

Troops kill militiamen in Benue, recover rifles

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Troops of the Nigerian military attached to *Operation Whirl Stroke* have shot dead three militiamen during a gun battle at Anku Mbagen in the Ukum Local Government Area of Benue State.

The troops of Sector 2 deployed at Katsina Ala, Ukum and Logo local government areas of Benue State and those of Sector 4 drawn from parts of Taraba State carried out the operation at about 4.30pm on Wednesday, leading to the recovery of 19 assorted rifles from the militias.

The Defence Headquarters, Abuja, in a statement through the Defence Media Operations, said the militia on sighting the troops opened fire on them, and the Special Forces troops responded and killed three gang members while others fled into the bush with gunshot injuries.

The DMO Coordinator, Maj Gen John Enenche, said, “Troops of *Operation Whirl Stroke*, made up of Sector 2 deployed at Katsina Ala, Ukum and Logo LGAs of Benue state and those of Sector 4, carried out a special raid operation on a suspected militia camp located at Anku Mbagen in Atera-Jange Torov Council Ward of the Ukum LGA.

“They recovered a large cache of arms, ammunition and other items. This is sequel to information received on the activities of Tiv militia operating around the border areas of Benue and Taraba states.

“The troops neutralised three gang members. Items recovered include one 81mm mortar gun, five 60mm commando mortar gun, seven locally-fabricated mortar tubes guns, three rifles, three double-barrelled rifles, two locally-made rifles, one G3 rifle, one locally-made pistol, five AK-47 magazines, and 166 rounds of 7.62mm NATO ammunition.”