

Pirates kill 4 soldiers, cop in Bayelsa

By Ronald Mutum, with agency report

The Bayelsa Police Command said on Saturday that four soldiers and a policeman were killed in an attack on Nembe waterways by armed gunmen, suspected to be pirates.

The command's spokesman, Asinim Butswat, told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Yenagoa that the Joint Task Force (JTF) base at Nembe came under attack on Friday's night.

"On August 7, 2015, at about

11:30p.m., four speedboats loaded with gunmen, suspected to be sea pirates attacked the Joint Task Force (JTF) base, at Nembe Water Front, in Nembe LGA.

"They killed four soldiers and one policeman. The gunmen carted away two HP guns and other arms from the base.

"A combined team of the JTF, Marine Police and the Navy are combing the creeks to recover the arms and arrest the culprits," Mr. Butswat said.

When contacted, Isa Ado, a Lt. Col. and Media Coordinator of the Joint Task Force in the Niger Delta, confirmed the attack.

Mr. Ado, however, said that the casualty figures and loss of arms and ammunitions were yet to be ascertained.

Meanwhile, the Defence Headquarters yesterday confirmed that military location was attacked at Nembe Jetty, near Ogolomabiri Community in Bayelsa State.

A statement by Defence spokesman Colonel Rabe Abubakar said the incident happened where suspected oil bunkerers attacked the military location.

He added that the incident is being investigated and the Joint Task Force Operation PULO

SHIELD has moved into action to arrest the perpetrators of this unpatriotic and callous attacks.

Abubakar noted that the military will deal decisively with anybody or group involved in this and similar acts of attacks or sabotage on the nation's economy.

The general public in the affected community are advised to go about their normal business activities and solicit their cooperation by given timely information to the military or any other security agencies to avert future re-occurrence of this ugly incidence, the DHQ statement said.