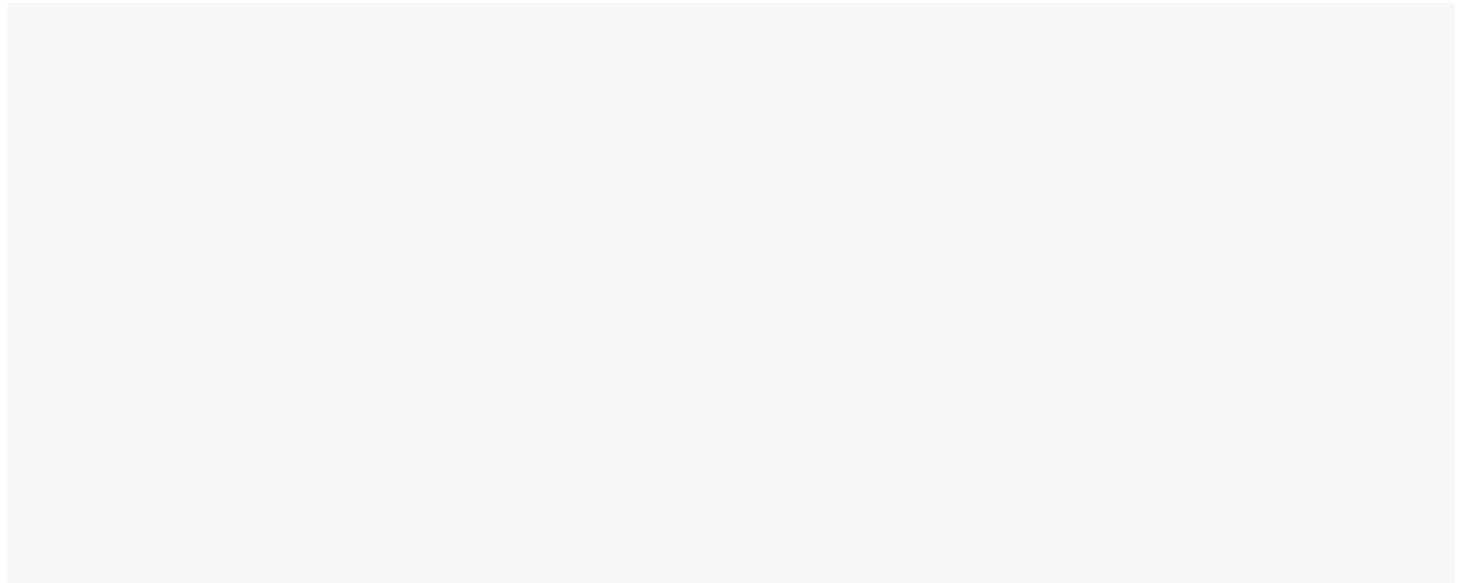


Troops recover gun truck, riffles from fleeing B'Haram fighters

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Okodili Ndidi, Abuja

Troops attached to the Operation Lafiya Dole and the Multinational Joint Task Force and the Chadian Defence Forces have recovered a gun truck and other sophisticated weapons including AK47 Riffles, Rocket Propelled Gun (RPG), Commando Mortar from fleeing Boko Haram insurgents in Borno State.

The Nigerian Army Operations Media Coordinator, Colonel Iliyasu Aminu, in a statement made available to journalists, stated that the insurgents abandoned the weapons after they suffered major defeat.

According to the statement, “following the devastating defeat suffered by Boko Haram criminal elements on 10 October 2019 at Jagalta Village along Monguno Road in Borno State at the hands of a joint patrol team of Sector 3 Operation LAFIYA DOLE (OPLD) and Sector 2 Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) Chadian Defence Forces (CDF), the troops of sector 3 OPLD continue to hunt for fleeing criminal insurgents and have in the process recovered additional 4 AK 47 Riffles, one Rocket Propelled Gun (RPG) Tube, one 60mm Commando Mortar, one abandoned Gun Truck and one Motorcycle belonging to the fleeing Boko Haram criminals”.

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Iliyasu also disclosed that troops successfully repelled attacks launched against them by Boko Haram insurgents.

He said: “In a similar encounter, troops deployed at Gubio successfully repelled a Boko Haram attack on their location and neutralized one Boko Haram criminal, recovered one AK 47 Rifle, one magazine, one Very High Frequency (VHF) Radio, one mobile phone in addition to syringes/ample of injections during mop-up operations. Additionally, troops of 231 Battalion arrested one Boko Haram criminal suspect named Baana Zakari AKA Okocha at Biu main motor park.

“Preliminary investigation reveals that the suspect acts as an informant to Boko Haram criminals within Bama general area. Furthermore, troops of 231 Battalion in conjunction with of 331 Artillery Regiment and Vigilantes acting on credible information arrested another Boko Haram criminals’ logistics supplier, Alhaji Lawan AKA CAFFENOL at Maina Hari Check Point while trying to cross with some consignments believed to be meant for the criminals.

“Items recovered from the suspect include 2 jerricans of palm oil, 2 jerricans of vegetable oil, 2 cartons of biscuits, one carton of spaghetti and 30 packets of mosquito coils. Suspect is already making useful confessions to interrogators.

“In the same vein, the Joint Tactical Team made a significant arrest of an Islamic State of West Africa Province (ISWAP) logistics supplier and courier. Preliminary investigation revealed that the suspect, Usman Yage, who is of Chadian extraction has been maintaining communication between the suspect, Goni Jere, Abul Qaqa and Modu Sulum who are all top wanted Boko Haram/ISWAP commanders.

Investigations further revealed that the suspect uses one of Goni Jere’s phone numbers to purchase vehicles and motor cycles spare parts for ISWAP. He was arrested in possession of motorcycle spare parts and locally made smoke perfumes which were intended to be delivered to Goni Jere”.

Also in another development according to the Army Operations spokesman, “troops of the Nigerian Army under Operation MESA continue to raid criminal elements at their hideouts across the nation.

“Accordingly, troops of 144 Battalion (Rear) while acting on credible information intercepted and arrested one Chinedu Mark in Abiriba in Ohafia LGA of Abia State in possession of a locally made pistol and two cartridges hidden in a polythene bag stuffed with garri. Suspect confessed that he was conveying the arms to three of his friends who are now at large.

“Similarly, troops of 102 Guards Battalion arrested an imposter while on routine patrol along Jere – Katari – Kaduna – Abuja Expressway extorting money from motorists. The suspect, Godspower Linus was found with a fake Military ID Card, camouflage jungle hat, military belt and a motorcycle.”



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