

# Air Force fighter jets bomb Boko Haram

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The Air Force has renewed its bombing of suspected Boko Haram targets in Sambisa Forest in a move to stop the sect's activities, it was learnt yesterday.

Fighter jets operating as components of Operation Lafiya Dole launched four major strikes against the sect yesterday, killing many suspected terrorists and destroying many insurgents' camps.

A statement by Nigerian Air Force (NAF) spokesman Air Commodore Olatokunbo Adesanya, said a few of the terrorists were seen evacuating their casualties after the strikes.

The statement, supported by a video footage, said: "In furtherance of operations to completely defeat the Boko Haram Terrorists (BHT) Organisation, on 7 August 2017, the Nigerian Air Force (NAF) Component of Operation LAFIYA DOLE conducted an

Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) mission over Parisu in the Sambisa general area.

“During the ISR mission, a large group of Boko Haram Terrorists (BHTs) was seen converging under a tree close to a prominent zinc-roofed structure. Part of the structure was concealed by the foliage of a tree, making it a seemingly unobtrusive gathering point for the terrorists.

“A confirmatory ISR mission indicated that the structure was indeed a BHT hideout housing a large number of terrorists. Accordingly, on 8 August 2017, the Air Component detailed fighter aircraft to strike the target in succession.

“Following the first and second strikes, the building was completely destroyed and the location was strafed during the third attack. The fourth attack was re-directed to a close-by building, where BHT activity was also noticed.

“Subsequent Battle Damage Assessment revealed that the BHT hideout was completely reduced to rubble and several BHTs were killed while a few of them were seen evacuating the casualties.”

Also yesterday, the Army asked members of Boko Haram to surrender, saying: “the game is up”.

The call came as no fewer than six members of the sect were “neutralized” in an ambush by troops of the 22 Brigade Dikwa under 7 Division of Operation Lafiya Dole in conjunction with some Civilian Joint Task Force.

Army spokesman Brig.-Gen. Sani Kukasheka Usman said it was imperative for the terrorists to give up as there are no hiding place for them any more.

The statement said: “His is to call on the remnants of Boko Haram terrorists wherever they are hiding, and give up forthwith. This is because your ideology of Boko Haram is dead and no longer tenable.

“There is no reason to be suffering or fighting a lost cause. As you are aware, your leaders have abandoned you and could no longer be of any help to you. Therefore, you should all surrender to avoid dying like dogs because of the ongoing concerted military clearance operations.”

On the ambush in Dikwa, the army said: “Troops of 22 Brigade Dikwa under 7 Division of Operation LAFIA DOLE in conjunction with Civilian Joint Task Force on Monday 7th August 2017, ambushed suspected members of Boko Haram terrorists between Bulabirin and Mongole villages of Dikwa Local Government Area in Borno State.

“During an encounter, the troops neutralised six terrorists while several others sustained various bullet wounds.

“Troops also recovered six bicycles, three dane guns and one machete from the terrorists. The Nigerian Army will sustain the clearance operation until unrepentant terrorists are eliminated from the shores of Nigeria.”

Adamawa State Governor Mohammed Bindow, also yesterday, urged the military to intensify security on the Borno-Adamawa boundary to check attacks by the insurgents on Adamawa communities.