



THE NATION



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'Boko Haram commander among over 100 killed'

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Boko Haram leader Abubakar Shekau

By [Precious Igbonwelundu](#)

A top Boko Haram commander, Abu Usamah, was among the over 100 terrorists killed during last week's encounter with troops of *Operation LAFIYA DOLE*, the Defence Headquarters (DHQ) said yesterday.

While on subsidiary clearance operation code-named *AYISO TAMONUMA*, the troops in the early hours of March 22 encountered hundreds of Boko Haram elements at Gorgi in Damboa Local Government Area (LGA) of Borno State and decimated about 150 of the insurgents.

The troops comprising personnel of 20 Battalion, 21 Battalion and Artillery officers were ambushed by terrorists, who attacked from the rear, causing the death of at least 29 operatives and leaving others injured.

As the military continues to take stock of the incident, the DHQ said Usamah was among those killed during the encounter, adding that the terrorists also suffered equipment casualties.

Giving an update from his initial briefing on the incident, the Acting Director, Defence Media Operations, Brig.-Gen. Benard Onyeuko, said military's communication intercept confirmed by accurate intelligence showed that Usamah, a top Boko Haram commander, was killed in the encounter.

Read Also: **Boko Haram Commander, Usamah killed in Borno**

"He had sustained gunshot wounds in the fight that ensued during the encounter before his foot soldiers hurriedly evacuated him and withdrew. Usamah died in the process.

"His death has created a vacuum in the Boko Haram leadership, particularly as the gallant troops remain resilient and continue to rout the criminals from their last enclaves in the Northeast," he said.

Onyeuko said scores of terrorists were also killed by troops of 159 Task Force Battalion, *Operation LAFIYA DOLE*, deployed in Forward Operating Base (FOB), Kanama, in Yunusari Local Government Area of Yobe State.

He said the terrorists, being members of Boko Haram and Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP), were neutralised when they attempted to infiltrate troops' location on March 27.

“The terrorists were severely decimated by our gallant ground troops supported by the Air Component of *Operation LAFIYA DOLE*. They withdrew in disarray under superior fire power and were subsequently crushed by our troops.”

“During the encounter, several terrorists were neutralised, while one gun truck and arms and ammunition were seized by the troops.

They included one DSHK gun, two AK47 rifles, two AK47 rifle magazines, one rocket propelled grenade bomb, 273 rounds of anti-aircraft gun ammunition, 101 rounds of 7.62mm (NATO) ammunition, 15 jerry-cans of Premium Motor Spirit (PMS) and a Boko Haram flag.

“The military high command has congratulated the gallant troops on their resilience, courage and dedication to the noble cause of defending our fatherland against the criminals. They are enjoined to be steadfast and relentless against the enemies of our nation,” Onyeuko said.

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