

Military Air Strikes Kill 82 Bandits In Katsina, Zamfara

No fewer than 82 armed bandits with very high calibre weapons were killed on Monday in separate air strikes conducted by the Nigerian military in Katsina and Zamfara states.

Major General John Enenche, Coordinator of Defence Media Operations (CDMO), who disclosed this in an operation update on Tuesday, said several of the armed bandits also escaped with diverse degrees of gunshot wounds.

He said while 67 of the armed bandits were killed in Katsina, 15 were killed in Zamfara State.

The spokesman in the update said: "No fewer than 67 bandits, armed with very high calibre weapons, including anti-aircraft (AA)

guns, have been neutralised and several others injured in air interdiction missions executed by the air component of *Operation Hadarin Daji* at Birnin Kogo Forest in Katsina State.

He said: "In the same vein, about 15 armed bandits were eliminated in air strikes conducted by the air component at Ajjah Forest in Zamfara State.

"Both air strikes were carried out on Monday, November 23, sequel to credible human intelligence (HUMINT) reports as well as aerial surveillance missions that led to the identification of the two forest hideouts, which housed scores of the armed bandits along with hundreds of rustled cattle.

"The Nigerian Air Force (NAF) fighter jets and heli-

copter gunships dispatched by the air component to attack the two locations took turns in engaging the target areas, scoring accurate hits on the caves, which are used by the armed bandits to shield themselves from air strikes."

He said the military high command commended the troops and other security agencies operating in the North West zone for their professionalism and urged them to remain resolute in order to eradicate all armed bandits.

General Enenche added that members of the public within the affected areas were also requested to promptly report any persons with suspicious injuries to the nearest security or law enforcement agency post.