

# Army Officer, Soldier Killed as Troops Overwhelm Insurgents

*Integration of Ground, Air Counter Terrorism Operations Panacea to Insecurity, Says Chief of Air Staff*

**Kingsley Nwezeh** in Abuja and  
**Laleye Dipo** in Minna

① The Nigerian Army said yesterday that one army officer and a soldier were killed during clashes with insurgents in Borno and Yobe States.

This is as the Chief of Air Staff Air Marshall Sadiq Abubakar had said that the integration of air and ground counter terrorism operation would combat banditry and other security challenges in the country.

But other sources said 10 soldiers were killed in the confrontation with terrorists.

This comes as the Chief of Army Staff, Lt General Tukur Buratai, restated the resolve of the military

to discharge its constitutional role of maintaining the territorial integrity of the nation.

An update made available by Army Headquarters said 16 fighters of Boko Haram and the Islamic State for West African Province (ISWAP) surrendered to troops.

It said the insurgents surrendered with their spouses.

The update signed by the Nigerian Army Operations Media Coordinator, Col Aminu Illyasu, said troops deployed in Gajigana in Magumeri Local Government Area of Borno State intercepted insurgents intent on attacking the community.

It said troops killed three insurgents and lost one soldier.

"Troops deployed at Gajigana in Magumeri LGA of Borno State intercepted some Boko Haram criminals in the early hours of Tuesday 5th November 2019.

"It is believed that the insurgents were on their way to attack the community to source for food items and other logistics for their survival. "However, the vigilant troops blocked and neutralised three of the Boko Haram criminals while several others escaped with varying degrees of gunshot wounds", it said.

The statement said "unfortunately, one soldier paid the supreme price while two others were wounded in action. The wounded soldiers are currently responding to treatment in a military medical facility".

In the Yobe encounter troops of Sector 2 deployed at Damaturu, Yobe State, dislodged terrorists who attempted to infiltrate the town. "The attempted infiltration was thwarted by the combined efforts of ground troops, artillery bombardment and precision air strikes by the Air Task Force of Operation Lafiya Dole.

"The encounter led to the decimation of a number of the insurgents in addition to the destruction of one Boko Haram gun truck. "Unfortunately, one officer paid the supreme price during the encounter", it said.

Col Illyasu said 16 insurgents along with eight of their spouses who could no longer bear the heat from the onslaught against them

surrendered to the troops of Sector 1, Multinational Joint Task Force at Fotokol.

The surrendered insurgents were later handed over to troops of 3 Battalion at Gamboru Ngala, a border town North-east of Borno State.

He said during preliminary interrogation and profiling, the insurgents confessed to have actively participated in attacks conducted against both military and civilian targets at various times.

He disclosed that 14 of them belonged to the Abubakar Shakau faction of Boko Haram.

② "In another encounter with the Boko Haram criminals at Muchima in Damboa LGA of Borno State,

9 Boko Haram insurgents were neutralized by troops while others escaped with gunshot wounds.

"Additionally, one insurgent gun truck was destroyed, 4 AK 47 Rifles and a cache of ammunition were recovered", he said.

Meanwhile, the Chief of Army Staff (COAS), Lieutenant General Tukur Buratai reassured the general public of the resolve of the Nigerian Army to continue to execute its constitutional mandate professionally and responsively for a better and secured Nigeria.

He also thank all well-meaning Nigerians for their continued support, goodwill and understanding towards officers and men of the Nigerian Army.

Federal House of Representatives N104 Floor Appropriation Bill