

Troops neutralise suspected terrorists, recover weapons



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- ISWAP's Sambisa underground armoury unrecovered



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Troops of the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) operating in the Lake Chad Basin Region have neutralised some suspected terrorists and recovered heavy weapons.

A spokesman for the MNJTF Kamarudeen Adegoke disclosed this in a statement yesterday.

Adegoke said the latest success was recorded due to a renewed onslaught on the terrorists codenamed “Operation Harbin Kunama” (Scorpion Sting).

He said: “The ongoing operation by troops of the MNJTF has further diminished the capacity of Boko Haram/ISWAP terrorists to carry out their activities in the Lake Chad Basin region.

“The offensive posture and doggedness of troops of the MNJTF have continued to yield remarkable results.

“Following an attack by BH/ISWAP terrorists on troops’ position in the general area of Arege, which was effectively repelled, exploitation was conducted by troops of the force on May 11.

“Several items were recovered, including one Dushka gun, Dushka Turrell and a burnt Gun truck while several terrorists were neutralised during the encounter.”

The military spokesman added that troops also carried out clearance operations and recovered two gun trucks, two anti-aircraft guns, one RPG tube, two AK-47 rifles, one RPG bomb and three Toyota Buffalo gun truck tyres.

“Others are 387 rounds of 12.7mm, 440 rounds of 7.62mm x 54mm and 364 rounds of 7.62mm x 50 mm ammunition,” he said.

Adegoke revealed that the Force Commander, Maj.-Gen. G.U Chibuisi praised the troops for their commitment and urged them to sustain the tempo.

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Reports yesterday, also indicated that troops of the 21 Armored Brigade, Operation Hadin Kai, recovered a large cache of arms and ammunition from the Islamic State of West African Province (ISWAP) terrorists in Sambisa Forest, Borno State.

Though there has been no official statement on the operation by the Nigerian Army, Zagazola Makama, a counter-insurgency expert in Lake Chad, reported that the recovery was at one of many underground armouries dug by the insurgents in the theatre.

Makama said the armoury was discovered after troops invaded the Ukuba camp on the fringes of the Bama Local Government area.

The Nation gathered the operation was a part of the ongoing counter-terrorism operation tagged Desert Sanity II.

The recoveries, according to Makama, came barely two weeks after troops raided the same camp and recovered six anti-aircraft guns, four Ak-47 rifles, several quantities of IEDs making materials, a cache of magazines, and a Hilux vehicle mounted with an Anti Aircraft Gun.