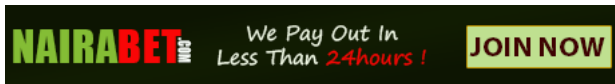


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Military launches attacks on Boko Haram (/military-launches-attacks-on-boko-haram)

March 13, 2016

•Kills 21, rescues 122 hostages



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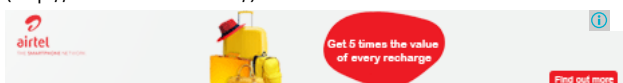
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THE military, on Saturday, announced that it launched a series of attacks on the Boko Haram group, killing a total of 21 of the insurgents and rescuing over 122 people kept as hostages by the group.

According to a statement by the acting Director of Army Public Relations, Colonel Sani Usman, troops from various battalions launched the attacks in Borno State.

"The clearance operations of the remnants of Boko Haram terrorists is gaining momentum in the various axis of the theatre, especially in 7 Division area of responsibility. Within the last 48 hours, the troops were able to clear Boko Haram camps, killed many of the terrorists and recovered vehicles, weapons, equipment and rescued persons.

"The troops of 151 Task Force Battalion have cleared terrorists hideouts in Izza and eight surrounding villages. Similarly, troops of 121 Task Force Battalion deployed at Pulka came under attack from suspected Boko Haram terrorists fanning out of Sambisa forest to escape sustained aerial bombardment by the Nigerian Air Force pilots.

"The troops successfully repelled the attack by killing 17 Boko Haram terrorists and also recovered 12 AK-47 rifles, six AK-47 rifle magazines, one General Purpose Machine Gun, one Brownie Machine Gun, one Toyota Hilux vehicle, a 60mm mortar tube, four pieces of 60mm mortar bombs, one belt of 12.5mm ammunition and nine belts of 12.7mm (NATO) ammunition," the statement said.

According to Colonel Usman, "troops of 114 Task Force Battalion while on patrol along Bitta-Pridang-Manawashe axis, rescued 95 persons suspected to have escaped from Madube and Shuwari general area. The rescued persons are being screened and profiled.

"Troops of 115 Task Force Battalion, accompanied by some members of the vigilance group in their area, also conducted patrol to Dogwaba, Dutse, Mayolarde, Musa A, B and C villages without any contact with terrorists. They have however continued to dominate the area and make it secure.

"Similarly, troops of 117 Task Force Battalion also conducted another patrol around Mildo, Vapura, Mildo, Shelmi, Gubla, Dar and Hyambula settlements. In the process, they also rescued 27 persons who escaped from Mayo Ali village. One of the female rescued persons gave birth to a baby boy a few minutes after the rescue. Both mother and child are being cared for at the unit's Regimental Aid Post and are doing fine.

"On their part, 7 Division Garrison, in conjunction with Civilian Joint Task Force, have arrested one Mallam Ashiru Zarami at Mainok, a suspected Boko Haram terrorists logistic officer at Mainok with food items. The suspect has been handed over to the Joint Intelligence Processing Centre.

"In a related development, another suspected Boko Haram terrorist, Mallam Abubakar Kime, voluntarily handed over himself to troops and Civilian JTF at Benisheikh, Borno State. On interrogation, he claimed to have escaped from Kalmari village close to Alagarno forest."

"The troops of 81 Battalion also laid an ambush for Boko Haram terrorists at suspected Boko Haram terrorists crossing point from Sambisa forest near Komala and Musafanari villages. Sensing danger, the approaching terrorists disembarked and abandoned their vehicles and fled into the bush leading back to deep into Sambisa forest shortly before approaching the killing zone. Nevertheless, the troops opened fire and wounded several of the terrorists.

"The troops recovered the abandoned Toyota pick up vehicle and 28 bags pf groundnuts.

"On their part, the 7 Division Strike Group encountered an ambush by suspected Boko Haram terrorists enroute to Banki. They successfully fought it out, killed four terrorists and recovered AK-47 rifles, two mobile telephone handsets and a Shilka shell loaded with explosives."

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