

In the Northeast, he said the troops of 73 Battalion (Mechanised), supported by Hybrid Forces and the Civilian Joint Task Force, ambushed a known terrorist crossing point in Sojiri, Konduga Local Government Area of Borno, on January 4.

According to him, the troops killed five of the terrorists, recovered one AK-47 rifle, and rescued three hostages.

He confirmed an air strike on an ISWAP/JAS enclave at Garin Mallam Idrissa, east of Garin Abu Ayuba, in Nduva, Borno State.

According to him, 18 terrorists were killed, including a high-value terrorist commander identified as Munzir, also known as Baa Yanziy.

He added that nine terrorist motorcycles were destroyed during the strike, degrading the terrorists' capability.

The source said the troops of 27 Task Force Brigade, working with Hybrid Forces, ambushed terrorists on the Meleri–Ngirbua axis in Gujba Local Government Area of Yobe about 5:30 a.m. on January 4.

“During the encounter, troops neutralised two terrorists and recovered one AK-47 rifle, with exploitation of the area still in progress.

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“In the Northcentral, troops of Operation Whirl Stroke (OPWS) recorded a major breakthrough with the recovery of a large cache of arms in Takum Local Government Area of Taraba” and arrest of an associate of a criminal kingpin, John Ngata, in Takum, Taraba.

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Acting Media Information Officer, the Headquarters of JTF OPWS, confirmed this in a statement in Makurdi.

Zubairu stated that he (the associate) was arrested yesterday at a road block.

He said the suspect later led the troops to John Ngata armoury, where they recovered 13 AK-47 rifles, 39 AK-47 magazines, 690 rounds of 7.62mm special ammunition, among others.

He added: “Upon preliminary interrogation, the suspect led the troops to a concealed armoury belonging to the criminal network at Amadu Village in the local government area.

“Subsequent exploration of the location resulted in the recovery of a significant cache of arms and ammunition, comprising 13 AK-47 rifles, 39 AK-47 magazines, 690 rounds of 7.62mm special

ammunition, and quantity four hand grenades.

“Following the successful recovery, the armoury was professionally destroyed to prevent further use and the troops safely withdrew to base.”