

Scores killed as B'Haram attacks military base in Borno

Olaleye Aluko, Abuja

BOKO Haram terrorists, believed to be a faction of the Islamic State fighters, have attacked a base of the Nigerian Army in the Gashigar area of Borno State, during which a soldier was killed and four others injured.

The military said its troops, however, fought back the invasion and killed scores of the terrorists who were sighted in 13 gun trucks.

Our correspondent learnt that the terrorists attacked the military base, identified as 145 Battalion's location on Saturday, attempting to cart away arms and ammunition but the troops engaged them in a gun battle.

The army confirmed the attack on its Twitter page on Sunday, saying, "Troops repelled Boko Haram terrorists' attack in Gashigar. The terrorists were routed when they attempted to infiltrate the 145 Battalion. They fled due to superior firepower by the troops and support from the Nigerian Air Force.

"However, one soldier was killed in action while four others were wounded. The injured were immediately evacuated by Bell 412 helicopter to Maiduguri for treatment."

The Nigerian Air Force said

its Mi-35 helicopter gunships bombed the terrorists and forced them to retreat from the invasion into the army base.

The NAF Director of Public Relations and Information, Air Commodore Ibikunle Daramola, who stated this on Sunday, added that the military would destroy the remnant of the terrorists on the fringes of Lake Chad and northern Borno.

He said, "The Air Task Force of Operation Lafiya Dole provided air support for ground forces to repel a Boko Haram terrorists' attack at Gashigar. The operation was carried out on Saturday and Sunday, following a report from troops at Gashigar that their location was under attack.

"Accordingly, a NAF Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance platform was

redirected to Gashigar. Mi-35 helicopter gunships were scrambled to the location. The fire forced the terrorists to retreat from the camp. Several of them killed or injured in the process. The ISR platform and helicopters remained within the location providing necessary air support for the troops until the situation was stabilised and threats neutralised."

JNI demands missing General's corpse

Godwin Isenyo, Kaduna

THE Muslim community under the aegis of the Jamaatu Nasril Islam on Sunday charged the Nigerian Army to recover the corpse of its former Chief of Administration, Maj. Gen. Mohammed Idris Alkali (retd.) for proper burial.

It also called on the Federal Government not to be deterred in the search for the missing General's body "wherever it is."

The Nigerian Army had said it discovered a shallow grave in which the senior officer, who was declared missing on September 3, 2018, while on his way from Abuja to Bauchi, was buried.

The General Officer Commanding, 3rd Armoured

Division, Maj. Gen. Benson Akinroluyo, in a press conference in Plateau State on Friday, said the Army's search team discovered the grave while on a hunt for the missing General.

He had also said that the late General was buried in the shallow grave in a place called "no man's land" in Lafande community of Jos South, Plateau State.

But, the JNI under the leadership of the Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Sa'ad Abubakar III, said was disturbed by the non-discovery of the late retired military officer's body in the shallow grave.

Describing the incident as unfortunate, the JNI, called on the Nigerian Army not to relent until the body was recovered and buried in

accordance with Islamic rites.

The JNI's Secretary-General, Dr Khalid Abubakar Aliyu, made the call on behalf of the Muslim community in a signed statement in Kaduna on Sunday.

It said the authorities should declare the General dead so as to enable the corpse receive Muslim burial rites in absentia.

The statement read in part, "Again, the JNI is perturbed over the discovery of a shallow grave where late Maj. Gen. Alkali's body was reportedly exhumed.

"Therefore, in line with the information given by the Nigerian Army, we call on the government not to be deterred in the search of the corpse.

"And in the first place, isn't there sinister motive(s) in