

Air strikes kill 37 terrorists as military intensifies onslaught in North-East

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Abuja

THE military high command on Monday said that joint troops of **Operation Hadin Kai** have killed over 37 Boko Haram/Islamic State in West Africa Province (ISWAP) terrorists in the North-East in renewed efforts to end insurgent activities in the country.

This was contained in a statement made available to newsmen in Abuja by the Director of Army Public Relations, Brigadier-General Onyema Nwachukwu.

Nwachukwu said the operations were executed on Saturday as troops continued to intensify their onslaught on terrorists' enclaves in the zone.

The Nigerian Army spokesperson said the troops observed the movement of six

gun trucks within Sambisa forest general area, which were subsequently located at a settlement near Yuwe.

He said the gun trucks later moved to a remote location where they were joined by other terrorist elements in what seemed like a convergence for a meeting.

According to him, "over 50 Boko Haram/ ISWAP fighters were observed to have gathered at the meeting.

"Having identified the

terrorists' hideout, the Air Component of **Operation Hadin Kai** immediately dispatched two aircraft to conduct air interdiction on the location.

"The strikes, which were carried out under the cover of darkness, were successful and devastating, as battle damage assessment corroborated by local sources revealed that over 37 Boko Haram/ISWAP terrorists were neutralised, while

several of them reportedly suffered varying degrees of injury."

He added that after the aircraft retreated to base following the mission, the combat aircrew located another set of four gun trucks about six kilometers South-West of Bama.

"The aircrew immediately relayed the coordinates of the location of the gun trucks to troops of the land component at Bama, who

promptly engaged the location with artillery fire bombardment, neutralising the insurgents' gun trucks.

"The successful joint operations conducted by both the air and land components, with the support of other security agencies under **Operation Hadin Kai**, has yet again underscored the importance of synergy and cooperation in the fight against terrorism and insurgency."