

# news

## Terror kingpins, 100 militants killed in Borno — NAF

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**T**HE Nigerian Air Force has said two terrorist kingpins were killed during air strikes carried out by the air component of Operation Hadin Kai at the Bama Local Government Area of Borno State.

The Air Force gave the names of the terrorist kingpins as Khaidis Tukur and Bakura Jega, adding that over 100 terrorists were also killed during the air raid.

According to a statement on Sunday by the Director of Public Relations and Information, Air Commodore Edward Gabkwet, the air raid was conducted after it was discovered that the commanders had placed their foot soldiers at strategic positions in the area.

The statement was titled "Terrorist kingpins Khaidis Abba Tukur, Bakura Jega, others confirmed neutralised in air strikes as COAS and CAS fet troops in Maiduguri".

It partly read, "Following an airstrike conducted by the Air Component of Operation Hadin Kai on December 20, 2022 at Mantari in Gezuwa area of Bama Local Government Area of Borno State, it has now been confirmed that several terrorists including Khaidis Abbah Tukur, Maimusari, Bakura Jega and several others were eliminated in the strike. The information was received just as the Chief of Army Staff, Lieutenant General Faruk Yahaya, and the Chief of Air Staff, Air Marshal Oladayo Amao, arrived in Maiduguri earlier today, December 25, 2022, to celebrate the Yuletide with frontline troops.

"The air strike was authorised after it was discovered that a Boko Haram terrorist commander simply known as Ikirima, had stationed his fighters and gun trucks at Mantari village, alongside other terrorists from other locations who had converged at the same location arrived with motorcycles and bicycles.

"Subsequently, the authorisation for an air strike was given leading to the elimination of several of the terrorists and structures in the area. After the first wave of air strikes, some surviving terrorists found their way back to the same location to evacuate the bodies of those neutralised in the air strike. This thus provided an opportunity for a follow-up strike on the same location which has been confirmed very successful as over 100 terrorists were neutralised with dozens said to be in critical condition."