

# NAF, Nigerien air force bomb terrorists' hideouts in Borno

## Troops kill bandits in multiple operations in Zamfara, Katsina

From Jacob Segun Olatunji and Ishola Michael

**T**HE Air Component of Operation Hadin Kai (OPHK) and the Nigerien Air Force, on Tuesday, eliminated scores of terrorists and destroyed their hideouts in Damasak and Mobbar Local Government Areas of Borno State.

Director, Public Relations and Information of NAF, Edward Gabkwet, who made this known in a statement on Wednesday in Abuja, said the interdiction were under the Multi-

National Joint Task Force (MNJTF).

Gabkwet said the terrorists had attempted to attack troops of Sector 4 of the MNJTF at Lada, a border town between Niger Republic and Nigeria, and subsequently fled across the border into Nigeria.

He said the fleeing terrorists, who were on eight motorcycles, were later tracked to two locations in Zarri village, about 28 kilometres east of Damasak and Mala Alide in Mobbar areas of Borno.

According to him, they were observed hibernating in

the village with their motorcycles hidden under trees.

"Subsequently, airstrikes from the Air Component of OPHK and the Nigerien Air Force, under the watchful eye of Niger's Intelligence Surveillance Reconnaissance (ISR) aircraft, struck the terrorists' locations.

"Real-time ISR footage later confirmed numerous terrorists were eliminated and several structures within the targeted areas destroyed.

"Collaborative efforts of this nature have continued to yield positive outcomes on both sides of the border.

"It has also led to the reduction in terrorism and other forms of cross-border crimes perpetrated by criminals crisis-crossing the borders to evade justice."

In another development, in a series of responses to terrorists' attacks, troops deployed for counter-terrorism operations in Zamfara and Katsina states have successfully neutralised terrorists who attempted to abduct some civilians and rescued the kidnap victims.

Reports have it that in Zurmi Local Government Area of Zamfara, troops responded to a distress call on the attack on some farmers

by terrorists on the Gidan Shaho road.

The terrorists, on sighting troops, abandoned the kidnap victims and fled.

Accordingly, the troops rescued the victims, who had been shot and promptly evacuated them to the hospital for medical attention.

In a separate incident, troops responded to a kidnap incident on the Fangaltama-Mayanchi road in Talata Mafara Local Government Area of Zamfara.

The troops trailed and engaged the bandits, neutralised two of them, while others fled.

The troops rescued five commuters and recovered two AK-47 rifles, eight rounds of 7.62mm (Special) ammunition and two mobile phones from the terrorists.

In another joint clearance operation with the Katsina State Civilian Joint Task Force, security forces conducted a successful offensive, targeting suspected terrorists' hideouts at Shawu, Dugun Fakwu, and Tafki Villages in Faskari Local Government Area of the state.

Troops destroyed the enclaves and recovered a fabricated gun and other weapons.

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