

"We will not allow bandits or

makes security a serious responsi-

eration, and political will. Today,

threatened by criminals.

Airstrikes kill terrorist leader Munzir, others

•Troops rescue 106 kidnap victims, arrest 82 crime-suspects, destroy 20 illegal refineries, seize 30 oil thieves

From Musa Bologi, Abuja

STRIKES by the Air Component of Operation Hadi Kai, a military offensive against Boko Haram and its splinter groups, have resulted in the death of terrorist leader Munzir (aka Baa Yanziye) and several others in Northeast.

The airstrikes, conducted in support of ground troops, were carried out during combined operations between January 1 and 15, targeting terrorist hideouts, logistics bases, and fleeing fighters.

Director of Defence Media Operations, Maj.-Gen. Michael Onoja, stated this in an update on the military's successes against terrorists and other non-state actors.

According to Gen. Onoja, ground forces, in conjunction with the Air Component, hybrid forces, and security outfits, conducted aggressive operations in Gwoza, Kon-

duga, Bama, Askira Uba, Chibok, Mafa, Guzamala, and Damboa local government areas of Borno State; Hong and Madagali local government areas of Adamawa State; and Damaturu and Gujba local government areas of Yobe State.

He said: "During the encounters, scores of the terrorists were neutralised. Also, 34 of them were arrested, while 17 kidnap victims were rescued. The suspects and weapons recovered are in troops' custody for further action.

"Between January 1 to 3, 2026, the Air Component of Operation Hadi Kai conducted multiple air interdiction missions at Abirma, Chiralia, Guva in Timbuktu Triangle as well

as Garin Mallam Iddirisa, Garin Abu Ayuba in Nduva, Damboa Local Government Area of Borno State. Battle Damage Assessment, said that a well-known terrorist leader, Munzir (otherwise known as Baa Yanziye) was neutralised alongside others during the strikes.

"Similarly, between January 8 to 13, 2026, multiple air interdiction were conducted at Abbagajiri in Timbuktu Triangle, while the component provided close air support to ground troops within Damasak, Megumeri, Gubio, Kereto, Binduldul, Matari, Gashagar and Gudumbali general areas of Borno State. Battle Damage Assessment showed that some selected targets were acquired and engaged with bombs and rockets accordingly."

In the Northwest, the Defence spokesperson said troops of Operation Fansan Yamma conducted offensive operations from January 1 to 15 in Anka, Bakura, Bungudu, Kaura Namoda, Maru, Maradun, Talata Mafara, Zurmi and Tsafe local government areas of Zamfara State; Kankara, Danmusa, Malumfashi and Matazu local government areas of Katsina State; Arewa and Shanga local government areas of Kebbi State; Binji, Gudu, Isa, Rabah, Sabon Birni, Tambuwal and Wurno local government areas of Sokoto State; and Borgu and Kontagora local government areas of Niger State, as well as Tsanyawa and Shanono local government areas of Kano State.

Residents scoop diesel as tanker