

Military airstrikes hit terrorists' camp, kill scores in Borno

Troops arrest 7 pirates, impound smuggled rice, destroy oil thieves' camp in S/South

THE Defence Headquarters says the Air Task Force of **Operation Lafiya Dole** destroyed a Boko Haram camp in Borno State, killing several terrorists in massive air strikes on July 15, the **News Agency of Nigeria (NAN)** has reported.

The Coordinator, Defence Media Operations (DMO), Major-General John Enenche, in a statement on Thursday, said the air raid took place at Ngwuri Gana along the Gulumba Gana-Kumshe axis of the state.

Enenche said the air operation was in continuation of the sustained offensive against terrorist elements in the North-East.

He said the operation was carried out following intelligence reports indicating that the settlement was one of the locations from where terrorists launched attacks against troops' positions and villages around the area.

According to him, aerial surveillance missions also confirmed the heavy presence of a large number of terrorists in the settlement, some of whom were seen slinging their rifles.

"The Air Task Force, therefore, launched coordinated attacks on the various targets within the settlement, employing an enhanced force package of Nigerian Air Force (NAF) fighter jets and helicopter gunships.

"The attack aircraft took turns in engaging the designated locations within the settlement, scoring devastating hits which led to the destruction of several structures, including the terrorists' communication centres," Major-General Enenche said.

In a related development, the Defence Headquarters also said the military had arrested seven suspected sea pirates, impounded bags of smuggled rice and destroyed oil thieves' camp in the Niger-

Delta region in the last one week.

Enenche, who disclosed this on Thursday in Abuja while giving an update on armed forces operations between July 9 and 16, said troops of 3 Battalion arrested the seven suspected pirates at Snake Creek in Warri South-West Local Government Area of Delta.

"The suspects, who claimed to be members of Ogie-ljoh Coastal Watch, were allegedly extorting money and other valuables from the locals within the creek.

"Items recovered from them are two double-barreled guns, one pump-action gun, 12 live cartridges and six handsets," he said.

Enenche also said the Nigerian Navy Ship (Jubilee) also discovered and destroyed a sea robbers' camp containing 80,000 litres of illegally refined AGO at Otoyoye in Eastern Obolo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State.

"Also, troops of 146 Battalion and Forward Operating Base Bonny raided militants' hideouts at Ijawkiri in Bonny Local Government Area of Rivers.

"During the raid, troops recovered a pistol loaded with six rounds of 9mm ammunition, 17 phones, one Walkie Talkie and speedboat mounted with a 75HP engine," he said.

He said that in another development, **Operation Calm Waters and Operation Swift Response** within this period impounded 112 units of 50 kg bags of foreign parboiled rice.

"These operations were conducted with the combined teams of **Operation Swift Response** and Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) Strike Force.

These operations are targeted at reducing the smuggling of contraband into the country," he said.