The section says: The ap- lapsed

63 terrorists killed in major offensives

At Alafa Forest, Lake Chad Islands

CHRIS AGBAMBU - ABUJA

NIGERIAN security forces have launched ground and, air operations on terrorists locations in the forest of Alafa, about 21km from Bama, Borno State.

Director of Defence Information, Major-General Chris Olukolade, who disclosed this yesterday in a statement in Abuja, said that more than 56 terrorists died in the ensuing intensive fight

over the weekend.

According to him, two soldiers were wounded in the operation which was meant to track fleeing terrorists.

He said that the security forces acted on intelligence reports, which indicated renewed efforts by the terrorists to establish a new camp in the forest locations, to launch an offensive against the forces.

Consequently, the security forces, using land and air operations, inflicted heavy casualty on the insurgents as indicated by the high level of their loss of men and materials, while air and land bombardments are continuing in different locations where terrorists have been reportedly sighted.

Also in another development, the defence spokeman said that troops of the Multi-National Joint Task Force have foiled an attempt by terrorists, who were massing up on an island on Lake Chad to carrying out an attack on some Nigerian communities.

Accordingly, seven of the terrorists died while others, fleeing in different directions toward Niger and Chad Republics are being trailed by troops.

He announced further that intelligence reports have confirmed that some of the wounded terrorists were seen in a canoe paddling towards Tumbun Telkandam in Chad Republic.