Bandits Invade Military Base In Zamfara, Kill 12

Gunmen have killed 12 security forces members in a weekend attack on a military base in Zamfara State, before stealing weapons and torching buildings, two security sources said on Monday.

According to AFP, it was not immediately clear who carried out the Saturday raid in Mutumji, but the army is engaged in operations in Zamfara against bandits who are blamed for a series of mass abductions.

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Telecommunications have also been cut in Zamfara and in parts of neighbouring Katsina State in an attempt to disrupt bandits' communications about army movements during the crackdown.

"The attackers stormed the base around 10:30am and engaged the troops in a fierce gun battle," one security source said.

"They subdued the troops and killed 12 of them. They included nine navy, a soldier and two policemen."

A second security source confirmed the casualties.

The base in Mutumji, Dansadau district, about 80 kilometres (50 miles) from the state capital, Gusau, is a key site for logistics and reconnaissance in the army's fight against bandits in the area.

In July, bandits shot down an Air Force jet over Zamfara while it was returning from operations. The pilot safely ejected and managed to escape capture.