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## Boko Haram on rampage in Yobe, kills one in Borno

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BY OUR REPORTER ON JUNE 1, 2015

COVER

sun 468 x 60

### • Army tasks 70 war commanders

From TIMOTHY OLANREWAJU, MAIDUGURI & NOAH EBIJE, KADUNA

Barely 24 hours after killing 18 people and injuring scores during an attack on a mosque in Maiduguri, Borno State, Boko Haram insurgents were on the rampage in Fika and Ngalda, Yobe State, yesterday. In the attack, the terrorists looted shops and commercial centres before setting fire on Fika Local Government Secretariat, a magistrate court and a Divisional Police Station.

Confirming the attack, a police source said Boko Haram came first to Ngalda in two Hilux vehicles at about 7.30pm on Saturday, before proceeding to Fika, some 150 kilometres from Damaturu, the state capital. Fika council Chairman, Alhaji Baba Abare, said the insurgents shot sporadically into the air to scare people and loot their property.

Meanwhile, one person was feared dead and four injured as another bomb explosion rocked a market in Maiduguri, yesterday.

The explosion came barely a day after another blast killed about 18 people in a mosque near a regional market in the city. Several people were also injured as Boko Haam was blamed for the latest attack. Residents said the insurgents again detonated another bomb careful concealed in a bag containing charcoal at the crowd Gamboru market, east of Maiduguri and some 300 metres to the Borno State Command of the Nigerian Customs Service.

"Four people were seriously injured and one person may have died," says a military officer, who does not want to be named. The source said all those injured at the scene of the blast have been taken to the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital (UMTH) though Daily Sun could not confirm the claim from hospital authorities as at Press time.

In a related development, Armed Forces Command and Staff College (AFSC), Jaji in Kaduna State has told 70 'War Commanders' it has trained for five months in the college to always be ready to lay their lives in the defence of Nigeria.

This was even as the Commandant, Air Vice Marshal John Chris Ifemeje, explained the reason every soldier must be prepared to die in defending the country.

AVM Ifemeje, who was represented by his deputy, Rear Admiral Syllanus Agada Abbah at the final bush exercise of the 70 Junior "War Commanders", said, Nigeria has invested so much on its military, hence the reason every soldier must be ready to lay down his life in defence of the nation.

The exercise, code-named 'Ubiak Isin', meaning waist pain in Efik, is the routine final exercise for officers of the Nigerian Army undergoing Junior Course in AFSC.

According to the commandant, the exercise is a practical application of what the student officers had learnt in the classroom, which he said centres around commanding wars.

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of the contemporary security challenges facing the country, counter-insurgency training has been added to the exercise.

"The exercise is so significant because, no matter the level of air bombardment and attack on enemies from the air, we need professional soldiers to man the war on the ground," AVM Ifemeje said.

Reacting to the recent experiences where soldiers abscond from the war front, the Commandant of the tri-service military institutions told officers and men of the Armed Forces that, 'Nigeria has spent so much on the military, and that is the reason every military man must be ready to lay down his life in defence of this country.' Highlight of the exercise was demonstration of a war situation, where the student officers were sharing intelligence and issuing out commands to their troops on their planned night attack to flush out imaginary enemies who invaded their country.

Many of the trained officers, according to a reliable source, would be drafted into the ongoing 'Operation Zaman Lafiya' in the North-East after their course in the college.

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