

Troops kill Sambisa Forest ISWAP commander, Uzaifa, 37 others

•Neutralise scores of terrorists in Niger, Plateau, Kaduna; rescue 20 kidnap victims •Raid terrorists' hideout in Abuja, arrest 8, recover 5 AK-47 rifles, 3 pump action guns •Arrest Naziru Mohammed, wanted arms supplier to kidnappers/bandits in Kogi with 1,000 rounds of 7.62mm ammunition

By Kingsley
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THE military, in joint air raids and land mop-up operations, have neutralised a high profile ISWAP commander, known as Uzaifa, who was the 'Minzir' or fourth in line, of the terrorist leadership structure, and also believed to be ISWAP's leader of Sambisa Forest.

He reportedly took over the leadership of the group, after the demise of Abubakar Shekau, and was killed alongside 37 other terrorists in the North-East theatre.

Also neutralised in joint operations are scores of terrorists in Niger, Plateau and Kaduna states, while 58 suspects were arrested. Twenty kidnapped victims were equally rescued from the terrorist's hideouts.

In the FCT, troops of the Presidential Guard's Brigade raided suspected terrorists' hideouts in Dei-Dei and Gwagwalada communities, arrested eight terrorists and recovered five AK47 rifles as well as three pump action guns.

Similarly, in Kogi State, troops arrested Naziru Mohammed, a wanted gunrunner and arms supplier to kidnappers and recovered 1,000 rounds of 7.62mm ammunition and other dangerous weapons from his hideout.

Troops destroyed illegal refineries

Troops battling economic sabotage successfully denied oil thieves and illegal oil bunkerers the stealing and siphoning of crude oil/products worth more than N3.7billion, while also destroying scores of illegal refineries and storage facilities in the Niger Delta.

Director of Defence Media Operations, Major General Musa Dan Madami, who disclosed these at a briefing on activities of the military and security agencies against criminal elements in Abuja yesterday, said: "Troops in the North East theatre of operation conducted several operations in Gwashiri, Pulka-Kirawa axis, Amanwa village, Tungushe, Bama

town, Mulgwai village, Kwatara, Gubio, Kekeno, Dogon Chuku, Miringa Market and Monguno town, all in Borno State as well as, Buni Yadi - Jauro Bashin in Yobe State.

"During the operations, they neutralized 12 terrorists, recovered 18 AK47 rifles, one RGP, two FN rifles, 83 rounds of 7.62mm special ammunition, 13 bicycles, one golf car, large quantity of substance suspected to be cannabis sativa, bags of maize, three grenades, four mobile phones, 47 rustled cattle, six donkeys, 20 cartons of super cereal, 51 Jerricans of groundnut oil, two cartons of cigarettes, medical suppliers, food stuffs and 40 pairs of male and female clothing.

The arrests

"Troops also arrested eight suspected terrorists, four logistic suppliers, rescued four civilians and the sum of N1,005, 360 cash. Also as troops of Operation Hadin Kai continue to consolidate on their success against the terrorists, more of them

surrendered.

"Within the period under review, a total of 1, 652 Boko Haram members and their families have surrendered to own troops at different location. The number comprises 320 adult males, 442 women and 890 children.

"In a related development, the air component of Operation Hadin Kai on August 20, 2022, carried out air strikes on terrorist's enclaves in Sambisa forest and the Tumbuns in Borno State with various degree of success recorded.

"Acting on credible intelligence about the gathering of terrorists at a location revealed to be the enclave of a notorious terrorist being hosted by a top ranking commander, believed to be the Islamic State of West Africa Province leader of Sambisa forest who took over the leadership after the demise of Abubakar Shekau.

"Consequently, the air strikes were carried out on the enclave. Feedback revealed that 25 of the terrorists were neutralised in the strikes, with 18 serious wounded.