

Military eliminates 57 terrorists in two weeks in N'East

·Nab 21 pipeline vandals in Niger-Delta

① **T**ROOPS of Operation Hadin Kai (OPHK) have eliminated more than 57 terrorists in different operations conducted from August 11 to 25 in the North-East, the Defence Headquarters has said.

According to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), the Director, Defence Media Operations, Major-General Musa Danmadami, made this known at a bi-weekly news briefing of the Defence Headquarters on Thursday in Abuja.

Danmadami said the operations were conducted through land and air raids on the Boko Haram and Islamic State of West Africa Province (ISWAP) enclaves in Borno and Yobe states.

He said the operations also led to the killing of

unspecified number of terrorists in a number of air strikes, with more than 18 of them seriously wounded.

He added that eight suspected terrorists and four terrorists' logistic suppliers were apprehended, as well as rescue of four civilian victims during the period.

According to him, a total of 1,652 Boko Haram members and their families comprising 320 adult males, 442 women and 890 children surrendered to troops at different locations within the period.

"The air component on August 20, carried out strikes on terrorists' enclaves in Sambisa Forest and the Tumbuns in Borno with various degrees of success recorded.

"Acting on credible intelligence about the gathering

of terrorists at a location revealed to be the enclave of a notorious terrorist being hosted by a top-ranking commander.

"He is believed to be the ISWAP leader of Sambisa Forest who took over the leadership after the demise of Abubakar Shekau.

"Consequently, the air strikes were carried out on the enclave.

"Feedback revealed that 25 of the terrorists were neutralised in the strikes with 18 serious wounded.

"Among those neutralised was a high-profile commander known as Uzalfa, who was the 'Minzir,' which connotes the fourth in line of the terrorist leadership structure.

"Similar air strikes were conducted in the Tumbuns near Lake Chad at a location

revealed to be the training camp of the terrorists."

In another development, troops operating in various operations in the North-Central and North-West eliminated several terrorists in the last two weeks.

In the North-Central, Danmadami said troops of Operation Whirl Punch sustained the momentum to deny terrorists freedom of action in their joint operation area.

He said the military had in an air interdiction eliminated scores of terrorists in their enclave at Kurebe in Shiroro Local Government Area of Niger State.

According to him, the terrorists had assembled for a meeting hosted by a notorious terrorist leader, Aminu Duniya.

Danmadami also revealed that troops of Guards Brigade on August 13, nabbed eight suspected terrorists from their hideout at Deidei Abattoir and Dupka village in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

He added that troops of Operation Safe Haven in conjunction with vigilantes and Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), had eliminated seven terrorists between August 14 and 17.

According to him, the terrorists were killed during operations at Mum village in Kanam Local Government Area of Plateau State, as well as Kaura and Zangon Kataf in Kaduna State.

Meanwhile, troops of Operation Delta Safe apprehended 21 pipeline vandals and impounded N3.7 billion

worth of stolen crude oil and petroleum products in two weeks in the Niger-Delta region.

Danmadami said the troops, in the conduct of operations, Octopus Grip and Operation Dakar Da Barawo, made the arrest during operational activities in creeks, villages, communities and towns in the region.

He said the troops also discovered and destroyed several illegal refining sites, which comprised 493 dugout pits, 512 storage tanks, 413 cooking ovens and 59 wooden boats.

According to him, troops also recovered four tankers, two speed boats, one generator, one outboard engine, 14 pumping machines and three AK47 rifles during the operations.

Minister hands over 10 635