

Five feared dead in raid on militants

FIVE persons were feared dead yesterday when the military swooped on militant camps in Bayelsa and Delta states.

The Joint Task Force (JTF) confirmed that three militants were killed in Bayelsa State.

Troops, it was gathered, stormed the militant camps in Egbema Kingdom of Warri; Yenegoa and Epebu in Delta and Bayelsa states in gunboats and fast attack craft early yesterday.

The operations were said to be part of the renewed efforts to mop up arms and

From Sola O'Neil, Warri
wipe out the militants.

There was tension in some riverine communities last night over the attacks.

A source in Egbema, Warri North Local Government Area of Delta State, told our correspondent yesterday that troops from the JTF, code-named 'Operation Restore Hope', invaded some communities in the area.

The source said the troops targeted the *Deadly Underdog*, a militant group fingered for the recent invasion of the Olero facilities

of Chevron Nigeria Limited, and the *Freedom Fighters*.

Casualty figures at the Bayelsa front could not be ascertained at press time. But the public relations officer of JTF, Major Omale Ochagwuba confirmed that there was a gun battle between troops and militants.

"Our troops got information that there was arms build up in Epebu community in Bayelsa State, so they moved in to conduct a cordon and search operation to mop up the arms.