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UPDATED: Troops kill three ISWAP commanders, 80 fighters in foiled Borno attack



Troops of Operation Hadin Kai, supported by the **Nigerian Air Force (NAF)** killed three Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) commanders and 80 fighters during a failed night attack on Mallam Fatori in Abadam Local Government Area of Borno State.

Spokesperson of Operation Hadin Kai, Lieutenant Colonel Sani Uba disclosed this in a statement on Wednesday.

He said the terrorists advancing on foot and armed with drones from the Duguri general area, and armed with drones, attempted to infiltrate the 68 Battalion's main defensive position at about 12:50 am on Wednesday, but were repelled.

The three high-profile terrorist commanders killed during the encounter, according to Uba, are: Mallam Abdulrahman Gobara, Mallam Ba Yuram and Abou Ayyuba, who were key figures in coordinating and leading the failed assault.

Other identified fighters eliminated during the engagement, include: Zarkawi, Ba Bunu, Rawa Fannami, Abowor Suwurti, Bulama Mil, Abu Aisha, Suleimana, Abu Rijal, Abu Ali, Abba Gana Kawiyya and Ahmodu Hirasama.

Uba said that the terrorists were killed in close coordination with Nigerian Army troops during a failed attack in Malam Fatori, Abadam Local Government Area of Borno State.

He said that, having maintained full situational awareness of the battlespace, troops anticipated the attack and prepared a coordinated offensive-defensive operation to decisively defeat the attackers.

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“Through disciplined fire control, coordinated manoeuvre and superior tactical execution, the attackers were engaged, disrupted and routed in disarray, with no fewer than 80 terrorists neutralised during the engagement.

“Additionally, the firefight was further reinforced by precision close air support from the Air Component of Operation HADIN KAI, complemented by rapid strike passes from allied Nigerian air assets, which compounded the pressure on the fleeing insurgents,” he said.

According to the military spokesperson, troops recovered a substantial cache of weapons, ammunition and combat enablers, after the engagement.

Items recovered, according to Uba, include 52 AK-47 rifles, eight PKT machine guns, seven RPG tubes, five general-purpose machine guns (GPMGs), over 3,000 rounds of assorted 7.62mm ammunition, 21 RPG bombs, nine locally fabricated improvised explosive devices (IEDs), multiple magazines, communication radios, and components of armed drones used by the terrorists.

Uba said that despite the scale and intensity of the assault, the military recorded minimal casualties, with four soldiers wounded in action who were promptly stabilised.

“While follow-on Battle Damage Assessment of air interdictions remains ongoing, the elimination of these commanders and fighters represents a severe disruption to the terrorist command structure and operational capability within the axis,” he said.

