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1 soldier killed, 35 herders neutralised in Benue – Army

By Hope Abah, Makurdi | Publish Date: May 22 2018 2:00AM

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Troops of Operation Whirl Stroke (OPWS) in Benue, Nasarawa, Taraba and Zamfara states said a soldier was killed and 35 herdsmen neutralised after a four prong clearance operations at the weekend.

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Acting Director Defence Information, Brigadier General, John Agim, in a statement in Makurdi yesterday, disclosed that personnel was also missing in action.

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“Clearance operation across Gwer West, Logo and Guma LGAs of Benue State was conducted during the weekend. Troops made contact with heavily armed herdsman around lower Benue and a militia camp at Chetarer village. The troops engaged the militia and followed the pursuit with M135 Helicopter of their air component.

“This led to a large member of them being neutralised. In all, 35 herdsman were neutralised and a large number of them escaped with gunshot injuries. However, one personnel was killed in action (KIA), two sustained slight injuries but have been treated and discharged. Also, a personnel is still missing in action,” he said.

He further stated that at Umaisha and Toto villages of Nasarawa State, the troops ambushed militia following a tip off of a planned attack on the two villages, stressing that on the ensuing melee 1 x G3 rifle, 193 x 17.62 mm NATO, 81xG3 rifle ammunition, a locally made pistol and 1 FN magazine filled with round were recovered and one militiaman was killed.

Agim added that in another development, one Abdullahi Adamu, suspected herdsman at Rukubi in Doma LGA of Nasarawa State was arrested in possession of an identity card of the vigilante group of Nigeria, Nasarawa State command and a photograph in which he posed with an AK47 rifle. He said the suspect is still under interrogation.

Similarly, OPWS in Nasarawa State arrested one Musa Habu, 32, suspected to have links with militia at Kolo close to Umiasha in Toto local government council with items recovered from the suspect to include one locally made pistol, 2 x cartridges, one techno phone and hundred and thirty naira.

Also the OPWS sector 3 Taraba troops on patrol through Kwesati, Many-Garagun axis made contact with eight bandits who were



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arrested armed with two AK47 rifle, 1xK2 rifle and 2x locally made gun.

The Defence spokesman said ammunitions recovered from them included 56 rounds of 7.6mm, 25 rounds of k2, 3x cartridge, charms, phones amongst other items, adding that the suspects and items would be handed over to DSS for further investigation.

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