

Boko Haram: Army Recovers 16 Soldiers' Corpses

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- **Troops arrest 963 suspects**
- **Terrorists' wives, children, doctor nabbed**

The corpses of Lt.-Col. K Yusuf, the former Commanding Officer (CO) of 223 Tank Battalion, and 15 soldiers have been recovered by the Nigerian Army. Yusuf and others have since been buried.

The officer and soldiers were declared “Missing in Action” during an operation to dislodge the Boko Haram insurgents from Gashigar area in Borno State on October 16, 2016.

The Theatre Commander of Operation Lafiya Dole, Maj-Gen. Lucky Irabor, disclosed this at a weekly review of Operation Rescue Final at Maimalari Cantonment, Maiduguri, yesterday. “The corpses were recovered along Kamadugou River line area in Maiduguri.

Among the recovered corpses was that of Lt-Col. K Yusuf, the former Commanding

Officer (CO) of 223 Tank Battalion.

“They have since been buried in Maimalari Cantonment Cemetery with full military honours,” Irabor said.

The army also lost an officer and four soldiers on January 8 during a clearance operation in Bulakesa village in Borno State. The troops killed 50 terrorists in the process and arrested nine insurgents and 18 minors.

The troops had earlier lost an officer and three soldiers on January 7 when Boko Haram terrorists attacked the troops location in the Range Area during stand-to.

Meanwhile, Irabor said troops had arrested about 963 persons suspected to be Boko Haram terrorists during an operation between January 4 and 9. Irabor said: “On January 3 at about 12:40hrs, four women and 13 children were apprehended by vigilantes at Buni Yadi and were later handed over to our troops.

“Preliminary investigation revealed that the women were wives of Boko Haram terrorists who fled from Sambisa forest as a result of our operations.

All suspects are in our custody undergoing investigation. “On January 9, a surrendered Boko Haram member was identified as a male sympathiser and spy in Monguno area.