

## Soldiers avert attacks on Gulobokri, Eweleso oil pipelines

• NSCDC uncovers bomb-making factories in Borno

From **Molly Kilete**, Abuja

**SOLDIERS** on internal security operations in the Niger Delta averted a militant attack on the Gulobokri and Eweleso oil pipelines, located around Brass area of Bayelsa State at the weekend.

The soldiers, from 343 Artillery Regiment of 2 Brigade, who were on patrol in the area, reportedly encountered the militants who operated in two speed boats and tried to blow up the Nigerian Agip Oil Company (NAOC) pipeline at Gulobokri. The soldiers were also said to have encountered another group of armed militants operating in three speed boats, who engaged them in a shoot-out when they were about to attack another critical infrastructure in the area.

Most of the militants were reportedly killed while several others sustained various injuries.

Acting Director of Army Public Relations, Col. Sani Usman, who did not give the actual number of the militants killed, however, revealed that mop-up operation was in place to arrest those who escaped with gunshot wounds and injuries as they may be receiving treatment in neighbouring communities.

He said: "The casualties among the militants cannot be ascertained as it was raining heavily and the raging storm could not allow troops to go on pursuit of the escaping criminals."

Meanwhile, the Borno State Command of the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), yesterday, discovered two bomb-making factories in Dikwa. NSCDC Commandant in the state, Mr Ibrahim Abdullahi, made the disclosure in an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), in Maiduguri.

Abdullahi said the factories were discovered during a patrol by men of the command in collaboration with the troops of the 22 Armoured Brigade of the Nigerian Army.

• A T