

Militants Attack Naval Patrol In Bonny, Four Feared Dead

By Ubokikwan Gabriel
REPORTER, Port Harcourt

About four naval men working on board two naval sea vessels were feared dead in an encounter with militants on Monday night.

Daily Independent gathered that apart from losing four men to the armed bandit, the Navy also lost one of their gun boats to the militants.

According to sources, the militants' attack was a reprisal to the intervention of the members of

the Joint Task Force (JTF) in a robbery attack on a bank in Bonny, earlier on Monday.

It was gathered that the robbers considered the JTF's disruption of the robbery incident as a disgrace and reorganised to storm Bonny with weapons that are more sophisticated.

The naval men with gunboats initially repelled the bandit.

Eyewitness account revealed that the militants responded

with barrage of weapons that resulted in the death of the four uniform men.

A civilian who was reportedly hit by stray bullets also died from the encounter.

It was further revealed that having overpowered the naval men, the militants took possession of one of their gunboats, while guns and other equipment in the other boat were transferred to the one they took

possession of.

The Rivers State Police Public Relations Officer, DSP Rita Abbey, while confirming the incident, denied that said that four naval personnel died in the encounter, although he confirmed that the militants launched an attack on the naval gunboats, he said it was while they were trying to escape from the bank robbery.

He admitted too that the hoodlums overpowered the navy gunboats and overran the officers on board.