

Soldier dies, GOC escapes death in B'Haram ambush

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Chief of Army Staff, Lt.-Gen. Tukur Buratai

Fidelis Soriwei, Abuja

The Acting General Officer Commanding the 7 Division of the Nigerian Army, Brig. Gen. Victor Ezugwu, has escaped an assassination attempt in an ambush by members of the Boko Haram sect at the Bama axis of Borno State.

The Acting Director, Army Public Relations, Col. Sani Usman, said in a statement on Tuesday that the Acting GOC was on his way to visit troops in Bama when he ran into the Boko Haram fighters by 8.30am on Tuesday.

Usman said that while the GOC escaped unhurt, a soldier was killed while two others were injured in the attack.

He added that the troops were able to repel the attack, killing some of the terrorists and recovering some items from them.

According to him, the troops recovered 'a Toyota Hilux vehicle, two AK-47 rifles and several ammunition from the insurgents.

He said the Acting GOC had continued his operational visit to Bama while the body of the deceased soldier and the injured two were evacuated to Maiduguri for medical attention.

He added that the Chief of Army Staff, Lt. Gen. Tukur Buratai, had spoken to the Acting GOC.

He said, "The leading elements of the Acting General Officer Commanding (GOC), 7 Division, Nigerian Army, Brigadier General Victor Ezugwu's leading convoy was about 8.30am this morning ambushed by suspected Boko Haram terrorists en route to visit troops in Bama.

"Although one soldier lost his live and two others were injured, they were able to clear the ambush, killing some of the terrorists and recovered a vehicle and weapons from them. The recovered items include a Toyota Hilux vehicle, two AK-47 rifles and several ammunition.

"The Acting GOC has continued his operational visit to Bama, while the body of the late soldier and the wounded have been evacuated to Maiduguri. The Chief of Army Staff, Lieutenant General Tukur Yusuf Buratai, has also spoken with the GOC."

Usman restated the determination of the Army to ensure that the remnants of the Boko Haram were cleared from the area.

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