

# Scores feared dead as troops invade Sambisa

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THE military has commenced a major invasion of Boko Haram's camps deep into the Sambisa Forest.

The Acting Director, Army Public Relations, Col. Sani Usman, said in a statement on Sunday that the invasion was a combined operation between ground troops and the fighter pilots of the Nigerian Air Force.

The Acting Army spokesperson said that the troops also made serious discoveries including tunnels of the terrorists, weapons and equipment.

He said that while several of the insurgents were killed in the massive operation, three soldiers were killed while two others were injured.

The Army spokesperson

said that the advancing troops also cleared some Improvised Explosive Devices planted along their route by the insurgents.

Usman said that various units of the Army had been drafted into the forest and had cleared many of the terrorists' camps.

He added that the troops rescued some people held captive by the Boko Haram sect, arrested some of the insurgents and destroyed most of their weapons and equipment.

According to him, some women and children rescued were being treated while 2,000 rustled cows were on their way to Kanwuri.

Usman said that the terrorist's camps destroyed in the combined operation were located at Shuari, Adembe, Yerimari Kura, Yerimari Gana, Gonin

Kurmi, Kore, Mainya Kore, and Lopere.

He added that the Multi-barrel Rocket Launcher Regiment also destroyed some terrorists' camps at Dure, Dure Kore and Jokwa.

Usman said that the troops also destroyed Boko Haram camps at Bulagaije and Disa, Gwoza Local Government Area of Borno State and recovered motorcycles, dane guns and ammunition apart from those destroyed in the Sambisa operation.

Meanwhile, Vice President Prof. Yemi Osinbajo has said that the Federal Government is committed to the welfare of Internally Displaced Persons from the North-East region currently scattered in some parts of the country.

He said that efforts were also being intensified to ensure that they were

relocated to their homes as soon as they were declared safe by security agents, as the government was doing everything possible to restore lasting peace to the troubled areas.

Osinbajo spoke at the commemoration of Stefanous Foundation Internal Displaced Persons camp and official launch of the Coalition for Minority Rights at Zang Commercial Secondary School, Bukuru, near Jos.

The Vice President, who was represented by the Chaplain of the Aso Villa Chapel, Pastor Joseph Malomo, said, "The Federal Government is deeply touched and concerned about the plight of the IDPs and the living conditions in their camps and we want to assure Nigerians that these will continue to receive due attention."