**CHAPTER I**

**INTRODUCTION**

* 1. **Background**

The Ghana Army (GA) is the main ground warfare organizational military branch of the Ghanaian Armed Forces (GAF). In 1959, two years after the Gold Coast obtained independence as Ghana, the Gold Coast Regiment was withdrawn from the Royal West African Frontier Force, and formed the basis for the new Ghanaian army. Together with the Ghanaian air force (GHF) and Ghanaian navy (GN), the Ghanaian army (GA) makes up the Ghanaian Armed Forces (GAF), controlled by the Ghanaian Ministry of Defence (MoD) and Central Defence Headquarters, both located in Greater Accra. [4]

Michel Camp, 1st Battalion of Infantry was the first battalion to be established in the history of Ghana Armed Forces. The 1st Battalion gold Coast Regime (GCR) takes its roots from the Gold Coast Constabulary (GCC) which was established on 1st Jan 1901. The unit from its inception had gone through series of organization and re-organizations. However, the basic structure has always been maintained. Currently, the basic structure of a Battalion Headquarters, and companies is still maintained. Presently, the unit has five companies (namely Alpha, Bravo, Support and Headquarters) under the Battalion Headquarters. The Alpha, Bravo and Charlie companies are the maneuver companies (i.e. the frontline troops), with the support company providing support through the Mortar or Platoon, Machine Gun Platoon and the Assault Pioneer Platoon.

The role of the unit is: To train to fight and win wars/battles independently or as part of the Ghana Armed Forces anytime, anywhere as directed by the government. Additionally, the unit in peacetime is to assist the civil authority in the restoration/maintenance of law and order in situations of civil disturbance and natural disasters. [1]

The Charter of the United Nations gives the Security Council the power and responsibility to take collective action to maintain international peace and security. For this reason, the international community usually looks to the Security Council to authorize peacekeeping operations. Most of these operations are established and implemented by the United Nations itself with troops serving under UN operational command. In other cases, where direct UN involvement is not considered appropriate or feasible, the Council authorises regional organisations such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, the Economic Community of West African States or coalitions of willing countries to implement certain peacekeeping or peace enforcement functions. In modern times, peacekeeping operations have evolved into many different functions, including diplomatic relations with other countries, international bodies of justice (such as theInternational Criminal Court), and eliminating problems such as landmines that can lead to new incidents of fighting.[5]

The African Union is only five years old, having been launched in Durban, South Africa, in July 2002. In the intervening years it has established a range of bodies, mechanisms, protocols and institutions. A sufficient amount of effort has been focused on creating a peace and security architecture to combat the multitude of challenges that the AU is facing. Current efforts by the AU invite comparisons with its predecessor, the Organisation of African Unity (OAU). The AU has only been operational for five years and inherited both the assets and liabilities of the OAU. Therefore, the AU has not conducted extensive peacebuilding operations on the continent despite the significant need for peacebuilding. The AU did however intervene in Burundi to build peace and enable the establishment of a more robust UN peace operation. The AU is also involved in promoting peace in the Darfur region of Sudan through the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS). The AU has a rather weak mandate in Darfur, namely to monitor the humanitarian crisis effectively and to coordinate efforts to advance the cause of peace. This narrow mandate does not provide the AU with the leeway to implement peacebuilding initiatives, nor does the organisation have the wherewithal to finance comprehensive peacebuilding operations. [2]

Ghana Armed Forces troops are sent on missions locally and abroad. Before these troops are sent on a mission, their records which include name, date of birth, rank etc. are kept as a means of identification for these troops.(Write process involved in the mission here) Their records are kept in a file system. The file contains personal information of the troops which are recorded on sheets of paper. These files are kept in the office at Michel Camp.[3]

1. **Project Definition**

The Mission management system is a web-based system which would be developed using PHP. The interface would be designed using CSS, Javascript and html to give it a responsive, user-interactive and user-friendly interface. It is developed to help the Ghana Armed Forces record private personal information of troops in the Military Camps when on mission. This system will be able to replace existing file systemsoit can help the Ghana Armed Forces protect the personal data of troops.

