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TRAVEL

JTF Repels Attack on Chevron Facility

From Ahamefula Ogbu in Port Harcourt, 11.08.2008

Militants in eight speed boats yesterday attacked a Chevron facility at Robert-Kiri in Rivers State, but were repelled by men of the Joint Task Force (JTF) who sank one of the boats carrying 12 militants while one naval personnel was killed.

Sources said the militants attacked the facility with a view to knocking it off and taking arms from the naval component of the JTF on guard, but met them on alert.

A shootout was said to have ensued when the naval men noticed the sudden movement and the simultaneous opening of fire with automatic weapons by the militants, "and had to employ their superior weapon to overwhelm them."

At the end of the shootout, said to have lasted nearly 30 minutes, sources said the militants beat a hasty retreat, fleeing in different directions, while one of their boats was sunk by the naval men.

Confirming the incident, spokesman of the JTF, Lt. Colonel Sagir Musa said the hoodlums' aim was to destroy the facility and take the arms of the personnel there, but that they met them on red alert.

"The militants attacked the facility and wanted to destroy it and disrupt production but were overwhelmed. We sank one of their boats; the attack failed. We however lost one personnel, but the facility is on and producing without disruption," he said.

This is the second time the facility is coming under the threat of militants, as it was also attacked this year when the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta declared "Oil War."

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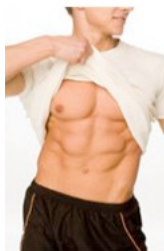
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