

Six killed as blasts hit military, market vehicles in Niger

Aliyu Hamagam | Minna

SIX people have reportedly been killed in two separate improvised explosive device (IED) blasts along the Babanna axis of Borgu Local Government Area of Niger State, including

three military personnel.

A resident of the area, who identified himself simply as Khalid, told the Nigerian Tribune that three soldiers were killed on Tuesday when a military convoy ran over an IED during a routine patrol along Babanna road.

According to him, the con-

voy, comprising three military vehicles, encountered the explosive about seven kilometres from Babanna town at around 9:00 a.m.

He said the blast struck the lead vehicle, killing three soldiers instantly, while three other personnel sustained varying degrees of injuries.

The source said troops in the other two vehicles went after the suspected terrorists believed to have planted the bomb, adding that several terrorists were reportedly killed during the ensuing operation.

In a separate incident on Thursday, another IED reportedly exploded along the

same route, killing three traders in a pickup van loaded with grains to the Babanna weekly market.

The victims were said to have died on the spot when the explosive struck.

When contacted over the military incident, the spokesperson for the Niger State

Police Command, SP Wasiu Abiodun, declined to comment, saying inquiries should be directed to the military authorities.

On Thursday's explosion, Abiodun said he would verify and respond. However, he is yet to do so as of the time of filing this report.

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