

# Air Force Bombs Bandits' Hideout In Zamfara

The Nigerian Air Force said the Air Task Force (ATF) of Operation Diran Mikiya successfully neutralised armed bandits' hideout at a compound West of Tsamari in Birnin Magaji Local Government Area of Zamfara.

Air Commodore Ibikunle Daramola, NAF Director of Public Relations and Information, disclosed this in a statement on Sunday in Abuja.

He explained that the attack was conducted at dawn on December 28, following intelligence reports indicating that the compound was being used by the armed bandits as a camp from where they launch attacks on innocent civilians.

Accordingly, the ATF detailed a Nigerian Air Force (NAF) Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) aircraft, which confirmed the presence of bandits armed with high calibre weapons at the location.

"Consequently, an Alpha Jet aircraft was dispatched to strike the compound, recording direct hits on the target area and resulting in significant damage to the structures and neutralisation of some bandits.

"This was later confirmed by credible human intelligence sources," he said.

Daramola said surface troops later invaded the compound and recovered some motorcycles abandoned by the fleeing criminals.

"The ATF working in concert with surface forces and other security agencies, will continue to conduct reconnaissance and air interdiction

missions with a view to restoring normalcy to the affected states in the North-West."

## Insurgency: NAF Reactivates More Aircraft In Port Harcourt

Meanwhile, NAF says it has begun an in-house reactivation of its Mi-35P and EC-135 combat helicopters in Port Harcourt.

Air Commodore Daramola said this was in furtherance of its commitment to ensure availability of more serviceable platforms for the prosecution of the ongoing war against insurgency and other forms of criminality in the country.

He said the Chief of the Air Staff (CAS), Air Marshal Sadique Abubakar, during an operational visit to 115 Special Operations Group (115 SOG), Port Harcourt, inspected the ongoing in-house reactivation works on the Mi-35P and EC-135 helicopters.

"Upon completion in the first quarter of 2019, the reactivated aircraft will be available for deployment to enhance NAF operational efficiency in the discharge of its constitutional roles."

Daramola explained that the operational visit to 115 SOG was one of series of visits by Abubakar to NAF units across the country.

He further said the visit was to assess NAF's operational readiness in tackling emerging security challenges as well as progress of work on the reactivation of various platforms.

He said the air chief during