

# Troops kill dozens of insurgents in Borno

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**NIGERIAN** security forces have killed dozens of Boko Haram insurgents in Alagarno village and neighboring communities in Damboa local government area of Borno State, Weekly Trust gathered from various sources yesterday.

Assorted arms and ammunitions were reportedly recovered while several vehicles of the insurgents, some with anti-aircraft missiles mounted on them, were destroyed, sources said. Alagarno is said to be one of the major strongholds of the Boko Haram insurgents which they used for various activities, including training of recruits, organising attacks on various places and holding hostages.

It is located in the southern plank of Borno State, about 45 kilometres from Maiduguri.

One of the sources said after their dislodgment from dozens of communities in northern and central parts of Borno State, the insurgents intensified shuttling between Sambisa Forest and Alagarno which also allowed them to get in and out of some

communities in Yobe State.

He said after weeks of surveillance and mapping, fighter jets and ground troops with latest fighting equipment, were deployed to Alagarno for an operation that is still ongoing.

"Hundreds of the terrorists have been killed during aerial reconnaissance and ground operations which started days ago and still ongoing. We are making serious progress because we ensured that all their escape routes have been blocked before the latest operation began," the source said.

"After we took over Gwoza, even the so-called Shekau (leader of the sect) relocated to Alagarno general area and he is still on the run but we will get him, we would surely get him," he added.

Our correspondent reports that since Wednesday, various military aircraft were seen heading towards Damboa even as residents in the area said they have been hearing heavy sound of artillery and have seen from a distance, fighter jets dropping bombs.

Another security source, who is familiar with the operations, said the

insurgents have been routed from other communities near Alagarno where they had established various camps. "We have so far routed the terrorists from Yajiwa, Afa, Kafa and Maudori," he said.

Sources said some of the insurgents were arrested alive while others fled with gunshot injuries.

After recording "huge successes" during the first round of the operation, the General Officer Commanding (GOC) 7 Division of the army, Maj Gen. Lamidi Adeosun, reportedly went to Alagarno on Thursday to boost the morale of his troops.

"Alagarno had been a deadly village where the insurgents had seven different check points and bunkers but all these have been destroyed," one soldier, who is participating in the operation, said.

The Maiduguri-Alagarno-Damboia road was closed for nearly two years and people coming to the state capital must have to go back to Biu and proceed to parts of Gombe and Yobe states, covering a distance of more than 500km before arriving.