

Troops kill 25 terrorists, rescue hostages across theatres

Johnson Babajide with agency report

TROOPS of the Nigerian Army have sustained offensive operations across multiple theatres, killing at least 25 terrorists, rescuing kidnapped victims, and recovering arms and ammunition in the last 24 hours. This is contained in a summary of operations made available to the News Agency

of Nigeria (NAN) by a military source, on Monday, in Abuja.

The source said the successes were recorded under the Joint Task Force North-East, Operation Hadin Kai (OPHK), Operation Fansan Yamma, Operation Whirl Stroke, and Operation Delta Safe.

In the North-East, he said the troops of 73 Battalion (Mechanised), supported by Hybrid Forces and the Civilian Joint Task Force, laid an

ambush at a known terrorist crossing point in Sojiri, Konduga Local Government Area of Borno, on January 4.

The source said troops made contact with the terrorists during the operation, neutralised five of them, recovered one AK-47 rifle, and rescued three hostages abducted by the terrorists.

He also confirmed a successful air strike on an ISWAP/JAS terrorist enclave at Garin Mallam Idrissa, east of Garin

Abu Ayuba, within the Nduva area of Borno.

He stated that battle damage assessment confirmed that 18 terrorists were neutralised, including a high-value terrorist commander identified as Munzir, also known as Baa Yanziye.

He added that nine terrorist motorcycles were destroyed during the strike, significantly degrading the terrorists' mobility and operational capability, while further assessment

of the strike effects was ongoing.

The source said the troops of 27 Task Force Brigade, working with Hybrid Forces, ambushed terrorists along the Meleri-Ngirbuu axis in Gujba Local Government Area of Yobe at 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.

"In the North-Central, 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.

The recovered armoury was subsequently destroyed to prevent further use.

The acting Media Information Officer of OPWS, Lieutenant Ahmad Zubairu, disclosed this in a statement made available to newsmen in Makurdi.

Zubairu stated that troops, acting on intelligence report received on Sunday, intercepted a suspected criminal kingpin at Zaki Bian in Benue State.

"The suspect was successfully intercepted at Zaki-Biam without incident. Upon preliminary interrogation, the suspect voluntarily led troops to a concealed armoury belonging to the criminal network at Amadu Village in Takum Local Government Area."

Zubairu added that the armoury contained cache of arms and ammunition, which included, 13 AK-47 rifles, 39 AK-47 magazines, 690 rounds of 7.62mm special ammunition, and quantity four hand grenades.

The statement further read: "Following the successful

recovery, the armoury was professionally destroyed to prevent further use and the troops safely withdrew to base."

Commending the troops, the Force Commander, Joint Task Force OPWS, Major-General Moses Gara, reiterated his commitment to sustaining high troop morale by prioritising welfare, logistics support and operational readiness.

He appreciated members of the public for their continuous cooperation and provision of credible intelligence, noting that community support remains a critical enabler in the ongoing fight against criminality within the Joint Operations Area.

The force commander urged residents in the three states of operation, Benue, Taraba and Nasarawa, to continue to provide timely and actionable information to security forces.

"In the South-South, troops of Operation Delta Safe destroyed three illegal refining sites at Uburum Community, Ikwerre Local Government Area of Rivers, recovering and destroying locally fabricated ovens, drums, jerrycans, and plastic tanks used for crude oil refining.

"Also, troops arrested a suspected gunrunner at Panapena area, Warri South Local Government Area of Delta, recovering two mobile phones and ₦22,700 from the suspect," he said.

The source reaffirmed the commitment of the Nigerian army to sustaining pressure on terrorists, bandits, and other criminal elements across the country.

He also urged members of the public to continue providing timely and credible information to security agencies.



Lagos State governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu (left), being decorated by the Chairman, Nigerian Legion, Lagos command, DCG Hakeem Wolimoh, during the launch of the Year 2026 Armed Forces Remembrance Day Emblem and Appeal Fund, at the EXCO Chamber, Lagos House, Ikeja, on Monday.

Death toll in Yobe boat accident rises to 29, 10 still missing

Speaker, Tajudeen Abbas, mourns

Kehinde Akintola with

Goje said that 13 passen-

will board a canoe must wear life jackets, and that should

dolences to the people and government of Yobe.