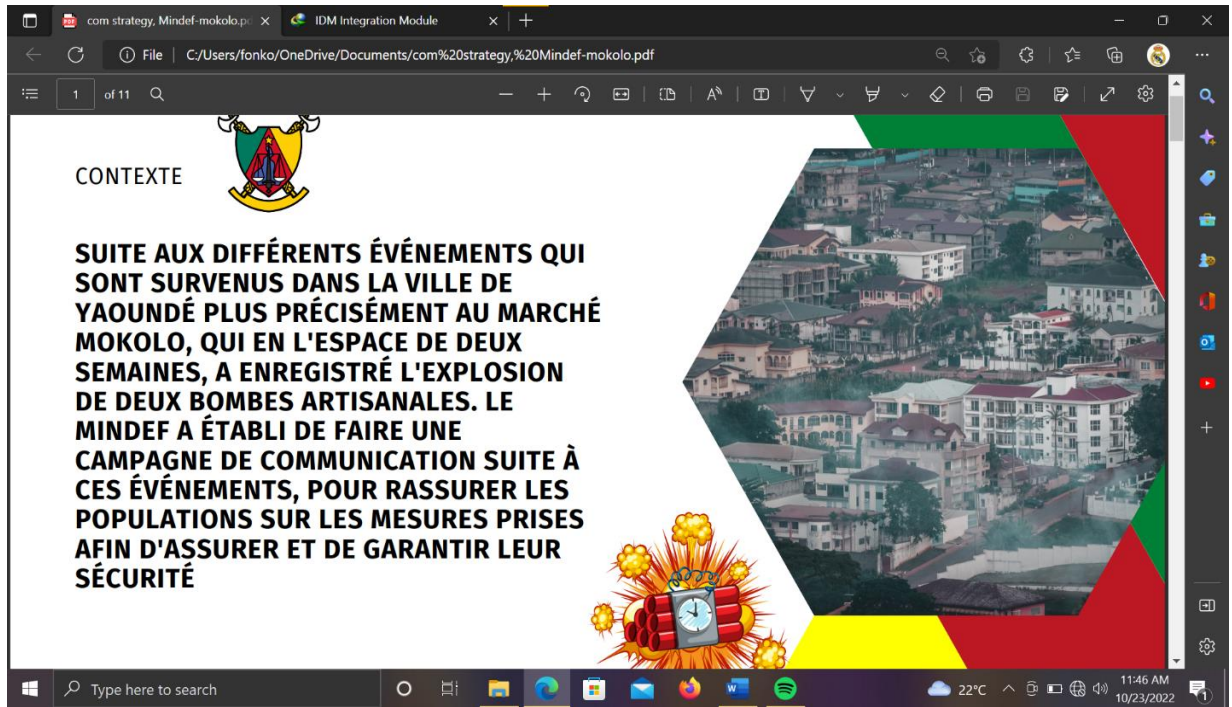


Figure 2: presentation of a communication strategy on the explosion of an IED at the Mokolo market.

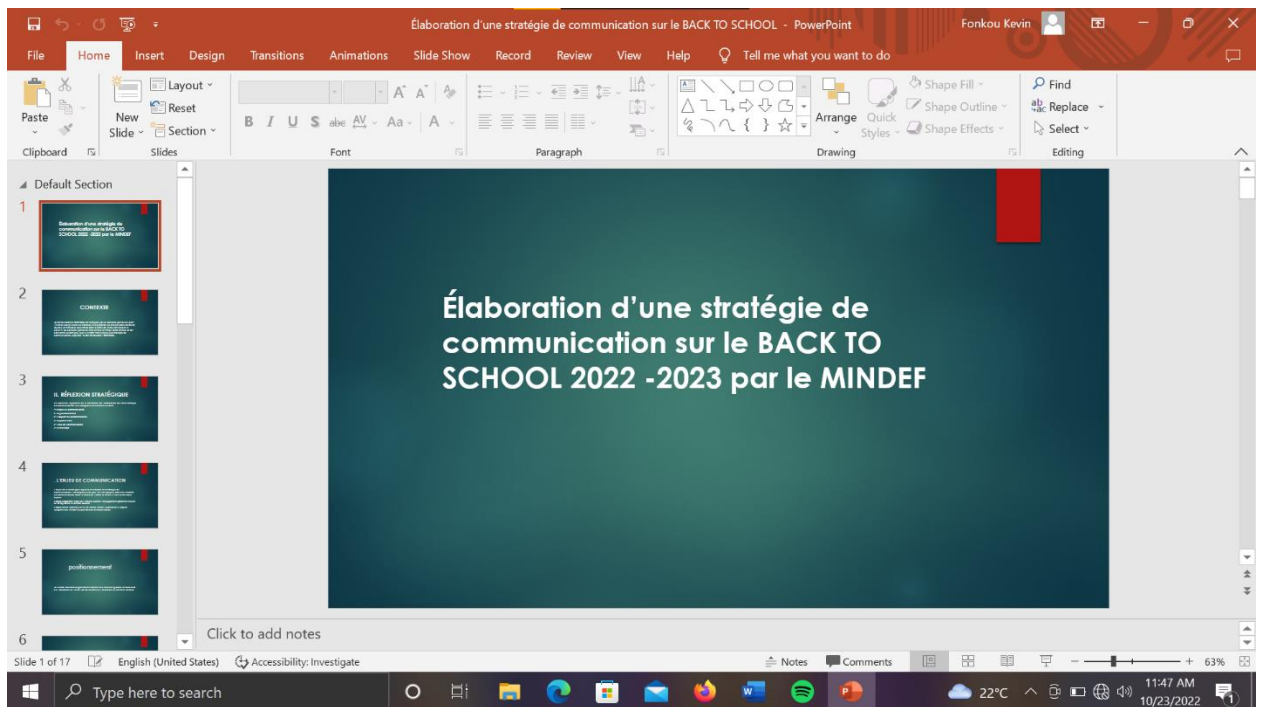


Figure 3: the elaboration of a communication strategy for the back to school campaign.



Figure 4: working session on the Proposal of messages for the “Africa Amnesty Month” at the African Union

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