

Army kills bandit's second-in-command in Kogi during gun duel

•Soldiers shoot scores of terrorists dead, rescue 39 victims

THE Nigerian Army's 12 Brigade, Lokoja, under Operation Accord III, in conjunction with Other Hybrid Forces (OHF), has recorded another significant victory in its fight against banditry in Kogi State.

The Brigade's spokesperson, Lieutenant Hassan Abdullahi, said in a statement on Saturday that a notorious bandit's deputy commander, Babangida Kachala, was shot dead on September 11.

The spokesman said: "In a bold operation on September 11, 2025, the troops killed Babangida Kachala, a notorious bandit and second-in-command to Kachala Bala Shuaibu, the leader of a bandit group operating in the state.

"The operation began with credible intelligence on the movement of bandits within Ofere Forest and Ayetoro Gbede general area, in Ijumu Local Government Area of the state.

"This prompted the combined troops to lay an ambush at a suspected bandit crossing point.

"Although the initial contact was not made, the troops encountered an ambush staged by the bandits while withdrawing to base.

"In the ensuing firefight, the troops engaged the bandits with superior firepower, killing one of the criminals.

"During the operation, the troops recovered several items, including: one loaded magazine, 31 mobile phones, a blood pressure machine, packs of Tramadol tablets, fetish items, and N16,000 cash.

"The troops observed bloodstains at the scene, suggesting that several other bandits escaped with gunshot wounds.

"Subsequent intelligence confirmed that Babangida Kachala was among those who fled with gunshot wounds and was later confirmed dead," Abdullahi said.

In a related development, the Nigerian Army on Saturday said troops deployed in various theatres of operations have continued to record successes, with several terrorists killed, 11 suspects apprehended and 39 kidnapped victims rescued in the past 24 hours.

A reliable source at the Army Headquarters

told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Abuja on Saturday that the operations were carried out across the North-East, North-Central and North-West regions.

According to the source, troops of Operation Hadin Kai (OPHK) killed one terrorist and recovered arms and ammunition in separate operations in Borno State.

The source said the troops foiled attempted attacks in Dikwa and Gubio Local Government Areas, while also discovering and dismantling an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) along the Baga-Cross Kauwa road in Kukawa Local Government Area.

The source said troops under Operation FANSAN YAMMA in Kaduna and Katsina states cleared terrorist hideouts, recovered arms and rescued a soldier earlier abducted in July in Zamfara State.

"Also, in Kogi State, troops of 12 Brigade in collaboration with hybrid forces and vigilantes rescued 17 kidnap victims after trailing their abductors from an abandoned bus to a hideout in Adavi Local Government Area.

"The victims were safely evacuated and given medical attention," the source said.

The source said the troops of Operations Enduring Peace and Whirl Stroke in Plateau and Benue states apprehended six suspects for kidnapping, cattle rustling and militia activities.

He added that troops repelled an extremist attack on Nteng village in Quan-Pan Local Government Area of Plateau State, forcing the insurgents to flee after sustaining casualties.

"Troops of OPWS also rescued two kidnap victims in Benue State, one of whom had been held since July before being abandoned by his captors on sighting troops.

"In Niger and Kogi states, troops arrested three suspected kidnappers and recovered cash, arms, ammunition and other items," the source added.

The source said troops of Joint Task Force South-South (OPDS) discovered and destroyed over 5,000 litres of suspected stolen crude oil and illegally refined AGO in Bayelsa and Rivers states during anti-bunkering operations.

Man surrenders to police over debt