

Navy rescues hijacked vessel, arrests 7 pirates, kill one

By Philip Nwosu

THE Nigerian Navy at the weekend, busted a gang of suspected hijackers who seized an oil vessel off the coast of Cote d'Ivoire.

Vessel NP Maximus, was rescued from the hijackers off Sao Tome after a fierce gun battle.

Witnesses told *Daily Sun* that seven of the hijackers were ar-

rested while one was killed during the gun duel.

It was gathered that the vessel was given a hot pursuit by the United States Navy until it strayed into the Togolese territorial waters and the Togolese Navy joined the pursuit.

According to the Chief of Training and Operations, Rear Admiral Henry Babalola, the United

States Navy started the pursuit, but when the vessel crossed into the Nigerian territorial waters, three Nigerian vessels namely: NNS Okpabana, NNS Sagbama and NNS Centenary were deployed to go after the vessel.

He said: "The vessel was surrounded around the Sao Tome territory where the gun battle ensued."