

ISWAP Top Commander, Scores Killed In Damaturu, Biu Encounter, Says Military

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Troops of Sector 2 Operation LAFTYA DOLE in conjunction with the Air Task Force Operation LAFTYA DOLE have "delivered a humiliating defeat to a group of Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) terrorists on December 22, 2019 during a massive failed attempt by the insurgents to infiltrate Damaturu, the Yobe State Capital.

Colonel Aminu Iliyasu, Nigerian Army Operations Media Coordinator, disclosed this in a statement made available to DAILY INDEPENDENT in Damaturu on Tuesday.

Col. Iliyasu said that during the encounter, the resilient troops promptly mobilised

and blocked the criminal insurgents' advance along Gashua Road in the outskirts of Damaturu.

"The troops thereafter engaged the criminals in a fierce fire fight with the support of Air Task Force Operation LAFTYA DOLE which unleashed devastating fire power from the air to help take out some of the criminals gun trucks. This superior fire power forced the criminal insurgents to withdraw in disarray albeit with very heavy casualty in both men and equipment.

"It is confirmed that a top ISWAP Commander, Abu Muqhtar, believed to have coordinated several attacks along the fringes of Lake Chad, was neutralised along with over 30 other insurgents in that attack.

"Regrettably, two gallant soldiers were wounded in action during the encounter. The wounded personnel are currently receiving treatment and responding positively at a military medical facility," he stated.

The commander said the troops captured one Gun Truck and destroyed two others.

He also said that the troops also captured 561 rounds of 12.7mm ammunition, 1420 rounds of 7.62mm Special ammunition, 1850 rounds of 7.62mmX51 ammunition and two Rocket propelled gun bombs.

Other items he said were captured by the gallant troops included one hand held Communication Radio, 27 sachets of Meal Ready to Eat wraps and 350 liters of Premium

Motor Spirit (Petrol).

He further explained that in a related development, some criminal Boko Haram insurgents, oblivious of the humiliating defeat suffered by their cohorts barely 24 hours earlier, were reportedly sighted heading towards Biu town from Mandara Girau axis of Biu LGA of Borno State late in the afternoon of Monday mounted on 17 Gun Trucks and motorcycles.

"In a swift response, the troops of 231 Battalion moved and engaged the advancing criminals while troops of 331 Artillery Regiment brought to bear deafening artillery bombardment on the visibly confused criminal insurgents forcing them to withdraw in disarray amid heavy casualty," he said.