

## **MODULE 6 – MILITARY HISTORY**

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. The purpose of Module 6 is to introduce participants to situational aspects of warfare through the application of military history. The module will utilize past campaigns and wars to illustrate the immutable characteristics of war and warfighting. It will focus on historical perspectives to teach participants some of the concepts that they were earlier introduced to in previous modules, especially strategic thinking, thinking in time, theory of war and leadership. In essence, Module 6 will link theoretical concepts with the situational outcomes. Participants are therefore expected to broaden their scope in understanding the dynamics and volatility of warfare by studying past events.

2. The module will focus on military history as a platform for teaching various aspects of waging war and warfighting. The participants will build on central lectures by subject matter experts through rigorous syndicate room discussions and presentations. Participants are then expected to apply strategic thinking in their understanding of the link between theory and the situational context in their analysis and planning.

**AIM**

3. The aim of Module 6 is to utilize strategic thinking to appraise military history in order to demonstrate the immutable nature and the defining characteristics of war and warfighting.

**LEARNINGOBJECTIVE**

4. The Learning Objective of Module 6 (LO 6.0) is to enable the participants apply strategic insights from military history to the contemporary environment by synthesizing critical elements, enablers and processes.

**ENABLING OBJECTIVES AND KEY LEARNING POINTS**

5. The Enabling Objectives (EO) and Key Learning Points (KLP) are as follows:

<b>Enabling Objectives</b>	<b>Key Learning Points</b>
<b>(a)</b>	<b>(b)</b>
<b>EO 6.1:</b> Discuss the importance of studying military history.	<b>KLP 6.1.1:</b> Identify reasons for studying military history. <b>KLP 6.1.2:</b> Explain the implications of studying military history on professional military education.

(a)	(b)
<p><b>EO 6.2:</b> Analyse the evolution of war.</p>	<p><b>KLP 6.2.1:</b> Discuss the origins of war.  <b>KLP 6.2.2:</b> Identify the periods of military history.  <b>KLP 6.2.3:</b> Discuss the effects of tactics and technology on the development of war.  <b>KLP 6.2.4:</b> Examine the different generations of modern war.  <b>KLP 6.2.5:</b> Evaluate the immutable nature of war.</p>
<p><b>EO 6.3:</b> Apply strategic thinking skills to the study of the Nigerian Civil War.</p>	<p><b>KLP 6.3.1:</b> Identify the causes of the Nigerian Civil War.  <b>KLP 6.3.2:</b> Discuss the employment of elements of national power during the war.  <b>KLP 6.3.3:</b> Connect lessons learnt from the war with the contemporary security situation in Nigeria.</p>
<p><b>EO 6.4:</b> Apply strategic thinking and theory of war to the concept of victory and defeat in warfare.</p>	<p><b>KLP 6.4.1:</b> Apply critical thinking skills to study factors that determine the outcome of decisive battles.  <b>KLP 6.4.2:</b> Differentiate between warfare and warfighting by utilizing systems thinking skills.  <b>KLP 6.4.3:</b> Evaluate unforeseen factors that decide the outcome of war.  <b>KLP 6.4.4:</b> Appraise logistics as a critical winning factor in warfighting.  <b>KLP 6.4.5:</b> Discuss the importance of turning points in war using strategic thinking skills.  <b>KLP 6.4.6:</b> Evaluate the efficacy of leadership as a crucial factor in warfare and warfighting.</p>

(a)	(b)
<b>EO 6.5:</b> Analyse the factors that are indispensable to victory in asymmetric warfare.	<b>KLP 6.5.1:</b> Appraise the utility of strategic resolve and leadership in asymmetric warfare. <b>KLP 6.5.2:</b> Evaluate winning factors in asymmetric warfare.
<b>EO 6.6:</b> Apply strategic insights from a joint/combined operation in the contemporary environment.	<b>KLP 6.6.1:</b> Demonstrate the optimal utilization of joint/combined forces. <b>KLP 6.6.2:</b> Evaluate the essence of leadership and strategic direction as a prerequisite for successful joint operations.

