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War against insurgency on course —COAS

CHRIS AGBAMBU — ABUJA

THE Chief of Army Staff, Lieutenant-General Tukur Yusuf Buratai, has visited Gajigana, Magumeri Local Government Area of Borno State, on assessment of troops' location that was attacked by Boko Haram terrorists last Sunday.

He was conducted round by the Commander 5 Brigade and the Commanding Officer of 243 Battalion.

In a statement issued by the Acting Director of Army public relations, Colonel Sani Kukasheka, Buratai said the visit was to ascertain the situation of things and give necessary directives.

He also called on the public, especially those residing in the affected area, to support and cooperate with the troops by exposing suspected Boko Haram terrorists living among them.

According to him, the recent wave of attacks by

terrorists in Gulak and Gajigana should be seen as isolated cases that would not be allowed to repeat itself as adequate measures are being taken to deal decisively with any of such.

He also assured that the military and the security agencies would continue to improve their performances even as he warned troops to be more proactive and alive to their duties as everything is being done to support them.

"It will be recalled that Boko Haram attacked troops location in Gulak on Sunday which was repelled. The troops also killed 3 Boko Haram terrorists, while quite number escaped with gun shot wounds. In addition, a Toyota Hilux, 1 PKM gun, 1 General Purpose Machine Gun, 3 AK-47 rifles, 1 Rocket Propelled Grenade tube and 1 Rocket Propelled Grenade bomb were recovered by the troops.

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"Other recoveries include, 1 Charger, 7 Boxes of 7.62mm Link, 1 GP 340 Hand Held Radio, 4 Boxes of 7.62mm X 54mm Ammunitions, 3 Anti Riot Hand Held Grenade, as well as 30 Cleaning Kits, 2 Packets of Artillery Primers and 97 pieces of Zela fuse.

"The troops are further pursuing the escaping terrorists and also exploiting to further block such kind of incursion through their blocking position. The troops at Gajigana were attacked in which a soldier lost his life. The location has also been reinforced and the troops are now poised for any eventuality.

"As we have entered the month of December, it is important to state that we have also entered a very critical part of the fight against terrorism and insurgency in our country."

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