22nd April 2020 *in*

LES) This picture taken on April 30, 2013 shows Nigerian troops patrolling in the streets of the remote northeast town of Baga, Borno State. Nigeria's military se n May 16, 2013 that it was ready to launch air strikes against Boko Haram Islamists as several thousand troops moved to the remote northeast to retake territe eized by the insurgents. A force of "several thousand" soldiers along with fighter jets and helicopter gunships have been deployed for the offensive in Borno, Yo and Adamawa state, he added. AFP PHOTO/PIUS UTOMI EKPEI/IUS UTOMI EKPEI/AFP/Getty Imag

SHARES VIEWS

Molly Kilete, Abuja

The Defence Headquarters (DHQ) said that the Air Component of Operation Gama Aiki, set up to tackle armed banditry, has killed scores of bandits terrorizing residents of Maguga in Rafi Local Government Area of Niger State.

Coordinator, Defence Media Operations, Major General John Enenche, who made this known in a statement, said: "The Air Component of Operation Gama Aiki has neutralized several armed bandits at Maguga in Rafi Local Government Area of Niger State.

"The operation, which was conducted in support of Operation Thunder Strike, was executed on April 19, 2020 sequel to reports that some armed bandits, clad in black attire, had been sighted along with a large herd of rustled cattle in the area.

"Accordingly, the Air Component scrambled its aircraft to attack the location.

"Upon sighting the approaching attack aircraft, the armed bandits scampered to conceal themselves under nearby shrubs but were engaged with cannon fire, which led to the neutralization of several of them.

"The Armed Forces of Nigeria wishes to thank all Nigerians for their support, and encourages the general public to continue providing useful information that would facilitate its operations to restore peace and security to all affected parts of the country."