

NAF airstrikes kill terrorists in Kastina, Zamfara

Troops repel bandits' attack in Sokoto

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THE Nigerian Air Force (NAF) high command on Thursday said air strikes conducted by the air component of Operation Hadarin Daji (OPHD) on terrorists' enclaves in Safana Local Government Area of Kastina State resulted in the death of several bandits.

This was contained in a statement made available to newsmen in Abuja by spokesperson for NAF, Air Vice Marshal Edward Gabkwet.

The statement explained that the airstrikes, carried out on March 5, were executed at the stronghold of terrorist leader, Maudi Maudi and several other terrorist kingpins situated south of Tsaskiya in Safana Local Government Area.

It pointed out that the strikes were prompted by intelligence surveillance and reconnaissance operations conducted in the targeted vicinity where

clusters of huts were observed amid rocky terrain.

It further added that the surveillance also confirmed substantial presence of armed terrorists loitering among the huts, after which the authorisation to strike was obtained.

"A post-strike battle damage assessment revealed the targeted location engulfed in flames, with few survivors observed fleeing to safety.

"Though several terrorists were eliminated, it remains unconfirmed if Maudi Maudi was among those neutralised."

The statement added that similar strikes were also carried out on March 6 at the stronghold of terrorist kingpin, Alhaji Na-Shama, situated to the East of Ussu village within the Nasarawar Mailayi District in Birnin Magaji Local Government Area of Zamfara State.

According to it, "reliable human intelligence has confirmed the neutralisation of

several of Na-Shama's associates and the total obliteration of his camp and logistics. It is yet to be confirmed if Na-Shama was among the victims.

"The precision strikes by NAF aircraft have continued to give the expected outcomes with the elimination of several terrorists and the destruction of their means of mobility.

"These efforts served to protect civilian lives as well as disrupt terrorists' logistics support bases and motorcycles."

In another development, the Nigerian Army (NA) high command on Thursday said its troops deployed to counter insurgency in the North-West zone have repelled terrorists' attack on Damba Dikko village, a community in Illela Local Government Area of Sokoto State.

This was contained in a statement made available to newsmen in Abuja by the Director of Army Public Rela-

tions, Major-General Onyema Nwachukwu.

The statement said the terrorists had, on Wednesday, March 6, stormed the village to extort levies from villagers.

"Responding to a distress call, vigilant troops swiftly stormed the village and engaged the insurgents in a gun duel, neutralising two of them and rescuing two villagers held hostage.

"The rescued villagers who suffered minor injuries have been given medical attention by Nigerian Army paramedics," the statement said.

It further added that on the same day, troops, during a rescue operation, released four kidnapped victims in Edo State.

"The troops also apprehended one of the kidnappers, who is currently undergoing preliminary investigation and will be handed over to the appropriate prosecuting agency," it added.