

This

By LUKE OKORO

GROUP captain Eniola Akinduro may not have known what fate awaited him when he left for Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) a fortnight back. He had left Kaduna where he was feted by friends, colleagues and associates, following his elevation as chief instructor, Air Force Wing of the Nigerian Defence Academy (NDA), to Abuja to pick some personal effects. He was also to see the daughter in one of the schools at Abuja.

Ironically, Group Captain Akinduro did not get to Abuja to see the daughter or pick the personal effects he wanted to make use of at Kaduna. Perhaps, worst of all, was that the new office his friends, colleagues and associates had feted and congratulated him for the previous day, he lived not to assume and enjoy its benefits.

Reason: Unknown to this amiable officer gentleman, some people, perhaps evil men, who are not necessarily robbers—since they did not take away anything from him, had laid ambush on him on the lonely a long and often deserted Abuja—Kaduna Federal highway, 35 kilo metres off the city.

Unconfirmed reports say his assailants may have dragged him outside his car, killing him in the process. His body was to be recovered later by the side of his car. Strangely, military sources say, nothing was taken away from the car, in the same way that the car was not stolen or vandalised. The development has become a mystery that military authorities are currently seeking to unravel. Who could have murdered Group captain Akinduro? What could have prompted such a

murdered Group Captain Akinduro. What could have prompted such a dastardly act? Is there an in-fighting leading to his new posting to the NDA? Could he have been stopped by one who felt cheated in the process? How come that those who murdered him were able to single out his car ostensibly on the high-speeding expressway? Besides, what prompted him to complain about the dangers of the lonely road as reported by a friend, who claimed to have spoken with him on phone during the trips? These are poses before military authorities to find answers to even though the questions could be stretched further and further.

Meanwhile, military authorities in Kaduna have vowed to unravel the mystery behind the murder of one of their own. They have deployed a detachment of their men to comb all the nooks and crannies of the communities and settlements within sight of the day light murder act. Air Force spokesman captain I.A Kure, wondered why anyone would kill Group Captain Akinduro in cold blood.

He bemoaned the fact that the Air officer was murdered in cold blood and nothing taken away from him, the car was intact, with the slain body lying beside it.

Until his new posting, Akinduro was deputy director of defence information department. In fact, it was the department that organised the send-forth party to mark his new promotion from the department to the NDA.

Journalists who encountered him on this beat were full of glowing tribute about him. They described him as unassuming, diligent and friendly.

Born on October 17, 1959 in the United Kingdom, where he also had his early education, Group Captain Akinduro enlisted in the NDA in 1980