

# Military clears more B/Haram camps in Borno

CHRIS AGBAMBU - ABUJA

TROOPS of the 81 Battalion and 251 Task Force Battalion have cleared Boko Haram camps located at Komala, Dole, Kumshi and Moadori around the fringes of Alagarano Forest.

The troops killed two Boko Haram terrorists and captured Mustapha Bursuru (50years) and Usman Abubakar (56years), both notorious terrorists, at Dole Village. They also destroyed all Boko Haram flags hoisted in the village.

Colonel Sani Kukasheka Usman, Acting Director in charge of Army Public Relations, said the troops also recovered two Toyota pick up vans, 40 motorcycles, Improved Explosives Making Devices (IEDs), stockpile of foodstuffs and fuel dump.

He said the patrol team also recovered horses and donkeys used for transportation by the terrorists.

According to him, in response to a distress call of an attack by Boko Haram terrorists on Kuda Village along Butuku road, troops of 143 Battalion swung into action but the terrorists fled after setting the village on fire that led to the death of an elderly woman.

Usman said the escaped insurgents regrouped and attempted to cross through Magar Bridge but were preempted by elements of the Battalion who killed two and wounded several others.

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"Sadly, three soldiers and four locals sustained injuries, while the troops recovered a Toyota Bufalo vehicle mounted with an Anti-Aircraft Gun with registration number 081375, one General Purpose Machine Gun (GPMG) with registration number 132042, a loaded G3 rifle

magazine and 30 rounds of 7.62mm (NATO) ammunition link," he said.

He went further to say that both military and the wounded civilians are receiving treatment at the unit's Regimental Aid Post.

In a related development, troops of 81 Battalion and 251 Task Force Battalion last night, laid ambush

against some elements of the Boko Haram at two of their crossing points at Komala and Musafanari general area coming from Sambisa forest.

The ambush party decisively dealt with some terrorists on motorcycles in which a number of them were killed and a few others flee with gunshot wounds.

## Buratai charges soldiers to shield liberated territories

MUHAMMAD SABIU - KADUNA

THE Chief of Army Staff (COAS), Lieutenant-General Tukur Buratai, has charged officers and men of the Nigerian Army fighting the Boko Haram insurgents in the North-East to shield liberated territories from the insurgents.

He stated this at the inauguration of United States of America (USA) training assistance to selected units of the Nigerian Army, held at Nigerian Army School of Infantry (NASI), Jaji, Kaduna, on Wednesday.

Buratai stated that even though there were renewed efforts to clear the remnants of Boko Haram in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa states, he lamented that the insurgents are now mixing with civilian populace thereby making the process a bit slow and difficult.

He said the onslaught against the terrorists by combined forces of the Army and Nigerian Air Force in

past months has degraded their capability.

"All that is required is the bold action from our troops to hold liberated territories from the insurgents.

## Borno govt to re-open highways

THE Borno State government said on Wednesday that plans are under way to re-open major highways linking Maiduguri to other parts of the state.

Governor Kashim Shettima stated this while speaking at an interactive forum with traders of the Monday Market in Maiduguri.

The governor explained that the objective was to rejuvenate the economy of the state which had suffered setbacks due to the Boko Haram insurgency.

He said government had also constructed shopping malls in different parts of the state capital to encourage business activities.

Shettima expressed optimism that the lingering Boko Haram insurgency would soon be over, following successes recorded by the military in its campaign against terrorism.

"As you are aware, the security challenges that have confronted the Nigerian Army in contemporary times are remarkably different from the ones we have in the past."

He commended the leadership of the traders for maintaining unity among them.

Shettima assured that the government was ready to assist the traders and other business barons to overcome the hardships they were facing due to the insurgency.

Malam Hamza Hamawa, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Trade and Investment, said the forum was organised by the traders to express appreciation to the governor.

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