

50 ISWAP members, two soldiers killed in Yobe

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| By Umar Sani

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Two soldiers have been confirmed dead after troops of the Joint Task Force (North East), Operation HADIN KAI, repelled what was described as a coordinated attack by members of the Islamic State of West African Province on the Headquarters 27 Brigade in Buni Gari, Yobe State.

The Nigerian Army said no fewer than 50 terrorists were neutralised during the encounter, which occurred in the early hours of Thursday.

The attack, according to the military, targeted both the brigade headquarters and the Buni Gari checkpoint at about 2am.

In a statement issued on Saturday by the Media Information Officer of Operation HADIN KAI, Lt Col Sani Uba, the military said the terrorists launched the assault from multiple directions but were repelled by troops through coordinated ground and air operations.

Uba, the insurgents initially attacked from the western flank before reinforcing through the southern flank along the Ganinga Junction axis and later from the south-western flank in an attempt to encircle the troops.

“The assault, launched under the cover of darkness by a large number of terrorists from multiple axes, was met with devastating firepower, tactical brilliance and resolute determination by troops who held

their ground and inflicted catastrophic losses on the attackers.

“No fewer than 50 terrorists were neutralised, while a large cache of arms and ammunition was recovered from the fleeing remnants.

“Regrettably, two gallant soldiers paid the supreme price in the course of the engagement. Their sacrifice embodies the highest traditions of service, courage and unwavering commitment to the defence of the nation,” Uba added.

The army said troops deployed indirect fire and offensive-defensive tactics, forcing the attackers to retreat while evacuating some of their dead and wounded members.

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It added that no section of the military facility was breached during the operation.

“At no point was any part of the camp breached, as the integrity of the location remained fully intact throughout the engagement.

“Exploitation of the general area confirmed the recovery of 10 terrorist corpses within the immediate vicinity, while human intelligence reports indicate that over 20 additional bodies were scattered across bushes around Gashua, Azare and Kamuya along the terrorists’ withdrawal routes,” Uba stated.

The army also disclosed that the Air Component of Operation HADIN KAI provided Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance support, leading to precision air strikes on identified terrorist positions and retreating insurgents.

“In a synchronised air-land operation, precision air interdiction strikes were conducted on confirmed terrorist positions and fleeing elements, accounting for an additional 20 terrorists neutralised as aircraft pursued retreating insurgents along their escape corridors,” the statement added.

The military said troops, alongside volunteer forces, had commenced follow-up operations to track fleeing terrorists and prevent any regrouping attempts.

It, however, disclosed that some military equipment, including Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles and gun trucks, sustained minimal damage during the operation, while injured personnel were receiving medical attention.

Recovered items included eight AK-47 rifles, two General Purpose Machine Guns, two Rocket-Propelled Grenade tubes, five RPG bombs, three RPG chargers, boxes of 7.62mm ammunition, loaded magazines, bandoliers of ammunition and three Improvised Explosive Device canisters.

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