

Troops kill dozens of fleeing terrorists from Sambisa

2 Boko Haram commanders arrested in Yobe

FROM CHRIS AGBAMBU AND JAMES BWALA

TROOPS of 26 Task Force Brigade in Gwoza, Borno State, on Wednesday evening engaged Boko Haram terrorists fleeing Sambisa forest following continued aerial bombardment by the Nigerian Air Force.

The fleeing terrorists in seven vans and some motorcycles mounted with assorted weapons such as Rocket Propelled Grenades and Anti-Aircraft Guns were dealt with, killing quite a number of them.

Army spokesman, Colonel Sani Usman, said the troops also destroyed their vehicles, weapons and motorcycles. They also recovered a vehicle, one motorcycle and two AK47 rifles and large quantities of 7.62mm NATO and 12.7mm ammunitions.

The troops have intensified their patrols and offensive actions against the terrorists in the area.

Meanwhile, as part of his new strategy to tackle the Boko Haram terrorist group at the North-East, the Chief of Air Staff, Air Marshal Sadiq Abubakar, has authorised the immediate establishment of a 2-Level Hospital at the largest Internally Displaced Persons Camp (IDP) in Maiduguri.

The Air Chief also ordered the construction of a borehole to service the hospital and other people within the camp.

The National Security Adviser (NSA), Major General Babagana Monguno (rtd), accompanied by the service chiefs, visited several IDP camps in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa states including Dalori Camp last week where it was observed that the elderly men, women and children were in dire need of more healthcare and water supply.

Consequently, the Chief of Air Staff gave the NAF Director of Medical Services the marching order to establish a hospital with full complements to enhance the IDP healthcare needs.

Air Force Spokesman, Air Commodore Dele Alonge, in a statement on Wednesday said that the Nigerian Air Force has intensified the aerial bombardments of Sambisa forest as the F-7 fighter aircraft carried out interdiction mission over designated targets and suspected Boko Haram locations.

He disclosed that the Alpha Jét carried out armed reconnaissance and attacked some moving vehicles belonging to Boko

Haram Terrorists (BHT), while, the Mi-24 and Mi-35 attack helicopters further carried out interdiction mission at some identified targets all in Sambisa forest.

According to him, the ATR-42 and Diamond-142 surveillance aircraft continued with their ISR missions over Damasak, Alafia and Sambisa forest where some abandoned vehicles

belonging to the terrorists were seen at some locations in the forest.

He added that the Chief of Air Staff has reiterated his assurances to all Nigerians that the air assault would continue until total victory is achieved.

In a related development, troops have arrested two key members of the dreaded Islamic sect, Boko Haram, in Gaidam town of

Gaidam Local Government Area of Yobe State in the North-East, Nigeria.

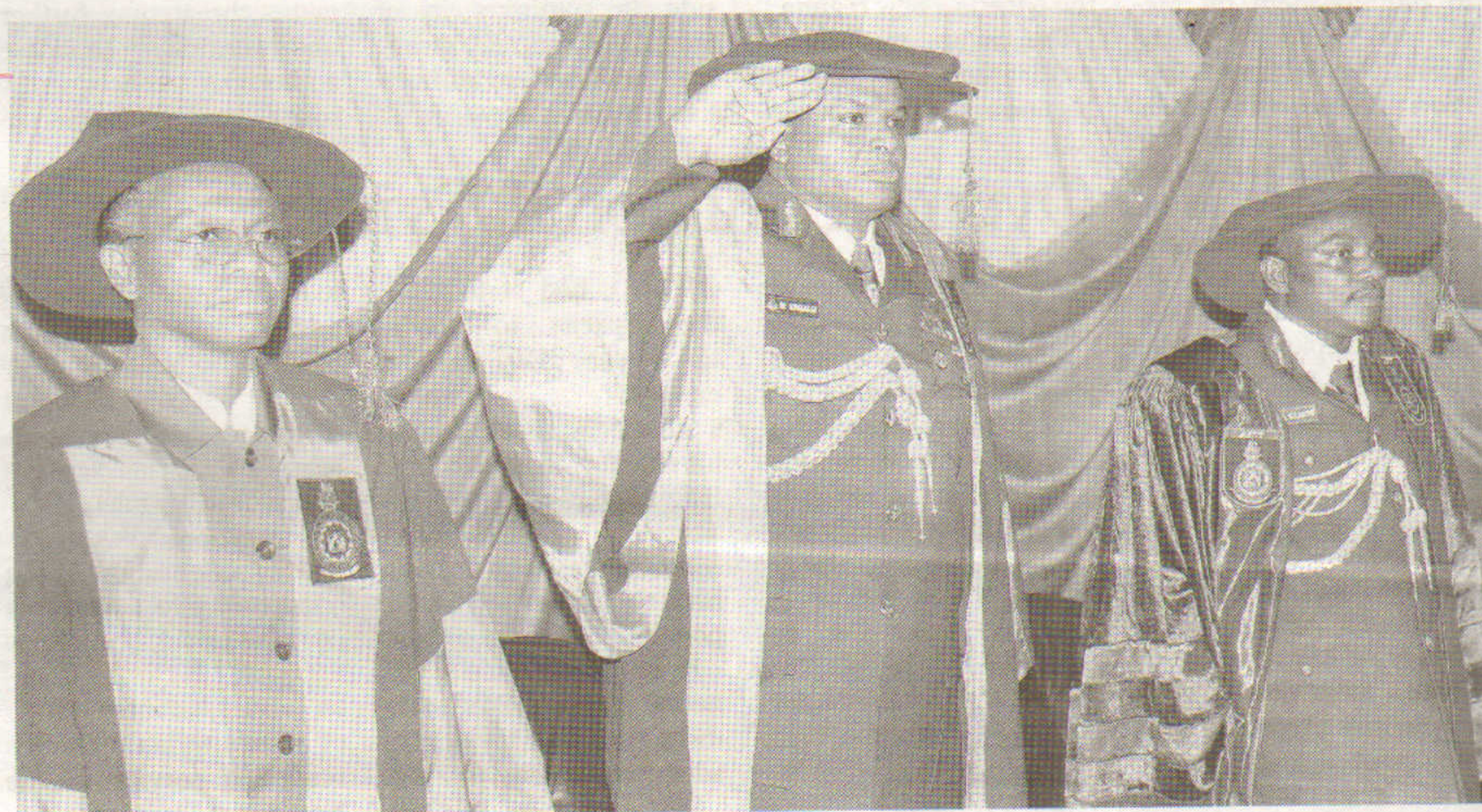
A statement from the Army spokesman, Colonel Sani Usman, revealed that two vehicles were also seized from the fleeing insurgents.

