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### Task Force Clears Boko Haram Camp in Borno

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Defence Headquarters

#### • Kills 17 insurgents • Presidency: Military has capacity to crush sect

By Chuks Okocha and Senator Iroegbu

The Defence Headquarters (DHQ) has said troops of the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF), in a pre-dawn raid at the weekend, cleared a terrorist camp in Buduram, North of Doron Baga in Borno.

This was disclosed yesterday by the DHQ through its website [www.defenceinfo.mil.ng](http://www.defenceinfo.mil.ng) and twitter account @DefenInfoNG.

The raid occurred just as the Presidency assured Nigerians that the nation's Armed Forces had the capacity and capability to crush the Boko Haram insurgency in the country but was taking precautionary measures to avoid heavy civilian causality.

According to the report on its website, the troops raided the camp where the terrorists were massing up and reorganising to carry out a reprisal attack after being routed in Doron Baga in a previous encounter September 10.

It said 17 terrorists died in the raid while some that escaped into neighbouring islands in the Lake Chad Peninsula were still being pursued.

The report added that calm had been restored in Doron Baga after the September 10 attack by terrorists who infiltrated the community with some of them disguising as women in hijab.

It stated that five of the terrorists died in the counter offensive to defend Doron Baga by troops of the MNJTF.

Many of the inhabitants of the community who had fled into nearby bushes for safety, according to the DHQ, were now returning.

Meanwhile, while assuring that nation's armed forces had the strength combat the insurgency, the presidency disclosed that the military was currently taking delivery of heavy military wares with the plan to move strategically against the insurgency.

This is coming as the Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment, Olusegun Aganga has decried the media coverage of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) and the Boko Haram insurgency, giving the impression that the insurgents and Ebola Virus has taken over the entire country.

The Senior Special Assistant to the President on Public Affairs, Dr. Doyin Okupe, made this known at a meeting organised by the Head of the Diaspora Desk in the Federal Ministry of Trade and Investment, Lola Mabogunje-Viser.

According to him, "already there is a massive acquisition of arms by the military, but caution is also being taken to avoid civilian casualty. We are taking advantage of the offers of from our international military and intelligence allies to get a greater understanding of the landscape and identify key locations. We are working with our neighbours to secure the borders and limit the movements of the Boko Haram fighters, building on the agreements reached at the recent summits in Paris and London."

On the Chibok schoolgirls', Okupe said: "The need to avoid a repeat of the 2004 experience when 300 children were killed in an attempt by Russians to free hostages held by Chechens in the North Caucasus region of Russia was responsible for the seemingly slow process of freeing over two hundred schoolgirls kidnapped by Boko Haram insurgents in Borno state."

He added that government was also working on blocking domestic and international sources of funds for the terror group.

On the Diaspora, Okupe acknowledged that over \$31 billion were remitted to Nigeria every year, stating that the economic efforts of Nigerians globally could be under emphasised as there are several Nigerian surgeons and other professionals competing favourably with their counterparts all over the world.

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