



Multinational joint task force kills 22, arrests 17 Boko Haram in Lake Chad

By Ibrahim Hassan

●Loses 2 officers, 4 other soldiers to terrorists

THE Multinational Joint Task Force, MNJTF, yesterday said its troops had killed 22 Boko Haram and ISWAP terrorists and arrested 17 others in Mallam Fatori town around the fringes of the Lake Chad.

MNJTF in a statement by its Chief of Military Public Information, Colonel Muhammad Dole, said however that six members of the force (two officers and four other ranks) from both countries paid the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty with about 16 wounded in action.

The operation was carried out alongside troops from Sector 3 Monguno (Nigeria) and Sector 4 Diffa (Niger).

According to the statement, the troops met strong resistance from the terrorists, who launched several mortar attacks, laid Improvised Explosive Devices, IEDs, along the troops' route of advance and further attacks with Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Devices, VBIEDs.

Colonel Dole however said the troops brought superior fire power to bear on the insurgents forcing the terrorists to abandon their enclaves, noting that Operation SHARAN FAGE was supported by the air component of Operation Hadin Kai and other partners with air assets and surveillance Equipment.

He said "This support spurred the determined troops to successfully clear enemy hideouts in and around AREGE, GASHIGAR, ASAGA, KAINOA, BANA and KAMAGUNMA among other general areas. In the course of this operation 22 Boko Haram terrorists were neutralised, five of their gun trucks destroyed, 5 motorcycles and several logistic bunkers were destroyed while 8 AK47 Rifles were recovered. Regrettably, 6 members of the JTF (2 officers and 4 other ranks) from both countries paid the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty with about 16 wounded in action. 17 suspects were arrested in the general area of operations and are being profiled.

"The recently concluded operation which was heavily supported by OP HADIN KAI (Nigeria) targeted Boko Haram/ISWAP criminal terrorists hibernating in the vicinity of Mallam Fatori town towards the fringes of the Lake Chad. In line with its mandate of



An accident scene involving two buses and two trucks at Ipetu-Ijesa area of Osun State where one person was reportedly crushed to death yesterday.

support for facilitating willing internally displaced persons and refugees to return voluntarily and safely to their ancestral homes, the MNJTF provided security for the continuous security enhancement work in this area and would do so until the inhabitants return.

"The operation also created a favourable atmosphere under which the festivities marking the 63rd Anniversary of the proclamation of the Republic of Niger were peacefully conducted on 18 December 2021 in Diffa, with His Excellency, President Mohamed Bazoum in attendance. It should be noted that this was the first such celebration in many years.

"On Wednesday, 29 December 21, the Force Commander, MNJTF, Major General Abdul Khalifah Ibrahim on a debriefing mission visited the MNJTF Headquarters in Diffa Niger Republic where he addressed the officers and men after receiving an after action brief by the Operational Commanders.

"He commended the uncommon display of gallantry professionalism and

courage by the troops who have taken the fight to the criminals' hideouts in their areas. He said after listening to the brief, that a lot still needs to be done but this was a good starting point. He promised to mobilise more equipment and other operational enablers to the Sectors.

"He declared year 2022 as a year of decision for the MNJTF as he vowed to uproot the criminals from their hideouts in the lake. He paid tribute to the fallen heroes whom he described as martyrs of freedom. He appealed to the people of the Lake Chad Basin to continue to support the MNJTF and to bring forward information.

"He further assured them of the MNJTF resolve to clear the operational area and make it safe for all in the coming year in compliance with directives of the Service Chiefs of the Lake Chad Basin Countries. He was accompanied on the visit by the Deputy Force Commander MNJTF, Gen Abdou Assoumane (Niger) and other key commanders of the MNJTF.

NDLEA nabs 3 fake security agents, others, with 427kg drugs in Bomo, FCT

By Kingsley Omonobi

ABUJA—THREE drug traffickers in security agencies uniforms have been arrested by operatives of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, NDLEA, with over 427 kilograms of illicit drugs in Bomo State and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

While Yakubu Kotri, impersonating a military personnel was arrested on Wednesday, 29th December driving a golf car loaded with Cannabis Sativa weighing 208 kilograms on his way to