

3 Feared Dead as JTF, Boko Haram Clash in Maiduguri

Pandemonium broke out on Monday evening in Maiduguri, the Borno State capital, when officers of the Joint Task Force (JTF) and members of the Boko Haram exchanged heavy gunshots, which allegedly left about three soldiers dead and several casualties on both sides.

THISDAY learnt that the shoot-out, which occurred at

From Michael Olugbode

in Maiduguri

Bulumkutu market and Gomari area at about 7 p.m. between the two groups, did not abate until 10 p.m.

Trouble started when the vehicle of the task force on routine assignment of distributing refreshment to the soldiers

attached to worship centres and other strategic locations in the area was ambushed by members of the group.

After the initial attack by the Boko Haram members, the soldiers reacted and the resultant exchange of gunshots led to the death of three soldiers and some civilian either killed or injured.

An eyewitness revealed that the Boko Haram members had to abandon their Golf Volkswagen car and take to their heels, when they were confronted by the superior fire power of the soldiers.

According to the eyewitness, two churches in the area, Holy Trinity and EYN had to close immediately, as members who were attending evening prayer meetings had to scamper for their lives.

The market was also immediately abandoned, as traders took to their heels leaving their wares.

Boost Security in Gulf of Guinea

By Tokunbo Adedaja

in Alameda, California

arrive in Nigeria in the first week of January 2012, after making stops in five countries - Mexico, Panama, Trinidad and Tobago, Senegal, and Ghana.

Its departure was preceded by a colourful ceremony witnessed by the Minister of State for Defence, Erelu Olusola Obada; Chief of Policy and Plans, Naval headquarters, Rear Admiral James

Oladimeji; Command Technical Officer, Western Naval Command, Navy Captain Peter Onwordi; representative of the Nigerian Ambassador to US, Mr. Steven Akingbolasan; Defence Attache at the Nigerian Embassy in Washington, Group Captain Aliyu Gaya; Commander of the US Coast Guard, Chase Morgenthau; Captain Mathew Bliven; and Deputy Defence Attache, Navy Captain Kayode Adefemi.