

Three soldiers die as troops kill Boko Haram terrorists in Borno

THREE soldiers of the Operation Lafiya Dole lost their lives while fighting to repel Boko Haram terrorists who attacked Rann

in Borno State in eight guntrucks on Tuesday, the army has said.

Army spokesperson, Colonel Ado Isa, in a statement, on Thursday, noted that

the soldiers lost their lives while fighting to "hold the ground."

Colonel Isa, however, stated that two suicide bombers were killed, while three

others escaped with gunshot wounds.

The army spokesperson, in the statement, said, "The Theatre Commander, Major-General Benson Akinro-

luyo, and the Acting General Officer Commanding (GOC) 7 Division, and Commander Sector 1, Operation Lafiya Dole, Brigadier-General Abdulmalik Bulama Bui, on January 16, conducted a confidence building patrol, assessment and reassurance visit along Mafa, Dikwa, Logomani, Gamboru Ngala and Rann to check the operational readiness and situations within 22 Brigade general area of deployment.

"Brigadier-General Bui met and interacted with community members in Rann's Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) camp, which was attacked by Boko Haram insurgents who came in about eight guntrucks and several motorcycles on January 15.

"The terrorists burnt parts of the village and parts of the NGO stores, while looting some items, but they were repelled by troops.

Brigadier-General Bui, however, gave the IDPs his assurance that security within their area would be strengthened, while urging them to continue to support the military operation by giving information and identifying strange persons of questionable character.

"Similarly, the GOC also met and discussed with members of the Multinational Joint Task Force deployed at Gamboru Ngala,

where he appreciated them for their efforts and commitment over time in the fight against insurgency.

"He asked them to maintain the existing synergy with the Nigerian troops deployed along the border in order to deny the insurgents freedom of operation within the border area.

"In his address to troops of 3 Battalion Bravo Company deployed in the area, Brigadier-General Bui commended their resilience and doggedness while fighting to hold the ground by neutralising two suicide bombers and killing three, while others escaped with gunshot wounds, an act which he described as a sign of professional competence, commitment and sacrifice to humanity and to the nation."

Meanwhile, the army, on Thursday, said its troops successfully repelled attacks coordinated by the insurgents at Gajiram community in Ngazai Local Government Area of the state.

According to the *News Agency of Nigeria (NAN)*, Deputy Director, Army Public Relations, Operation Lafiya Dole, Colonel Onyema Nwachukwu, said in a statement that the troops killed several insurgents and recovered weapons when the terrorists tried to infiltrate the community on Tuesday.



Pensioners protesting against the non-payment of their gratuities and arrears in Makurdi, Benue State, on Thursday. PHOTO: JOHNSON BABAJIDE.

3,000 pensioners protest in Benue

JOHNSON BABAJIDE-MAKURDI

NO fewer than 3,000 pensioners, on Thursday, stormed major streets in Makurdi, the Benue State capital, to protest against the non-payment of their

Mr Peter Ikyado, told newsmen that the pensioners were protesting against the non-payment of gratuities, as well non-harmonisation of their pension allowances by the state government.

He further said that the

government's attitude towards the pensioners.

He said other workers in the state were paid their October, November and December 2018 salaries, but

the pensioners were left out as usual.

Onah regretted that the non-payment of pensions had sent some retirees to their early graves.

Herders/farmers conflict complex regional Interior Minister