

Mathematicians Charged to Solve National Security Problems

Mathematicians have been charged to rise up and play a prominent role in solving the security problems in Nigeria, as the nation's security system is said to owe its functionality to the abundance of mathematical skills.

A Director in the Ministry of Defence, Nigerian Air Force Computer Unit, Sam Ethnam Air Force Base, Lagos, Mr. Oladipupo Ogbara, gave the charge on Friday, March 3, 2017, while speaking as a Guest Speaker on the "Role of Mathematics in National Security," at the Town and Gown seminar organised by the Department of Mathematics, Covenant University, Ota.

Mr. Ogbara noted that the national security of any country is of great importance to the military as they leave no stone unturned to achieve a highly secured nation. To achieve this, he said, "The services of national security analysts who are also known as intelligence analysts will always be needed. The calibre of people needed for these jobs are the mathematics graduates. Mathematicians are therefore greatly needed in national security."

He emphasised that the military uses mathematics to solve different problems, which, he said, includes the determination of how different elements of a certain technology works or to find out how a defence system is used to ascertain investment in certain weaponry and systems.

The guest speaker enumerated mathematical methods used with application to defence and security, which include signal processing, scattering, scientific computing and applications, combat simulation, statistical modeling, satellite remote sensing, applied informatics as well as cryptography and coding.

Mr. Ogbara also listed relevant jobs and careers in the military for graduates of mathematics to include, military intelligence officers, ammunition stock control and accounting specialists, unit supply specialists, financial management technicians, geospatial engineers, human intelligence collectors, automated logistical specialists, test measurement and diagnostic and cryptography (data security).

He urged the participants to see mathematics as an effective tool for solving crime and security problems.

The Head, Department of Mathematics, Dr. Timothy Anake, in his remarks, stated that the guest speaker was able to educate the participants on the application of mathematical methods to security and defence issues, noting that it is very important to know that mathematics prepared them for everything in life.

While appreciating the guest speaker for his scholastic presentation, he urged the students to always take the Town and Gown seriously, adding that there is always something to take home.



Guest Speaker at the Department of Mathematics' Town and Gown Seminar and Director in the Nigerian Air Force Computer Unit, Ministry of Defense, Mr. Oladipupo Ogbara (5th L), with members of the Department after the seminar.
