

# Airstrikes hit Borno terror commanders, troops kill two in Benue

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**AIR MARSHAL**  
**SK ANEKE**  
AIR MARSHAL SUNDAY ANEKE  
CHIEF OF THE AIR STAFF

File Photo: The Chief of the Air Staff, Nigerian Air Force, Air Marshal Sunday Aneke

Solomon Odeniyi and John Charles

The Nigerian Air Force, under the Joint Task Force of Operation Hadin Kai, has confirmed the killing of several high-value terrorist operatives, including senior commanders and fighters actively coordinating hostile activities within the theatre.

This happened when NAF conducted an intelligence-driven Air Interdiction mission against terrorist elements in the Yuwe general area of the Sambisa axis in Borno State.

The early morning operation, according to the service, followed confirmatory Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance that identified structures used as terrorist commanders' hideouts and logistics warehouses.

Also, troops of Operation Whirl Stroke have neutralised two suspected bandits along the Katsina Ala-Zaki Biam road in Benue State.

A statement on Monday by the NAF spokesman, Air Commodore Ehimen Ejodame, said post-strike assessments, supported by intelligence sources, confirmed the neutralisation of several high-value operatives, including senior commanders and fighters coordinating activities within the theatre.

The statement read, “The NAF under the Joint Task Force of Operation Hadin Kai, executed a decisive, intelligence-driven Air Interdiction mission against terrorist elements in the Yuwe general area of the Sambisa axis on 28 February 2026.

“The early morning operation followed confirmatory Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance, which identified structures serving as terrorist commanders’ hideouts and logistics warehouses.

“Acting with precision and overwhelming force, NAF strike elements successfully acquired and engaged the validated targets, delivering accurate air strikes that effectively dismantled critical terrorist infrastructure.

“Post-strike assessments, corroborated by credible intelligence sources, confirm the neutralisation of several high-value terrorist operatives, including senior commanders and fighters actively coordinating hostile activities within the theatre.”

He said the strikes disrupted the terrorists’ command-and-control structure and degraded their logistics network, limiting their operational capacity in the area.

“The strikes significantly disrupted the terrorists’ command-and-control architecture and degraded their logistics network, further constraining their operational capabilities in the region.

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“The Nigerian Air Force has since maintained a sustained ISR presence over the area to identify and engage additional verified targets, keeping relentless pressure on fleeing and regrouping elements,” the statement added.

Commenting on the operation, the Chief of the Air Staff, Air Marshal Sunday Aneke, commended the professionalism and combat efficiency of the aircrew and supporting personnel.

He reaffirmed the NAF’s unwavering resolve to deny terrorists any sanctuary within the country.

“The Nigerian Air Force will continue to project decisive air power in close synergy with ground forces until every identified terrorist enclave is dismantled.

“We remain committed to sustaining aggressive, intelligence-led operations that protect our nation and restore enduring peace,” he added.

The Nigerian Air Force has sustained aerial offensives in the Sambisa axis and surrounding areas to degrade terrorist strongholds, disrupt logistics networks and support ground troops in restoring security across affected communities.

Confirming the Benue attack, the acting Media Information Officer for OPWS, Lt Ahmad Zubairu, disclosed in a statement issued and made available to journalists in Makurdi on Monday that the troops, in conjunction with a state security outfit known as ‘Civil Protection Guard,’ mobilised to an identified location and made contact with the suspected bandits.

“In the ensuing engagement, two of the terrorists were neutralised, while others fled into the surrounding bush with possible gunshot wounds,” the statement read.

Lt Zubairu said troops recovered one AK-47 rifle, one AK-47 magazine, eight rounds of 7.62mm special ammunition, and a pair of green camouflage uniforms abandoned by the fleeing criminals.

The Force Commander of Operation Whirl Stroke, Maj Gen Moses Gara, commended the gallantry, professionalism, and swift response of the troops, adding that the proactive posture and commitment to duty had continued to yield positive results in the fight against terrorism and banditry.