

Troops destroy armed group's camps, kill scores, rescue 14 in South-East

TROOPS of 82 Division, Nigerian Army and the Joint Task Force, South-East, code-named Operation Udo Ka have smashed camps of two armed groups operating within the South-East region, the **News Agency of Nigeria (NAN)** has reported.

This was contained in a statement by Lieutenant-Colonel Jonah Unuakhalu, acting Deputy Director, 82 Division, Army Public Relations, on Wednesday, in Enugu.

Unuakhalu said four members of the groups were "neutralised," while 14 people held hostage by the groups were rescued.

Unuakhalu said the operation also led to the clamp down on the activities of illegal oil bunkers within its joint operation area.

According to him, in the early hours of Tuesday, troops of Sector 5 of Operation Udo Ka and other security agencies came in contact with the groups at Igbo Ukwu and Uga axis of Aguata council area of Anambra.

"During the fire fight, the troops' superior firepower forced the criminals to flee in disarray.

"During the encounter, one member of the groups was neutralised, two black-coloured Lexus jeeps with no registration number and one pump-action gun with three cartridges were recovered.

"On Monday, troops deployed at FOB Lilu also came in contact with the terrorist

group after detonating the Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) planted along the supply route.

"The troops successfully neutralised two of the terrorists, recovered one pump-action short gun, one solar CCTV camera, three large pipe-borne IED, seven IEDs and eight batteries," he said.

Unuakhalu said that similarly, troops of the Joint Task Force on Wednesday, October 9, stormed one of the groups' hideout in the Enugwu Umuonyia community in Aguata council area of Anambra State.

He said the group members were overwhelmed in the ensuing firefight, as the terrorists fled, leaving behind a cache of arms and logistics.

"The troops swiftly searched and destroyed the hideouts, recovering 78 rounds of 7.62mm and 39mm ammunition, 13 rounds of 9mm ammunition, 20 live cartridges, a pump-action gun, a locally fabricated pistol, an AK-56 magazine and six vehicles found within the camp.

"The stolen vehicles were those stolen from well-meaning Igbos of the region by the criminal elements," he said.

The spokesman recalled that, on October 10; troops of 82 Division carried out an ambush operation in Lilu community in Anambra to deter the irredentist freedom of action."