## SCOPE

6. The Module will cover the following aspects:
- a. **Military History in Professional Military Education**. The lecture will introduce participants to the purpose of studying military history as a subject. It will provide them with the concepts that are used for analysis of past military events to assist them translate the theoretical into the situational context. The lecture is linked to EO 6.1. Participants are expected to utilise these conceptual tools for analysis in future modules. The essential readings for this lecture are as follows:

(1) MM Macomb, “The Importance of the Scientific Study of Military History,” **Proceedings of the New York State Historical Society**, Vol 15 (1916), pp 91 – 11.

(2) M Evans, “The Role of Military History in the Education of Future Officers,” **Land Warfare Studies Centre** (1997).

b. **Evolution of War**. The lecture will provide an overview of the evolution of war through the ages. It will highlight the changes that war has undergone as humankind and technology has evolved. The lecture is linked to EO 6.2 and is expected to give participants insights into the immutable nature of war in spite of changes in tactics and the effect of technology on warfare. The essential readings for the lecture are as follows:

(1) WS Lind, “The Four Generations of Modern War,” **Lew Rockwell**, 11 Jun 04.

(2) RJ Bunker, “Generations, Waves and Epochs: Modes of Warfare and the RPMA,” **Airpower Journal**, (Spring 1996).

c. **Nigerian Civil War**. The Nigerian Civil War package will introduce the participants to the application of strategic thinking skills to analyse

military history by studying a local case study. It will identify the causes of the Nigerian Civil War as well as discuss the use of elements of national power by the protagonists. The package, which is linked to EO 6.3, will also analyse the lessons from the war and their relevance to contemporary security challenges in Nigeria.

d. **Decisive Battles**. The Decisive Battles package consists of analysing 2 battles in history that were decisive in plenary with participants and is linked to EO 6.4. The purpose will be to bring out the characteristics of these battles and the reasons for the outcomes. Thereafter, participants are expected to analyze these battles further in syndicate discussions as well as bring out their own insights and personal experiences to bear. The essential readings for this package are as follows:

- (1) GS Aldrete, **Decisive Battles of World History** (Virginia: The Great Course, 2014), pp 4 – 9, 74 – 80.
- (2) T Felix, **The Battle of Cannae, 27 May 2007**, [www. allempires.com](http://www.allempires.com).
- (3) YD Mosig and I Belhassen, “Revision and Reconstruction in the Punic Wars: Cannae Revisited,” **The International Journal of Humanities**, 4(2), 2006, pp 103 – 110.

(4) J McFarland, **The Battle of Hattin and its Impact**, 28 April 2017, [www.hubpages.com](http://www.hubpages.com).

e. **Warfare vs Warfighting**. The package will illustrate to participants the difference between warfare and warfighting. It is linked to EO 6.4. In essence, the package will bring out lessons on using the full spectrum of the dimensions of national power in war against concentrating on the military dimension only. The package will analyse 2 campaigns/wars to illustrate the intended lessons. Participants are also expected to subject these examples to rigorous analysis in their syndicate room discussions as well as bringing out other pertinent examples.

f. **Unexpected Outcomes**. The lecture will demonstrate how unexpected circumstances, poor planning and other unforeseen factors can derail an operation or campaign. It will illustrate important lessons through the study of one campaign to enable participants appreciate how Murphy's Law can ensure disastrous outcomes in war. The lecture is linked to EO 6.4. Afterwards, participants will deliberate on these issues during their syndicate room discussion.

g. **Logistics as a Factor.** This lecture, which is linked to EO 6.4, is intended to demonstrate to participants the indispensability of logistics as a winning factor in warfighting. This will be achieved by studying one battle in history where logistics was a crucial factor in the final outcome. Participants are thereafter expected to evaluate logistics as a winning factor in their syndicate rooms and share any personal insights with fellow participants.

