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Air Force kills insurgents in Sambisa Forest

Posted By: [Blessing Olaifa](#) On: August 21, 2018 In: [News](#), [News Update](#)



The Nigeria Air Force (NAF) yesterday said it launched air strikes on Boko Haram terrorists regrouping at the fringes of Sambisa Forest in Borno State.

The spokesman, Commodore Ibikunle Daramola, said the attacks were conducted day and night.

A statement supported with video clips of the attacks, said fleeing insurgents were also dislodged with helicopter gunships.

The statement reads: “The Air Task Force (ATF) of *Operation Lafiya Dole*, between August 10 and 18, conducted massive day and night attacks against remnants of Boko Haram terrorists and their facilities.

“The attacks, which were preceded by days of intensive Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) missions, were planned and executed based on intelligence indicating that the terrorists were moving to regroup around the fringes of Sambisa.

“The first air strike was a daytime mission executed on August 10 at a location about 4.5 Km Northwest of Arra, around the fringes of Sambisa Forest, where ISR confirmed that terrorists were regrouping to attack our troops in the general area.

“Accordingly, the ATF detailed an Alpha Jet to attack the location. Overhead the area, the Jet acquired and engaged targets, destroying parts of the settlement and neutralising several insurgents. Intelligence reports later revealed that some of those who survived converged at another location about 4.8Km West of Arra.

“Consequently, the ATF deployed Mi-35M helicopter gunships for a night attack on the new location on August 18, resulting in the death of dozens of Boko Haram terrorists.”

Troops of *Operation Whirl Stroke* (OPWS) in Benue State have killed about 21 herdsmen, Force Commander Maj.-Gen. Adeyemi Yekini said yesterday.

Gen. Yekini, who addressed reporters at the Tactical Air Command Headquarters in Makurdi, said two soldiers were injured and are receiving treatment at the Nigeria Air

Force (NAF) Base Hospital.

Operation Whirl Stroke, covering Benue, Taraba and Nasarawa States, was launched six weeks ago.

The commander explained that 15 herdsmen were killed on Saturday on the Gbajimba-Akor Tomata axis in a gun battle with troops, adding that one soldier died while two officers sustained injuries.

He said: “During the fire-fight, the Mi-35 spotted about 20 herdsmen riding motorcycles towards Nasarawa State.

“Fifteen of them on motorcycles were neutralised with rocket fire from the Mi-35 while others escaped with injuries.

“Troops lost one soldier while two others sustained injuries and are responding to treatment at NAF Base Hospital.”

Gen. Yekini hinted that six other herdsmen were killed in Guma on August 4 when troops encountered militia men moving with cattle between Benue and Nasarawa.

According to him, the troops recovered AK-47 rifle; two AK-47 magazines; 60 rounds of 7.62mm special ammunition and five motorcycles.

The air chief hinted that troops, on Sunday, raided Tse Akwaza camp belonging to Benue notorious gang leader Terwase Akwaza (aka Gana), using air strikes, and neutralised key buildings before troops moved in for a mop-up.

According to him, nothing significant was found, and it was not clear whether or not Gana was killed in the assault.

He said: “It was not clear if Gana was killed in the assault, but trail of blood seen in the building suggests he might have been hit.

“A motorcycle usually used by Gana was also damaged and efforts are on to confirm if Gana was killed in the attack, and if not, we will still go after him.”

Assorted automatic weapons and large ammunition have been recovered from the militia since the operation began six weeks ago.

He added: “Seven automatic weapons have been recovered from armed militia men in the last six weeks alone – four in Nasarawa and three in Benue State.

“In all, the OPWS has recovered 40 weapons, 1,100 rounds of ammunition, while 60 suspects have been arrested since inception. All the suspects have been handed over to the DSS and police in Benue, Nasarawa and Taraba States, depending on where they were arrested and the nature of their offences.”



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