

NAF bombs bandits camps, IED factory in Zamfara

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File photo: NAF fighter jets

By Solomon Odeniyi

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The Nigerian Air Force said it carried out two precision air strikes on bandit' locations in the Tsafe Local Government Area of Zamfara State.

The operations, conducted under the Air Component of Operation Fansan Yamma, Sector 2, targeted Turba Hill and a camp linked to a bandit leader identified as Kachalla Dogo Sule.

According to a statement on Monday by the NAF Director of Public Relations and Information, Air Commodore Ehimen Ejodame, the strikes followed credible, multi-source intelligence on bandit activities in the areas.

He said the first strike was conducted at Turba Hill, which had been confirmed as a bandit hideout, adding that the target was identified and destroyed.

“Acting on credible, multi-source intelligence, NAF air assets were deployed against bandit enclaves at the identified locations. The first strike targeted Turba Hill, a confirmed bandit hideout. Persistent intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance revealed significant human activity and an operational zinc-roofed structure assessed to be central to the enclave’s activities.

“Following positive identification, the target was engaged with precision, resulting in a direct hit. Post-strike battle damage assessment confirmed the complete destruction of the structure and the neutralisation of several bandits,” the statement partly read.

Ejodame said a second strike was carried out at the camp associated with bandit kingpin, Dogo Sule, linked to the manufacture of improvised explosive devices and recent attacks along the Dan Sadau–Magami axis.

He said the raid destroyed active structures and started fires within the camp.

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Ejodame said, “The second AI mission was conducted at Kachalla Dogo Sule’s Camp, a notorious bandit stronghold identified as a key IED manufacturing and operational hub. Intelligence had linked the camp to the planning and execution of recent IED attacks along the Dan Sadau–Magami axis.

“The precision strike successfully engaged multiple active structures within the enclave, triggering intense fires that destroyed the facilities and neutralised several bandits, effectively crippling the group’s IED production and deployment capability.”

Ejodame noted that several bandits were killed in both operations, though no casualty figures were released.

“These decisive air strikes represent a significant degradation of bandit networks operating in Zamfara State, particularly their capacity to manufacture and employ improvised explosive devices.

“The operations reaffirm the Nigerian Air Force’s unwavering commitment, working in close coordination with other components of Operation FANSAN YAMMA, to deny criminal elements safe havens, degrade their combat effectiveness, and support ongoing joint efforts to restore lasting peace and security across the North-West and the nation at large, “ the statement added.

Zamfara State has been one of the epicentres of banditry in North-West Nigeria, with armed groups blamed for kidnappings, attacks on communities, and disruption of farming activities.

Security forces have launched several operations in the region to dismantle the groups’ camps and restrict their movement.

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