



Implementing Border Security Fusion Centers

National Border Security Fusion Center, Ghana

Border Management and Integration

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History and Concept of NBFC

The September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in the United States exposed the gaps in national security in information sharing and collaboration amongst law enforcement agencies. The gaps identified highlighted that the agencies worked in silos, lacked legal authorities, policies and mechanisms for sharing information.



History and Concept of NBFC

To address the gaps and operational challenges, the fusion centre concept emerged as part of efforts of integrated and collaborative security. Fusion Centre provides an effective and efficient mechanism to exchange information and intelligence, maximize resources, streamline operations, and improve the ability to fight crimes and terrorism by merging data from a variety of sources.



History and Concept of NBFC (continues)

In September 2015, a Ghana National Security delegation led by the National Security advisor, Alhaji Baba Kamara, visited the U.S. to learn the U.S. Government approach to integrated national security. Subsequently, recommendations were made to adapt integrated border management in Ghana.

At the same period, the Governments of the U.S. and Ghana sought to promote security governance. Border management and integration was agreed upon as one of the focus areas for Security Governance Initiative (SGI).



History and Concept of NBFC (continues)



In February 2016, both nations signed an SGI Joint Country Action Plan (JCAP), that has Integrated Border Management (IBM) as a focus area.

Subsequently, in January 2019, Ghana established IBM through a Memorandum of Agreement signed by the border security agencies.

In January 2020, Ghana inaugurated the NBFC as part of the IBM approach, marking as the first fusion centre in Africa. 24 analysts from various agencies were trained 15 were deployed to form the first cadre of officers.



Purpose of the National Border Security Fusion Centre

The National Border Security Fusion Center (NBFC) provides a forum at the national level to facilitate inter-agency collaboration for border security and management. The NBFC sustains and serves as a point of continuity of the practices established under the Integrated Border Management approach.



NBFC Interagency Members



Information Sharing



Increased Awareness



Enhanced Threat Identification



Integrated Decision-Making



Improved Responses & Consequence Delivery

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Mission of NBFC

To analyze border related issues to support integration, unification and alignment of border agencies' capabilities to secure Ghana's borders for national security.



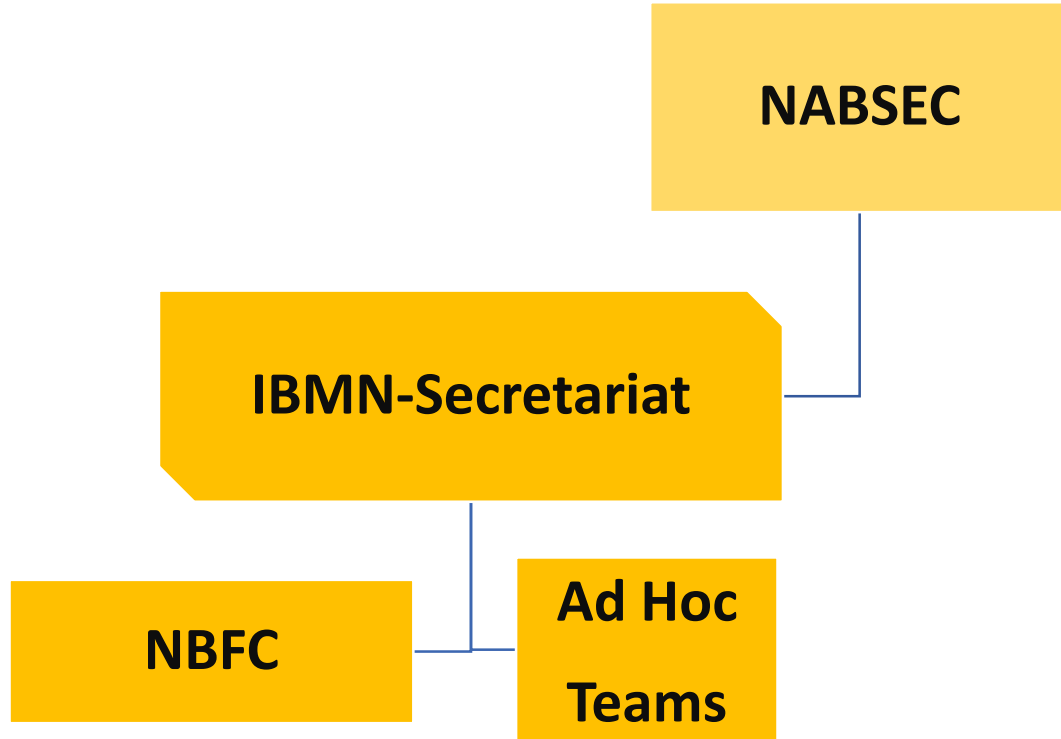
Structure and Framework

Framework:

The NBFC derives its authority to function from the National Security Coordinator. The Security and Intelligence Agencies' Act (Act 526) provides that the National Security Coordinator has the authority to collect and share information across agencies.



National IBM Structure



The National Border Security Committee (NABSEC) provides national level coordination of IBM. The IBM National Secretariat of the NABSEC provides day-to-day management of the IBM process. The NBFC reports to the NABSEC through the Secretariat. Ad Hoc teams shall be established as needed, for example, the Public Affairs and Community Engagement (PACE) team.



Functions of NBFC

- The NBFC provides timely analysis and dissemination of strategic intelligence information that support operations at the borders.
- It assists the border agencies to maintain a unified front and purpose in advancing Ghana's border security, de-conflicting issues relating to operations, capacity building, and responding to threats and directives thereof from the National Border Security Committee (NABSEC).



Functions of NBFC (Continues)

- The NBFC adopts “all threats” focus that includes cross-border smuggling, violations of transit cargo regime, illicit drug trafficking, human trafficking, weapons trafficking, illegal migration, money laundering, counter terrorism, herdsmen concern, cross-border public health epidemics, as well as wildlife smuggling. All the while enabling innovation and access to cutting-edge technology and best practices that provide secure information across the border security community.



Functions of NBFC (Continues)

- It serves as a center of excellence in advancing border security that aligns with the Government of Ghana's national security priorities, as well as the policies of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) that Ghana espouses and have nexus to the border.
- It promotes collaboration with stakeholders and partners such as other Fusion Centers and the private sector.



Advantages and Strides of the NBFC

- The NBFC served as the major analytical and dissemination centre of information by the National Interagency Task Force during the Covid 19 pandemic.
- Analytical and information reports from the NBFC have provided sound advice to border security agencies on both old and new threats to national and border security.



Challenges of the NBFC

- Like any new Government agency or department, funding of the activities and running of the NBFC has been a major issue, in spite of the well-understood crucial need of the NBFC in ensuring border security.
- The issue of staffing has been an issue due to its temporary nature of posting (secondment of officers from various security agencies) – Although measures of sustainability are being employed to address this.



I thank you all for
your attention!