NAF jets kill ISWAP fighters in Lake Chad

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Two Alpha Jets of the Nigerian Air Force, deployed to conduct bombings on the fringes of the Lake Chad in Borno State to eliminate the Islamic State West African Province fighters, carried out a round of strikes on Saturday.

The strikes followed revelation by Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance aircraft that the terrorists had relocated to the area.

In May, 2019, the air force had bombed Tumbun Hamma area also on the fringes of the Lake Chad and killed many of the insurgents.

Our correspondent learnt that the ISWAP fighters used the Bakassi location as a base to regroup with surviving terrorists and their recruits for more missions.

The air force said the deployment of the two Alpha Jets to the region was part of Operation Green Sweep, a subset of Operation Lafiya Dole, which was being carried out by the Air Task Force to contain the insurgency in the North-East.

The NAF Director of Public Relations and Information, Air Commodore Ibikunle Daramola, said in a statement on Sunday the air force would continue to operate in concert with surface forces and sustain the efforts to completely degrade terrorists in the region.

He said, "The Air Task Force of Operation Lafiya Dole has destroyed additional terrorists' structures and killed some ISWAP fighters at Bakassi on the fringes of Lake Chad in Borno State in an air strike conducted on Saturday.

"The attack was executed as a follow-up to air raids conducted at the same location, after intelligence reports indicated that the ISWAP elements, having suffered heavy casualties during the attack, had relocated surviving fighters and logistics supplies to another part of the settlement.

"The ATF therefore dispatched two Alpha Jets to attack the location, with accurate hits on the identified structures, which were engulfed in flames. Several terrorists were also neutralised as a result of the strike."