h. **Turning Point.** The Turning Point lecture will illustrate to participants the importance of moments and events that turn the tide of battles or campaigns. This will be demonstrated using one battle in history to enable participants appreciate and recognise turning points as well as the efficacy of exploiting these events to achieve victory. Participants are thereafter expected to thoroughly evaluate turning points in their syndicate room discussions and share any personal experiences with fellow participants. The lecture is also linked to EO 6.4. The essential reading for this lecture is GS Aldrete, **Decisive Battles of World History** (Virginia: The Great Course, 2014), pp 234 - 239.

i. **Asymmetric Warfare.** This lecture will demonstrate the importance of leaders and troops determination amongst other factors for winning



battles in asymmetric warfare. It is linked to EO 6.5 and provides grounds for a better understanding of how contemporary security challenges in Nigeria can be suitably addressed. Participants are expected to draw parallels and insights when discussing in the syndicate rooms.

j. **Joint Operations.** These lectures will demonstrate the efficacy of joint operations in orchestrating the military element of national power to achieve strategic objectives. It is intended to impart in participants the ethos of jointness as a philosophy of warfighting by using a successful joint operation in recent history as a case study. The lectures are linked to EO 6.6 and are expected to begin to lay the grounds for participants understanding of the underlying principles during the operational art and campaigning module.

k. **Seminar on Nigerian Civil War.** The Seminar on the Nigerian Civil War will provide a platform for academics, researchers and commanders to further analyse the war. It will give room for making useful assumptions that resonate into operations in contemporary Nigeria. The seminar is linked to EO 6.3. Participants will derive benefit from the seminar, as the insights of the academics and researched commanders will shed light on many grey areas.

1. **Campaign Studies.** The Campaign Studies Package is sponsored by the BMATT. The purpose of the package is to use case studies from the UK experience to illustrate the winning factors in joint operations and asymmetric warfare. The joint operations aspect will be illustrated by studying Operation Overlord while the asymmetric warfare aspect will focus on contemporary operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Campaign Studies Package is linked to both EOs 6.4 and 6.6. Participants are expected to use the skills they have learnt on the course and in earlier packages in Module 6 to analyse the case studies. (*The Campaign Studies Package is temporarily suspended*).

## **ASSESSMENT**

7. Participants will be required to make a group presentation on a campaign from a list of campaigns at the end of Module 6. They will be expected to analyse and evaluate the campaign as well as bring out those themes and factors that they have considered during the module. The requirements for the presentation will be through a separate set of instructions for participants.

## **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

8. The participants at the end of Module 6 will be able to:
- a. Appraise battles in Military History to improve the strategic thinking skills of operational level commanders.
  - b. Appraise the nature and character of warfare.
  - c. Distinguish between warfare and warfighting.
  - d. Synthesize lessons from the Nigerian Civil War.
  - e. Appraise factors that characterise decisive battles towards enhancing operational level planning.
  - f. Evaluate factors that generate expected/unexpected outcomes in battles.
  - g. Analyse the importance of logistics in deciding outcomes of battles.

## **READING LIST**

9. The reading list will include essential, desirable and supplementary readings. Participants are expected to read prior to the commencement of the module, as discussions will be participant driven and DS directed. The inputs from participants are vital based on the Socratic approach to be adopted for this module.

10. **Essential Readings.**

- a. MM Macomb, “The Importance of the Scientific Study of Military History,” **Proceedings of the New York State Historical Society**, Vol 15(1916), pp 91 -111.
- b. M Evans, “The Role of Military History in the Education of Future Officers,” **Land Warfare Studies Centre** (1997).
- c. WS Lind, “The Four Generations of Modern War,” **Lew Rockwell**, 11 Jun 04.
- d. RJ Bunker, “Generations, Waves and Epochs: Modes of Warfare and the RPMA,” **Airpower Journal**, (Spring 1996).
- e. GS Aldrete, **Decisive Battles of World History** (Virginia: The Great Course, 2014).
- f. T Felix, **The Battle of Cannae**, 27 May 2007, [www.allempires.com](http://www.allempires.com).
- g. YD Mosig and I Belhassen, “Revision and Reconstruction in the Punic Wars: Cannae Revisited,” **The International Journal of Humanities**, 4(2), 2006, pp 103 – 110.
- h. J McFarland, **The Battle of Hattin and its Impact**, 28 April 2017, [www.hubpages.com](http://www.hubpages.com).
- i. Ebute J, “Defence Production and Procurement in the Nigerian Civil War: Lessons for Operational

