

## NEWS

# Baga battle: Fleeing terrorists drown in Lake Chad

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**A** large number of Boko Haram terrorists who fled following the heavy bombardment by Nigerian Air force heralding the advance of Nigerian troops on mission to flush them out of Baga have been reported drowned in the Lake Chad.

This is contained in a press statement signed by the Director of Defence Information, Major General Chris Olukolade.

Many of the terrorists, according to the statement, died while an unknown but substantial number of them fled with various degrees of injury, in the series of encounter along the routes of advance as Nigerian troops headed for Baga.

"Not even the strategy of mining over 1500 spots with land mines on the routes leading to the town could save the terrorists from the aggressive move of advancing troops.

"All the land mines were skillfully cleared one after the other.

Eventually, the resistance of the terrorists collapsed and the land forces finally stormed the town in the early hours of Friday.

The statement stated further that apart from the five anti-aircraft guns and rifles captured from the terrorists, over 34 motorcycles and five vehicles including trucks being used for operations were destroyed in the course of the fighting as troops headed for Baga before they finally began clearing the terrorists from Baga on arrival in the town early Saturday morning.

"A comprehensive cordon and search phase of military operation has now commenced to enable troops mop up arms and ammunition and also apprehend any terrorist who might be hiding in the vicinity.

The exercise will also determine details of the casualties inflicted or incurred in the course of the operations to clear Baga and environs of terrorists.

"Similar exercise is being carried out in over 12 locations namely Gajigana, Ngaze, Ngenzai, Marte Junction, Mile 90, Yoyo, Kekenno, Kukawa, Cross Kauwa, Kangarwa, Amirari and other localities where troops have flushed out the terrorists in the operations preceding the entry to Baga.

The troops are now dominating and conducting aggressive patrols in the locations. The morale of troops remain high," it stated.