The main users of this web application will be military clerks whose responsibility is adding troop’s data, updating troop’s data and viewing troop’s data. Users of the system also include Administrative officer whose task also includes adding troop’s data, updating troop’s data, viewing troop’s data, selecting troop for peace keeping missions and approving troop for a particular mission. Another prominent user of the system is the senior officer who can view the profile of military troop, military clerks and the administrative officer and manages the accounts of military clerks and administrative officers which include creating, updating and deleting their accounts. Another essential user of the application is a doctor who can also view profiles of military troop and has the responsibility of conducting medicals for troops before deployment and after withdrawal. The system also has another user known as the pre-trainer who approves military troops for a mission assignment after they have passed their training.

Our proposed system has the following advantages.

* User friendly interface
* Fast access to database
* Less error
* More Storage Capacity
* Search facility
* Look and Feel Environment
* Quick mission assignment
  1. **Problem Statement**

Without any doubt, there are many problems with the existing system some of which has been discussed below:

·        The processes are paper and pen based.

* There is a delay in accessing troop’s data in paper files:When troop’s data need to be accessed, there is a long delay searching for a particular troops file since a large number of files have to be searched to get that particular file.

·         Paper files are easily damaged:It is easy to destroy paper files, papers are usually victims of pests or rodents. When there is a disaster all records in books can easily be destroyed.

·         Compromise of troop’s data:Troop’s personal data in the file system can be easily compromised. People who are not authorized can easily get access to classified documents.

·         Missing records of troops:Records of troops can easily be lost to fire or any natural occurrence. It is difficult getting or replacing stolen or missing records of troops.

* 1. **Aim and objectives of the project**

To design and implement and web-based peacekeeping management system that would allow Ghana Armed Forces record private personal information of troops on mission centers.

**1.4.1 Objectives of the project**

The following are the various steps to be undertaken to achieve the aim stated above.

* Develop a GUI app for easy accessibility.
* Develop a system to manage troops on mission.
* Design a database that will keep records of all troops on mission centers.
* Develop a report generation system.
  1. **Significance of the project**

The main purpose to develop this system is to help the Ghana Armed Forces record private personal information of troops in the Military Camps when on mission. This system will be able to replace existing file systemsoit can help the Ghana Armed Forces protect the personal data of troops. The significance of the Web-based management system is listed below:

* Accessing personal data of Military troops would be fast and accurate.
* Personal data of troops would now be secured.
* Cases of troops records stolen or tampered with would now be things of the past

* 1. **Scope of the project**

The application to be developed will be extremely useful to the security agencies that include Ghana Armed Forces, Ghana Police Service and Ghana Immigration Service. The system which is web-based can only be accessed by authenticated users of the system. The scope of the system involves the **Users,**and the **system.**

The **users** of the system will be specifically the officers of the Ghana Armed Forces and any personnel in the Ghana Armed Forces who have authorized access to use the system.

The **system** is a web-based system which would be developed using PHP. The interface would be designed using CSS, Javascript and html to give it a responsive, user-interactive and user-friendly interface. . The modules that make up the entire system are listed below:

* **New Clerk registration:** When there is a need to add a new clerk to the system, this module allows the admin to add the records of the clerk to system.
* **New Troop registration:** This module allows the admin and clerk to add profile of troops into the database of the system.
* **View Troops profile:** The system makes it easier for the admin to view the various details of military troops in the system and allow for it to be updated by the admin and the clerk.
* **Mission assignment:** This module allows the admin officer to select troops for mission which is later approved by the senior officer.
* **Report generation:** The system also allows the admin to generate periodic reports on status of military troops in the system.
  1. **Organization of project**

This project has been structured into five (5) chapters. Chapter one gives an introduction to the Ghana Armed Forces and a brief preview of their mission management system. It also talks about the problems and challenges faced by the Army mission unit in carrying out their assigned duty on managing the records of military troops and gives a summarized outline of how this project aims to solve the outlined challenges. In the second chapter, there is a review of similar works done by others in the same or otherwise similar fields and a discussion on the differences in approach used to solve the problem. Chapter three talks about the system design and methodology used in the development of the proposed system to solve the problems stated. It also discusses the procedures used in detail. The fourth chapter highlights the implementation procedures and the testing of the system .Finally, the fifth chapter gives the conclusion to the project with recommendations, observations and challenges faced in the various developmental phases of this project. Following chapter five are appendices (the codes for the various aspects of the system) and references.