

Navy kills 7 militants, seizes arms

THE Nigerian Navy has killed seven suspected militants and seized three rifles during a rescue operation at Isaka and Bakana in Rivers.

The Information Officer of NNS Pathfinder Base, Lt. Edward Yeibo, told newsmen in Port Harcourt yesterday that the killing took place last Friday. Yeibo said that a navy patrol boat from the Pathfinder Base on routine patrol received distress calls from drivers of some passenger boats that they were being robbed by gunmen on the Isaka-Bakana route.

Isaka, a coastal community in Okrika Local Government Area,

is about 10 nautical miles from Port Harcourt. Yeibo said that the militants at Isaka robbed three passenger boats going to Brass and took some of the passengers to their camp at Bakana.

He said that the militants diverted the boat drivers to their camp with threats that the lives of their passengers were at risk. Yeibo said that while complying with the militants' directives, the boat drivers sighted the navy patrol boat and reported the incident. "The patrol team promptly advanced toward the direction of the militant camp at Isaka and Bakana. The militants, on sighting

the boat, opened fire. The navy returned fire and killed seven militants. We, however, recorded no casualty," he said. The spokesman said that the naval personnel seized three AK-47 assault rifles, one falcon pump-action gun, one double-barrel gun, one axe, 65 rounds of ammunition and the passenger boats. Reacting to the incident, the Commander of NNS Pathfinder, Commodore Yusuf Hinna, commended the special boat service men for their courage and devotion to duty. He assured the people that efforts would be intensified to stem the activities of militants in the area. (NAN)