

MNJTF kills 25 terrorists, destroys five gun trucks in Niger, others

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TROOPS of the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) have neutralised 25 Boko Haram and Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) terrorists in the Lake Chad region.

The terrorists were reportedly killed while attempting to attack a fuel depot in Soudeye village of Borgogorou Community in Niger Republic.

A counter-insurgency and terrorism expert, Zagazola Makama, disclosed, yesterday, in Maiduguri that the MNJTF Air Task Force, comprising Nigeria and Niger, carried out multiple airstrikes on the insurgents.

He said the airstrikes led to the destruction of three gun

Bandits kill seven volunteers in Zamfara Tarabans want secure state, says senator

trucks and their occupants, adding that the task force repelled the terrorists after an hour of heavy gunfire that caused them tremendous casualties.

Commending the troops, MNJTF Commander, Abdul Ibrahim, charged them to ensure total elimination of the terrorists in the Lake Chad region.

HOWEVER, bandits, yesterday, besieged Mada village in Gusau Local Council of Zamfara State and murdered seven volunteers.

A local, who preferred anonymity for security reasons, told *The Guardian* that the bandits launched a reprisal following the killing of two of their members by the volunteer group in an

encounter about 10 days ago.

According to him, large number of bandits riding on motorcycles with AK-47 rifles had struck the community and shot indiscriminately.

He added that people started fleeing the village to safety, as the volunteers confronted the bandits and successfully killed two of them and chased the attackers out of the locality.

But yesterday, he continued, after the usual *sahur* (early morning meal), a group of armed volunteers marched out for the usual routine surveillance.

"Unfortunately, the volunteers did not know that bandits were lurking in different strategic locations ready to attack. The bandits

ambushed the volunteers, killing seven of them on the spot before retreating to their enclave," he noted.

Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), SP Shehu Muhammad, said that a joint security team of police and army had been deployed to avert further threats.

MEANWHILE, Sen. Anthony Manzo, who represented Taraba North between May 2007 and May 2011, has condemned the renewed violent attacks and induced explosions in parts of the state that claimed lives and properties.

The Taraba State governorship aspirant, in a statement, yesterday, in Abuja, while noting that Tarabans desire a secure state, tasked security operatives to redouble their efforts to forestall recurrence.