Level Commanders”, **AWCN Monograph 1**, Aug 22.

j. Adetula VAO, “Coordinating Civil Society Towards Integrated Internal Security Operations in Nigeria”, **AWCN Monograph 2**, May 22.

k. Sha DP, “Evolving Strategies for Collaboration Between Civil Society, Security Agencies and the Nigerian Army Towards Effective Internal Security Operations in Nigeria”, **AWCN Monograph 3**, May 22.

l. Saleh MU, “Protection of Critical National Infrastructure in Warfare: Lessons from the Nigerian Civil War”, **AWCN Monograph 4**, 2023.

m. Ebute J, “The Nigerian Civil War: Through the Application of Strategic Thinking Skills”, **AWCN Monograph 5**, 2023.

n. Ebute J, “The Nature, Strategy and Tactics of Uthman Dan Fodio’s Campaign in Gobir, 1804 - 1808”, **AWCN Monograph 6** , Aug 23.

o. Saleh MU, “The Alaafin Sango Art of War,”, **AWCN Monograph 7** , Aug 23.

11. **Desirable Readings.**

- a. S Manning, “What is the Value of Studying Military History?” **Historian on the Warpath**, 15 Oct 09.
- b. M Howard, “What is Military History,” **History Today**, Vol 34 Issue 12(1984).

12. **Supplementary Readings.**

- a. J Thompson, “Why Military History is Important,” **Military History Monthly**, 26 Aug 10.
- b. V Bernard, “Tactics, Techniques, Tragedies: A Humanitarian Perspective on the Changing Face of War,” **International Review of the Red Cross**, 97 (900), (2015), pp 959 – 968.
- c. TX Hammes, “the Sling and the Stone” Zenith Military Classics, **USMC Books** (2004).
- d. IM Arreguin-Toft, ‘How the Weak Win Wars: A Theory of Asymmetric Conflict’ **Cambridge University Press** (2005).

**LECTURES AND EXERCISES IN MODULE 6**

13. The lectures and exercises for Module 6 are as follows:

- a. **22 May 24**. Introduction to Module 6 and issue of Military History Exercise Paper.

b. **23 May 24.**

- (1) Military History in PME (Syn Seminar).
- (2) Evolution of War, Causes, Nature and Characteristics of Contemporary Conflicts (Syn Seminar).
- (3) Decisive battles; Battle of Cannae 216 BC.
- (4) Decisive Battles: Battle of Hattin 1187.

c. **24 May 24.**

- (1) Warfare vs Warfighting: First Italo-Ethiopian War (Battle of Adwa - Mar 1896).
- (2) Warfare vs Warfighting: The Vietnam War 1955 – 1975(Syn Seminar).

d. **26 – 29 May 24.** Staff Ride.

e. **30 May 24.**

- (1) Unexpected Outcomes: French Invasion of Russia 1812.
- (2) Logistics as a factor: Battle of El Alamein 1942.
- (3) Turning Point: Battle of Stalingrad 1940 -1943.

f. **3 Jun 24.**

- (1) Asymmetric Warfare: Sri Lankan Civil War 1983-2009.
- (2) Joint Operations: The First Gulf War 1990 – 1991 (Syn Seminar).
- (3) Joint Operations: The Second Gulf War 2003 - 2011.

g. **4 Jun 24.**

- (1) Nigerian Civil War (Lecture 1).
- (2) Nigerian Civil War (Lecture 2).

h. **5 Jun 24.**

- (1) Symposium on Nigerian Civil War.
- (2) Submission of Military History papers by 0830 hrs and marking commences immediately.

i. **6 Jun 24.** Military History Group Presentations.