

Troops repel ISWAP attack, lose soldier in Borno



• *Hostages rescued, six 'terrorists' surrender*

• *Captain, two personnel 'killed' in Niger IED blast*

• *Kidnapped INEC staff member rescued, rustled cattle recovered in Zamfara*

Several suspected Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) terrorists have been killed during a failed attack on a military base in Borno State, Joint Taskforce Operation Hadin Kai (OPHK), said yesterday.

The insurgents, who tried to run over the Forward Operating Base (FOB) Logomani, in Ngala Local Government Area on Tuesday, met fierce resistance from troops of OPHK, forcing their surviving members to flee.

A statement yesterday by the Media Information Officer of OPHK, Capt. Mohammed Goni, said the terrorists briefly breached a section of the base's defensive perimeter before troops regrouped and launched a counter-offensive that inflicted heavy casualties on the attackers.

“Regrettably, one gallant soldier paid the supreme price, while two gun trucks and some combat enablers sustained damage during the engagement,” Goni said.

He added that the situation had since been brought under control, with reinforcements deployed to the area.

Separately, troops of the 115 Task Force Battalion rescued two kidnap victims from a terrorist hideout during a search and rescue mission in Askira-Uba council area on Tuesday.

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Goni said the rescued victims have been evacuated to a secure location for medical attention and psychosocial support, adding that the troops also recovered N1.2 million suspected to be proceeds of criminal activities, along

with food items and other logistics believed to have supported terrorist operations.

Also on the same day, six suspected ISWAP fighters and their families surrendered to troops of the 192 Battalion, Sector 1, OPHK. Preliminary investigations indicated they had fled the Guduf Bubayagwa and Chikide enclaves in the Mandara Mountains, Gwoza council area. Items recovered from them included N1,541,500 in cash and two mobile phones.

In further operations, troops of the 232 Battalion, acting on intelligence, arrested a suspected criminal in Gombi council area of Adamawa State, and recovered an AK-47 rifle, two magazines and 28 rounds of ammunition.

The suspect, Goni said, were in military custody as investigations continue to identify other members of the network.

Troops of the 149 Battalion also arrested two suspected terrorist logistics suppliers in Mobbar council area of Borno State, recovering cash, a Volkswagen Golf, construction materials and household items believed to be destined for terrorist elements.

Separately, troops of the 24 Task Force Brigade, working with the Civilian Joint Task Force, cleared known terrorist enclaves around Wulgo and recovered a sack of illicit drugs abandoned by fleeing insurgents. Goni said the recovery reflected sustained pressure on terrorist groups' operational capabilities.

The military also said it had arrested a suspected Boko Haram/ISWAP logistics supplier at the Molai checkpoint while he was transporting a large quantity of medical supplies without clearance, and another suspect found with five motorcycle tyres at Ngirya village, Tarmuwa council area of Yobe State, following a joint operation by the 233 Tank Battalion and local hunters.

Goni said both suspects were in custody pending investigation, adding that the operations demonstrated the effectiveness of sustained offensive, actionable intelligence and collaboration among security agencies in dismantling terrorist logistics networks across the Northeast.

In Niger State, an Army Captain and two soldiers were feared dead after their patrol vehicle struck a suspected improvised explosive device (IED) during a routine operation in Borgu council area of Niger State.

A security source said the incident occurred on Tuesday at Maciyan-Kyada village, Babanna Ward, when troops on patrol from Babanna town drove over the device, believed to have been planted by terrorists.

The patrol had departed Babanna at about 10am when one of its vehicles triggered the blast. Two other soldiers sustained severe injuries.

A resident said one of the deceased had been identified as Yusuf, adding that the explosion had heightened tension in the community.

Military authorities were yet to issue an official statement at the time of filing this report.

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Also, troops of the 123 Special Forces Battalion discovered and safely destroyed an IED planted along the Cross Kauwa-Kekeno-Monguno Main Supply Route in Kukawa council area of Borno State. Security sources said the device was detected during a routine clearance operation at Dowoshi, and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD)

personnel detonated it without casualties or damage, averting a potential attack on troops and civilian road users on the strategic route.

In Zamfara State, the police and troops rescued a kidnapped staff member of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), repelled terrorists' attacks and recovered hundreds of rustled cattle in separate operations across Gummi, Talata Mafara and Gusau council areas of Zamfara State.

Counter-insurgency expert Zagazola Makama, posted the incident on his verified X account that armed terrorists riding about 50 motorcycles attacked villages in Ruwan Bore District, Talata Mafara, on Tuesday, rustling hundreds of cattle. A woman, he said, was hit by a stray bullet and taken to the General Hospital, Talata Mafara, for treatment.

The attackers abducted an INEC staff member, Aliyu Mohammed, along the Gummi-Sokoto Road after he had transported National Examinations Council scripts from Gummi to Sokoto.

His official Toyota Hilux was later recovered abandoned at Tafkin, and police secured the scripts and handed them to the principal of Government Unity Secondary School, Gummi, for onward delivery to NECO's Sokoto office.

Following intelligence that the insurgents had regrouped inside Gando Forest with reinforcements from neighbouring Sokoto and Kebbi states, the Zamfara Police Command deployed its Violent Crime Response Unit (VCRU) to support troops already operating in the area. The combined team engaged the bandits in a gun battle in the early hours of 8 July, forcing them to retreat into the forest with casualties.

Mohammed and another victim were rescued unharmed, and the recovered cattle were returned to their owners.

A similar operation at Kwanar Ganuwa in Gusau council area, saw suspected terrorists, who kidnapped motorists and farmers fleeing, abandoning their captives.

Commissioner of Police (CP) A.M. Bello, reaffirmed the command's commitment to sustained operations against banditry and urged residents to continue providing credible intelligence.

At the Timbuktu Triangle area, security sources said nine ISWAP fighters died from cholera outbreak.

Timbuktu Triangle is one of the group's strongholds in Borno State.

The cholera outbreak was attributed to poor sanitation and limited access to medical care in terrorist camps.

The sources, according to Zagazola, alleged that two infected fighters were executed by fellow insurgents after efforts to treat them failed, adding that the outbreak reflected worsening conditions in the camps following military operations that have disrupted the group's logistics and medical supplies.

Efforts were ongoing to prevent further medical supplies from reaching terrorist enclaves, the sources said.

Meanwhile, troops of the 26 Task Force Brigade intercepted a woman and her two-year-old child near the Mandara Mountains in Borno State while she was allegedly attempting to enter a terrorist-controlled enclave.

Security sources identified the woman as Aisha Idrisa, 20, and said she was arrested on July 4, during routine picketing duty along the Gwoza-Pulka Road.

An Itel mobile phone, an extra battery and personal belongings were recovered from her.

The sources said Idrisa told investigators during preliminary questioning that she had been heading to her farm, but that available intelligence had prompted troops to detain her for further investigation.