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## Soldiers repel Boko Haram from Gwoza, Pulka, Bitta

By Shehu Abubakar, Maiduguri and Ronald Mutum, Abuja | Publish Date: Mar 9 2016 5:00AM

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An intense battle raged through Monday night between soldiers and Boko Haram militants around Gwoza in Borno State as the soldiers repelled an attempt to retake the town that was reclaimed by the military early last year.

Fighting started Monday night when the militants attacked a military formation at Bita before extending the attack to Pulka and Gamboru through the night.

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A military source in the town told Daily Trust: "When we were fighting them at Bita, we got information that they had also attacked Pulka, a town between Gwoza and Bama. Suddenly we got another signal that they had again attacked Gamboru village near Damboa. A Save our Soul (SOS) signal was raised this morning (Tuesday) when the fight

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was still ongoing and fighter jets were deployed from Yola. It seems they planned the multiple attacks simultaneously to overwhelm us. The arrival of the jets actually helped the situation".

The Nigerian Army yesterday confirmed in a statement that troops of the 26 and 28 Task Force Brigades repelled an early morning attack by fleeing Boko Haram terrorists on military locations at Pulka and Bittta on the fringes of the Sambisa forest in Borno State.

Colonel Sani Usman, the army spokesman said: "Today, troops of 114 Task Force Battalion came under three-pronged attack by Boko Haram terrorists fanning out of Sambisa forest from Damboa, Tokumbere and Pulka axis."

He added that: "At the end of the debacle, 2 Boko Haram insurgents paid for their atrocities with their lives while several others sustained gunshot injuries. The fate that befell those that attacked Pulka was more dreadful."

Usman said troops repelled the attacks, killed all the 16 attackers and captured one of them alive while seizing arms and ammunition from the militants. He said the military had no casualties except for three soldiers who sustained minor injuries.



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