

21 terrorists killed in Katsina raid -Army

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General Purpose Machine Gun, five AK-47 rifles, a pump-action rifle, twenty-one AK-47 magazines, and seventeen Motorola Communication (MC) radios recovered from the terrorists by Nigerian Army.

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The Nigerian Army, on Friday, carried out an attack on a terrorist enclave in Shawu Forest, Ruwan Godiya Ward, Faskari Local Government Area of Katsina State.

The operation resulted in the neutralisation of several terrorists and the decimation of their operational capacity, as part of the ongoing kinetic phase of Operation Forest Sanity III by troops of the 17 Brigade Strike Group.

This is contained in a statement by the Commissioner of Internal Security and Home Affairs, Katsina State, Dr. Nasiru Mu’azu and made available to newsmen on Saturday in Katsina.

According to the statement, at approximately 08:50am on Friday, the troops assaulted the terrorist positions, engaging them in a fierce gun duel.

The intensity of the attack, according to Mu’azu, forced the terrorists to abandon their camps and flee into the dense bushes and rocky terrain, using their livestock as shields for their escape.

Undeterred, the troops pursued the fleeing terrorists, engaging them relentlessly, including those attempting to escape by crossing a river.

The statement read, “Recorded Success: In the course of the operation, 21 terrorists were killed, including those swept away by the river while trying to escape. However, there were no casualties among the military team.

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“Also recovered were about 40 motorcycles and a yet-to-be-ascertained number of rustled cattle from the bandits.”

Following the mop-up operations, the troop recovered items which included one General Purpose Machine Gun, five AK-47 rifles, a pump-action rifle, 21AK-47 magazines, and 17 motorola communication radios.

“Other items recovered were a considerable quantity of ammunition and other critical items. This included 74 rounds of 7.62mm NATO belted ammunition, 448 rounds of 7.62mm special ammunition, four pump-action cartridges, two RPG-7 chargers, and one RPG-7 bomb. Five CS 48mm hand grenades, a Baofeng handheld radio (HHR), six mobile phones with three extra batteries, a camouflage jungle hat, and three magazine pouches were also secured.

“Further recoveries included a motorcycle manual pump, an empty wallet, three jungle bags containing various charms, and a sum of ₦15,260.

“All the recovered items are kept in custody of the military for further necessary action. Operations are still ongoing, and the morale among the troops remains consistently high.

“In light of this significant operational success, the Katsina State Government has extended its profound commendation to the gallant troops of the 17 Brigade Strike Group. Speaking from the State House, His Excellency, Governor Dikko Umar Radda, lauded the professionalism, bravery, and unwavering commitment displayed by the soldiers,” the statement added.

Mu’azu further revealed that, “He reiterated his administration’s support for the Nigerian Armed Forces in their ongoing efforts to restore lasting peace and stability to all affected communities. Governor Radda urged the troops to maintain their high morale and continue their relentless pursuit of all criminal elements.”