

Troops neutralise scores of bandits, destroy camp in Zamfara

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THE military high command on Saturday said that troops of the Air Component of *Operation Hadarin Daji* had destroyed another camp belonging to bandits under the leadership of 'Dangote' in Doumborou forest area of Zamfara State.

This was contained in a statement made available to

newsmen in Abuja by the coordinator, Defence Media Operations (DMO), Major-General John Enenche.

Major-General Enenche explained that the air strikes, which also resulted in the killing of several bandits, were executed on Thursday after Human Intelligence (HUMINT) reports, as well as series of confirmatory aerial surveillance missions estab-

lished that members of the gang, along with their logistic items, motorcycles and hundreds of rustled livestock, had relocated from their erstwhile position to a new area by a rocky high ground within the forest.

He said: "The Air Component, therefore, dispatched an enhanced force package of Nigerian Air Force (NAF) fighter jets and helicopter gunships

to attack the location.

"The attack aircraft engaged the target area, scoring accurate hits and taking out some of the bandits. Many others who were seen trying to flee the location in disarray were mopped-up in follow-on attacks."

While commending the Air Component of Operation Hadarin Daji for their professionalism, the Chief of the

Air Staff (CAS), Air Marshal Sadique Abubakar, urged them to remain resolute in the conduct of air strikes while continuing to provide close air support for ongoing ground operations in order to eradicate all bandits, thus accomplishing the directives of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) to restore normalcy in the North-West and North-Central zones.