

Troops neutralise ISWAP commander, fighters in Yobe operation

From Njadvara Musa, Damaturu

TROOPS of the Northeast Joint Task Force under Operation Hadin Kai (OPHK) have neutralised a commander of the Islamic State West Africa Province and several fighters in the Babangida-Dapchi axis of Yobe State.

Military sources in Damaturu said the operation, which combined ground and aerial assaults, led to the killing of a Shura council member identified as Abu

Jarir along the 130-kilometre Damaturu-Bayamari road.

A military source confirmed on yesterday that the operation took place on April 22, 2026, at about 6:12 p.m., following intelligence reports on the movement of the senior insurgent figure.

Security sources described the neutralisation as a major setback to ISWAP's leadership structure in the Lake Chad region, which covers Niger, Chad, Cameroon and Nigeria.

They added that the overall ISWAP commander in the region, identified as Ba Shuwa, reportedly deployed a search and rescue team to recover Abu Jarir's body shortly after the operation. The team was sighted moving on about a dozen motorcycles in the Aljanna Jaule area of Yobe State.

Further details are expected as troops continue exploitation operations in the Babangida-Dapchi axis and the Sasawa Forest.

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