



Book Low Cost fares across the world on
Virgin Atlantic ...Only on Wakanow.com

Posted in: **News** April 24, 2015 @ 6:55 am

Boko Haram: Army retreats from Sambisa Forest

SBM®-Grinding Equipment

SBM-providing the optimized material processing project.



Nigerian troops retreated from Boko Haram's Sambisa Forest stronghold in the northeast after a landmine blast killed one soldier and three vigilantes, security sources said Thursday.

Military top brass had on Wednesday said soldiers were conducting offensives "in some forest locations" in the area, after it was announced last week that operations were imminent.

The forest is located in Borno State, 80 kilometres from Chibok Town, from where more than 200 schoolgirls were kidnapped in April last year.

It has been claimed the 219 schoolgirls still being held were initially kept in the former game reserve, although others have said they may have been split up and moved to Chad or Cameroon.

Defence spokesman Chris Olukolade said in a statement that a senior Boko Haram commander was killed, as well as a number of militants who attacked a patrol.

"The operations especially in forest locations are progressing in defiance of obstacles and landmines

emplaced by the terrorists,” he added.

But progress has been severely hindered because of improvised explosive devices, a civilian vigilante involved in the operation told AFP in an account backed by a security source.

“Boko Haram have buried landmines all over the routes leading to their camps in the forest, which is no doubt a huge obstacle regarding the military offensive against them,” he said.

Troops withdrew just five kilometres from Boko Haram’s main camp in the densely forested area because of landmines.

“We decided to turn back since the route was unsafe. As we were driving back, one of the vehicles carrying CJTF (Civilian Joint Task Force) hit a mine,” he added.

“A soldier and three CJTF were killed while another soldier was injured. We trudged along and made it back to Bama yesterday (Wednesday).”

The vigilante added: “There are no soldiers in Sambisa right now. We all returned to Bama after the horrifying experience of manoeuvring through minefields.”

There was no immediate response from the military, which with its military coalition partners Chad, Niger and Cameroon has driven out Boko Haram from captured towns in recent weeks.

“Boko Haram are in large numbers in Sambisa,” said the vigilante, who requested anonymity for security reasons.

“All their fighters who were pushed out of Bama, Dikwa, Gwoza and Damboa (in Borno state) all moved to Boko Haram camps in Sambisa,” he added.

Details of the offensive came as a series of photographs circulated on social media accounts linked to the Islamic State group of heavily armed fighters, purportedly from Boko Haram.

No independent verification was possible but some of the accounts said the images were released under the name “The Islamic State in West Africa”.

Boko Haram chief Abubakar Shekau pledged allegiance

to IS group leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi in March. The Middle Eastern militants responded by urging Muslims to support the rebels in Nigeria.

Experts have seen the formal tie-up as a sign of weakness by the Nigerian Islamists but warned not to write off the group, which continues to mount smaller-scale attacks in the region.

According to residents of Kalabalge, who fled to the Cameroon town of Fotokol, Boko Haram fighters have taken over the Borno state town, which is near Nigeria's border with Chad.

Thousands of Shuwa Arabs — who are from the same ethnic group as many Chadian soldiers — have been pushed out of villages in the area since the Nigerian army seized the group's headquarters in Gwoza last month.

Resident Grema Gana said there were "light-skinned fighters of north African extraction" in the militant ranks, adding that Chadian forces operating in the area had detained some of them.

Another resident, who asked not to be named for his own safety, said Chadian troops conducted an operation in the Kalabalge area on Monday as Boko Haram had returned after being driven out.

He also said "some foreign fighters from north Africa" were detained.

How I Made N13million Online in 2013. N1.5million/month in 2014. [CLICK HERE](#) to learn my system

How to Start a Profitable IMPORTATION business with as low as N10,000 only. [CLICK HERE](#)

Online Freelance Jobs Websites That pays Nigerians \$1000+ monthly. [Click Here to Join](#)

[3 Things I did to cure premature ejaculation after my wife left me](#)