Military kills bandits in Plateau, Benue, recovers arms

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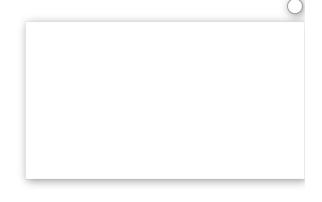
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The Nigerian military has recorded fresh victories against bandits in Plateau and Benue States, killing several criminals and recovering arms during separate operations.

In Plateau, troops of the 3 Division/Joint Task Force Operation Enduring Peace (JTF OPEP) ambushed bandits in Odare Forest, Dutsen Zaki, Wase Local Government Area, on September 16.

The spokesman for the task force, Major Samson Zhakom, said the operation was intelligence-driven.

Troops engaged bandits riding motorcycles into the forest, killing one while others fled with gunshot wounds.



"Troops recovered one motorcycle, two mobile phones, a machete, and charms abandoned by the fleeing criminals. These items are in custody for further action," Zhakom said.

He added that on September 15, troops acting on credible intelligence launched an offensive at bandit crossing points around Garga, Showaka, Yuli, and Kukawa villages in Wase and Kanam LGAs.

The troops, he said, overpowered the bandits through "superior firepower and professionalism," recovering a G3 rifle, a magazine, and three rounds of 7.62mm ammunition.

According to him, the recent onslaughts are part of the JTF's mandate to deny bandits freedom of action and ensure they are neutralised.

