

Several People Killed In Akwa Ibom Military Air Strikes

UBONG UKPONG

ABUJA

1 Scores of suspected criminals have been killed by military air strikes conducted in Akwa Ibom State in response to attacks on police formations and killing of policemen in the state.

A statement on Wednesday by Brigadier General Mohammed Yerima, Director of Army Public Relations (DAPR), said that following the new security threats springing up from Essien Udim Local Government Area of the state, a combined team of military and security agencies in the state conducted a clearance operation at Ntak Ikot Akpan in order to flush out the miscreants.

"The operation was successfully executed and resulted in the dislodgment of

the criminals while fleeing hoodlums were neutralised by the air component," Yerima said.

The statement complained that "the general security situation in Akwa Ibom State has been very peaceful until recently when the security situation around Essien Udim Local Government Area of the state became tense, occasioned by the activities of some hoodlums and criminal elements".

He added: "The miscreants exploited various avenues to acquire weapons to perpetrate their heinous crimes.

"In the past few weeks, the group has attacked various security agencies which resulted in the loss of lives and carting away of weapons.

"The last incident led to the killing of some policemen, including a CSP.

"The hoodlums contin-