Colonel Sani said the terrorists were currently being interrogated.

According to him, following reports about suspected

movements and planned attack by Boko Haram terrorists around Damasak area, "the Nigerian Air Force is conducting air surveillance and armed reconnaissance in the area."

He gave the assurance that the troops were fully committed to the fight against Boko Haram terrorists and ensuring security for law-abiding citizens in the troubled areas.



From left, Kaduna State governor, Nasir el-Rufai; Chief of Air Staff, Air Marshal Sadiq Abubakar and the Commandant of the Air Force Institute of Technology, Air Commodore Musibau Soladoye, at the 44th convocation of the institute, in Kaduna, on Wednesday. PHOTO: NAN.

No influx of Boko Haram in Ondo —Govt

HAKEEM GBADAMOSI - AKURE

THE Ondo State government, on Wednesday, said no suspected member of the Boko Haram was arrested in the state, describing the report about the arrest as untrue, and a ploy to create unnecessary fear in the state.

The Commissioner for Information, Kayode

Akinmade who stated this during an interview with newsmen, said the threat of Boko Haram insurgents in the state was a designed ploy by unscrupulous elements to create tension and fear among the people.

Akinmade maintained that the state remains the safest and most peaceful in the country.

Akinmade said there

was no record of arrest by the police or the military, explaining that security meeting which was held in Oke-Agbe, Akoko was a normal monthly meeting which the governor, Dr Olusegun Mimiko, ordered must hold between the chairmen of local councils, community heads and security agencies across the state.

The commissioner explained that there were series of such security meetings across the state to ensure the maintenance of peace being experienced in the state.

He said "It is misleading and unfortunate that some people will allude the reason for a regular meeting on security matters in the state to the imaginary influx of Boko Haram members."

"The meeting is not new as it has been holding before now and it will continue to hold because it has proved useful in the course of ensuring adequate security in the state."

Akinmade said there was no threat to the peace being enjoyed by the people of the state while he said adequate measures had been put in place to ensure security of lives and property.

The commissioner urged the people of the state to go about their normal businesses without fear, assuring that the state has what it takes to maintain the most peaceful status, as the various arms of the security agencies have been cooperative.

Army denies 150 Yobe residents dead, drowned fleeing Boko Haram attack

CHRIS AGBAMBU - ABUJA

THE Defence Headquarters, on Wednesday, denied the rumour that the Boko Haram terrorists shot dead 150 people while many others fleeing the attack were drowned in Yobe River mid afternoon of Tuesday.

Acting Director, Defence Information, Colonel Rabe Abubakar, in a statement disclosed that the story was not true, utterly scurrilous and very misleading.

According to him, "the truth of the matter is that the military got an intelligence report concerning

a planned attack by Boko Haram on Kukuwa-Gari village in Yobe State."

He said that following the tip-off, troops and civilian JTF laid ambush between Kukuwatashi and Kukuwa-Gari villages and the insurgents ran into them and a gun-battle ensued in which four Boko Haram members and one civilian JTF lost their lives.

The defence spokesman noted that at the end of the encounter, 2 x AK 47 rifles and 2 x motorcycles used by the Boko Haram terrorists were recovered.

He said "the Armed Forces implores the media to

always seek clarification of stories before going to press as most of these unsubstantiated reports tend to embolden or encourage the terrorists to believe they are invincible, thus instilling perpetual fear in the minds of the citizens, especially those in the contested areas of the North-East."

Colonel Abubakar added that the military is doing all within its powers to protect lives and property of Nigerians in any part of the country and thus, "solicits cooperation and understanding of the media to be partners in progress in this noble task."