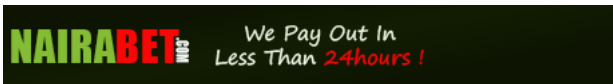


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April 22, 2016

Written by: Chris Agbambu - Abuja

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Following the ongoing onslaught on terrorists in the North-East, significant achievements have been made by the Nigerian troops in dislodging the terrorists.

Acting Director, Army Public Relations, Colonel Sani Usman, said that the troops killed 10 terrorists, arrested one and recovered many weapons.

According to him, "in continuation of clearance operations of the remnants of Boko Haram terrorists, troops of 7 Division in Operation LAFIYA DOLE have been making tremendous progress in their various areas of operational responsibilities.

"They were able to carry out clearance operations, raids and patrols that resulted in the killing of so many suspected Boko Haram terrorists, arrests and rescue of persons, as well as recovery of arms and ammunition.

"On Thursday, 21st April 2016, troops of 21 Brigade Nigerian Army carried out clearance operations at Bulari, Tori 1, 2 and 3 during which they successfully cleared the general area of remnants of Boko Haram terrorists."

He said "during the operation, 10 terrorists were killed and one was captured alive. Unfortunately, two Civilian JTF accompanying the troops lost their lives, while the troops rescued seven civilians and recovered a Volkswagen Golf car, 15 bicycles and various bags of foodstuffs."

The Army spokesman disclosed that the troops of 22 Brigade, on the other hand, intercepted 26 persons comprising mostly women and children, coming towards Adah village in Ngala Local Government Area of Borno State, and on interrogation stated that they were held hostage by Boko Haram terrorists, but escaped as their captors were moving towards Lake Chad general area because of troops presence.

"Similarly, troops of the same Brigade carried out a fighting patrol, cordon and search operation on Thursday 21st April 2016, along Dikwa-Marte road, Kaje, Selenge, Manekura, Mane Gana and Gawayi villages.

"Although there wasn't any encounter with the terrorists, the troops recovered five motorcycles, six Boko Haram terrorists flags and four bags of ground corn in Mane Gana village. They also rescued three women and five children at the same village. The rescued persons told the troops that their husbands were actually Boko Haram terrorists who have run away towards Lake Chad area due to immense pressure from the military clearance operations.

"On their part, troops of 3 Battalion also conducted patrol towards Diema, Sigel and Kala where they had an encounter with Boko Haram terrorists in which the gallant troops killed eight of them and recovered two Dane guns and four assorted batteries."

Colonel Usman also said that the troops of 7 Division Special Fighting Forces attached to 25 Task Force Brigade Damboa, at a checkpoint, arrested a suspected Boko Haram terrorist, Abubakar Bello and six other suspects carrying 28 gallons of "Turkey" brand of vegetable oil, eight bags of flour, 130 crates of soft drinks and two bags of sugar. In addition, five mobile telephone handsets, one external hard drive and five flash drives, two national identity cards and the sum of Seventy Thousand Naira (N70,000) only were recovered from him.

"Preliminary investigation showed that the terrorists now dilute the vegetable oil with other substances to produce diesel to power their generators.

"The troops of 254 Task Force Battalion, in conjunction with vigilantes and Borno Youths Empowerment Scheme (BOYES), also carried out clearance operations at Mufurundi, Kaleri, Masemari, Bego, Bale, Gadzama and Gagantilo villages along Damboa-Bale-Gwoza Road.

"During the operation, the troops encountered and detonated an Improvised Explosive Device (IED), buried by the terrorists at Gadzama village. They also encountered Boko Haram terrorists at Bego where they engaged the terrorists, neutralised them and cleared their camps within the general area.

"In the encounter, the troops killed nine Boko Haram terrorists and recovered one AK-47 rifle with registration number TH5712 and 17 rounds of 7.62mm (Special) ammunition. They also rescued 157 persons held hostages by the terrorists," he noted.

Also yesterday in Gwoza, the troops of 26 Task Force Brigade intercepted eight suspected Boko Haram terrorists trying to enter Gwoza town. Though they claimed to be farmers coming from Shiadawey, Takwala and Amdaga Madachi villages respectively, which were known terrorist hideouts, preliminary investigations showed that they were indeed terrorists on a recruitment drive.

According to the statement, this was made manifest when the sum of Six Hundred and Thirty Seven Thousand (N637,000.00k) Naira was discovered on Abdullahi Yakubu who was identified by another escapee/suspected Boko Haram terrorist as having trading links with the terrorists while the others were confirmed to have participated in carrying out various terrorists acts for the Boko Haram terrorists group.

"Similarly, one Ibrahim Bute aged 67 years, of Gobara village was arrested by the troops on suspicion of being a Boko Haram kingpin.

"Troops of 114 Task Force Battalion of 28 Task Force Brigade also conducted a fighting patrol along Bitta-Madube-Izge axis same day.

"The troops of 117 Task Force Battalion following a tip off, also arrested a suspected Boko Haram terrorist who gave his name as Bello Isah at Mugulvu village. The unit also discovered and retrieved 29 rounds of 7.62mm (Special) rounds of ammunition hidden at a farm in Gella village.

"The troops in various deployments within the theatre remain vigilant with soaring morale and committed to their duties of clearing the remnants of the Boko Haram terrorists hiding in various remote corners and crannies", the statement added.

Meanwhile Headquarters 7 Division Nigerian Army Operation LAFIYA DOLE has warned that some members of the public violate orders on curfew imposed in Maiduguri and environs.

Deputy Director Army public Relations Colonel Mustapha Anka in a statement in Maiduguri said that violations of curfew threatens the relative peace being enjoyed in Maiduguri town, and reminded them that a legitimate curfew in Maiduguri imposed from 9pm to 6am is still in force.

According to him, "The Division wishes to inform the general public that despite the successes recorded against Boko Haram Insurgents across the state, the fight against insurgency is not yet over. The Borno State Government and Headquarters Theatre Command will at the appropriate time review the curfew in line with prevailing security situation across the state".

He warned that anyone found flaunting the orders will be arrested and prosecuted while all law abiding citizens and peace loving people of Borno State are hereby advised to report any suspicious person(s) to nearest military post, security agencies or Civilian Joint Task Force.

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