

NAF neutralises several bandits in coordinated strikes in Mariga axis of Niger State

By Kingsley Omonobi

The Nigerian Air Force (NAF) has neutralised several bandits in a coordinated air interdiction operation conducted along the Mariga axis of Niger State, following credible intelligence and surveillance reports of armed groups on the move with stolen cattle.

The precision air strikes, carried out under the ongoing intensive counter-banditry campaign, targeted bandits' movements around Yabawa, Bazana, Awallah, Dankolo, ~~Kumbashi~~, and extending

towards Kakihum, within Mariga Local Government Area.

Sources disclosed that the interdiction hit a large convoy of armed bandits who were attempting to move with a herd of stolen cattle from Ragada and neighbouring villages. The air interdiction neutralised several of the criminals, while others fled in disarray into the surrounding forests.

A resident of Ragada, who narrowly escaped from the bandits during the strike, said, "When the jet began bombing, God saved me; that was how I escaped from their hands".