

not guilty to the charges on

Military kills 35 terrorists, captures 16 Boko Haram commanders

Olaleye Aluko, Abuja

THE Nigerian Air Force fighter aircraft has bombed about 35 Islamic State West African Province terrorists at a location in Bukar Meram area by the Lake Chad in northern Borno State.

This is just as troops of the Nigerian Army attached to Operation Lafiya Dole also arrested 16 Boko Haram commanders in Pulka, Gwoza Local Government Area of Borno State.

The military said on Tuesday that the arrested Boko Haram leaders included two suspects on the army's wanted list.

According to the air force, the 35 ISWAP terrorists were bombed on Monday after "credible intelligence reports indicated that they used the Bukar Meram location to provide logistics support to

the terrorists, "using fishing activities as a cover."

NAF's Director of Public Relations and Information, Air Commodore Ibikunle Daramola, said in a release that the operation was executed by the Air Task Force of Operation Lafiya Dole.

He said, "In continuation of the sustained onslaught against terrorist elements in the North-East, the ATF has neutralised several ISWAP fighters on the fringes of the Lake Chad. Before the strike, over 35 terrorists were observed within the area of interest.

"The attack aircraft subsequently engaged the location in successive passes recording accurate hits on the target area, leading to the neutralisation of several ISWAP fighters as well as the destruction of some of the structures."

above N1m for an individual

Speaking on the arrest of 16 Boko Haram commanders, the Nigerian Army Operations Media Coordinator, Col. Aminu Iliyasu, said the troops of 26 Task Force Brigade and 21 Special Armoured Brigade captured the terrorist leaders on Sunday.

Iliyasu, in a release, stated, "The operation led to the arrest of 16 active Boko Haram members. Preliminary investigation reveals that some of the arrested suspects participated in the heinous attack on Pulka and Gwoza including the barbaric execution of some Nigeria Police personnel sometime ago.

"Two of the arrested Boko Haram criminals have been on the Nigerian Army's most wanted Boko Haram list earlier published on Serials 41 and 90. The arrested suspects include Lawan Garliga and Bayaga Manye."