

Troops kill 29 Boko Haram/ISWAP terrorists in multiple operations

Jacob Segun Olatunji | Abuja

THE military high command on Thursday disclosed that troops under special operations codenamed 'Operation Dole' have killed 29 members of Boko Haram/Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) fighters, including senior commanders of the insurgents in renewed efforts to end terrorist activities in the country.

Addressing newsmen in Abuja on the update of the activities of the armed forces in the last one week, the coordinator, Defence Media Operations (DMO), Major-General John Enenche, stated that during the oper-

ations, logistic facilities, gun trucks and other structures belonging to the terrorists were destroyed and large cache of arms and ammunition recovered.

Major-General Enenche explained that the coordinated activities occurred through air strikes and other offensive operations executed across the theatre of operation.

According to him, 20 terrorists were killed and six AK-47 rifles, 520 rounds of 7.62mm special ammunition and five 36 hand grenades were recovered.

"In *Operation Hadarin Daji*, the air component neutralised 27 armed bandits and destroyed some of their dwellings along the Nuhata-Doumborou corridor on

the boundary between Katsina and Zamfara states in air strikes, while in *Operation Whirl Stroke*, raid operations on bandits' hideouts in Benue and Nasarawa states led to the neutralisation of two bandits of the notorious Gana's gang, with others fleeing with various degrees of gunshot wounds, including Gana.

"The items recovered during the operations include four locally-fabricated machine guns, three dane guns, 12 locally-made rifles, pistols and two locally-fabricated cartridge guns, four revolver pistols, two cartridge pistols, 58 rounds of 9mm ammunition, 57 x 7.62mm Special Ammunition, two motorcycles, two camouflages, a

generating set and a bag of gunpowder, as well as assorted charms, among others items.

"Under *Operation Delta Safe's* Area of Responsibility (AOR), the Nigerian Navy Ship DELTA conducted anti-illegal bunkering/crude oil theft (COT) operations around Ugbo-dede, Uwakeno, Opumami, Banga Communities and around Escravos general area in Warri South Local Government Area of Delta State.

"During the operations, the team located and dismantled illegal refining sites and a wooden boat with three coolers, 136 dugout pits, 201 surface metal storage tanks and 174 ovens laden with about 14,434 barrels of suspected stolen crude oil

as well as 1,385,000 litres of product suspected to be illegally refined AGO."

He further explained that similarly, "on May 11, Forward Operating Base ESCRAVOS intercepted three large wooden boats around Madangho and Sara Creek in Warri South Local Government Area of Delta State.

"The boats were laden with about 12.6 barrels of suspected stolen crude oil and 43,000 litres of products suspected to be illegally refined AGO."

Enenche further explained that in another development, "on May 15, a Chinese vessel, MV HAILUFANG II was attacked by pirates off the Coast of Cote D' Ivoire.

"The pirates took control of the vessel and directed it towards Nigerian waters. The vessel had 18 crew members comprising Chinese, Ghanaians and Ivorians

"The Nigerian Navy was alerted of the pirates' attack and immediately, the Nigerian Navy Ship, NGURU, was dispatched to intercept the vessel.

"On interception of the vessel at about 140 nautical miles south of Lagos Fairway Buoy, the pirates refused to comply to the orders of the Nigerian Navy Ship, hence the Nigerian Navy had to conduct an opposed boarding of the vessel. All the ship's crews were safely rescued, while the 10 pirates were also arrested."

Kidnappers of naval officer insist

Robbers raid

