

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.