

Troops hit militants' creek camp with jets, gunboats

THE Joint Task Force (JTF), code-named Operation Delta Safe (ODS), in the early hours of yesterday, raided a suspected militants' camp around Kosugbene community in Warri South-West Council of Delta state.

Kosugbene is a community in Ogbe-Ijoh Kingdom. It is along the Warri/Burutu waters.

Although there was no official confirmation of casualty figure, it was learnt that the operation, which involved the use of two military aircraft and eight gunboats, must have led to a huge casualty figure, going by the sounds going out of the battle

From Bolaji Ogundele, Warri

spot.

Sources said the spot under military attack was an abandoned Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) camp, already adopted by water robbers. It was also gathered that the ODS had an intelligence lead to the fact that militants were converging on the place.

Military sources told the Nation that the operation had been in the works for a while.

"Our intelligence units have been following the developments of the camps since they were be-

ing put in place by the miscreants. But we had to moving in now to destroy them before they become a major problem for us all", the source said.

Although there no reports of military entry into the communities around the area, there were tales of panic in the surrounding communities, where scared residents, who could not immediately figure out where the heavy gun sounds were emerging from, reportedly had to scamper into the bushes for safety.

The Sector (1) Commander of the JTF, Col. Alhassan Grema, confirmed the raid to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) but



• Omare

declined to give details.

Spokesman of the Ijaw Youths Council (IYC), Eric Omare, said he heard "about military invasion of communities in the area", but was yet to ascertain the facts of the incident.

Ondo: INEC rejects PDP's demand for election shift