

Kogi troops survive bandits' ambush, kill leader



- ***Recover 31 phones, blood pressure machine, others***

Troops of the **Nigerian Army** 12 Brigade, Lokoja, have fought through an ambush during which they killed a bandits' leader, Babangida Kachala around Ofere Forest and Ayetoro Gbede General Area of the state.

Babangida Kachala was described as a notorious bandit and second-in-command to Kachala Shuaibu, the leader of a bandit group operating within Masalaci Boka and Ofere Forest areas of Kogi State.

The troops also recovered one fully loaded magazine, 31 mobile phones, a blood pressure machine, packs of Tramadol tablets, fetish charms, and the sum of ₦16,000 in the operation.

According to the Acting Assistant Director, Army Public Relations, 12 Brigade Nigerian Army, Lieutenant Hassan Abdullahi, the troops in Operation ACCORD III, in conjunction with Other Hybrid Forces (OHF), killed the bandits' leader in the operation which took place on Thursday (11, September, 2025).

Abdullahi provided insight on circumstances leading to the killing of the bandits' leader thus: "Troops of 12 Brigade Nigerian Army under Operation ACCORD III, in conjunction with Other Hybrid Forces (OHF), have recorded another major breakthrough in ongoing operations to rid Kogi State of banditry and other criminal activities.

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“On 11 September 2025, following credible intelligence on the movement of bandits within Ofere Forest and Ayetoro Gbede General Area, the combined troops laid an ambush at a suspected bandit crossing point. Although initial contact was not made, the troops, while withdrawing to base, ran into an ambush staged by the criminals along their route.

“In the ensuing firefight, the gallant troops engaged the bandits with superior firepower, neutralising one of the criminals. The troops thereafter exploited the area, during which they recovered one fully loaded magazine, 31 mobile phones, a blood pressure machine, packs of Tramadol tablets, fetish charms, and the sum of ₦16,000 cash. Bloodstains observed at the scene further suggested that several other bandits escaped with gunshot wounds.

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“Subsequent intelligence confirmed that among those who fled with gunshot wounds was Babangida Kachala, a notorious bandit and second-in-command to Kachala Shuaibu, the leader of a bandit group operating within Masalaci Boka and Ofere Forest areas of Kogi State. He was later confirmed dead.

“Troops of 12 Brigade under Operation ACCORD III continue to dominate the area of responsibility with patrols and ambushes aimed at totally decimating bandits and other criminal elements within the boundaries of Kogi State. The morale and fighting efficiency of the troops remain high as they sustain unrelenting pressure on the criminals.”

Abdullahi stressed that the Nigerian Army has reassured Kogi State residents of its determination to restore lasting peace and security, while encouraging citizens to provide timely and credible information to aid ongoing operations.

