

## Militant arrested over killing of soldiers

Written by Misbahu Bashir  
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The Nigerian Navy has arrested one Apudu Gole 30, over the attack of a naval gunboat in Rivers state which led to the death of four soldiers. They recovered two Rocket Propelled Grenades (RPG).

The commander of the Brass unit of the Joint Task Force, Lt. Col. Abubakar Malik, was killed along with three others in the attack and their decomposing bodies were found five days later.

The Director of Naval Information, Commodore Kabir Aliyu said at press briefing organized by the joint security information managers committee in Abuja that Gole was among the militants who attacked a naval boat deployed to Shell Petroleum Development Company for security duties.

“The militants ambushed the boat with five well-armed speed boats at one man camp near Boro community in Rivers State on March 1. Gole who was wounded in the gun battle was arrested and three boats were sunk.”

He said two RPGs, four General Purpose Machineguns, two AK-47 riffles, two empty magazines and seven GSM mobile phones were recovered. The leader of the attackers, Shedrack Itokofuwei, otherwise called Mammy Water was among those killed.

Gole said he was recruited into the militants and ‘given powers’ by Mammy Water.

Media coordinator of the JTF Lt. Col. Timothy Antipha has said that the attack that led to the death of the soldiers “was carried out by a gang of sea pirates led by Shedrack Itokofuwei, alias Mammy Water, who hails from Azagbene in Southern Ijaw LGA of Bayelsa State.

“On day of the attack, Mammy Water and his gang left his base in a convoy of about five speedboats heading to Forupa, a new location in Bayelsa State. On the way, the criminal convoy attacked JTF personnel who were heading to Ogbia from Brass,” he said.