

NAF hits terrorists bases in Borno, Niger, kill scores

From **Molly Kilete**, Abuja

THE Nigerian Air Force (NAF) said its Air Components of Operations Hadin Kai and Whirl Punch in the North East and North Central have killed scores of terrorists in airstrikes conducted in Borno and Niger states.

NAF Director, Public Relations and Information, Air Vice Marshal Edward Gabkwet, who made the disclosure, said the air components had continued to obliterate terrorists and destroy their structures, equipment and mobility, thus, limiting their ability to attack ground troops and innocent Nigerians like they used to.

Gabkwet, in a statement, said: "At Chinene, a location tucked inside the Mandara mountain area, terrorists were, on May 3, 2024, observed to be emanating from various locations and assembling, probably for a meeting. Within the same location, seven-gun trucks were also observed parked under trees.

"Accordingly, air interdiction was authorised and conducted over the assembly area and tree coverings to decimate the terrorists and destroy their weapons and mobility.

After the strike, battle damage assessment footage as feed-back received later revealed that the strikes were successful as several terrorists were neutralised and logistics destroyed.

"Similar airstrikes were conducted the same day, May 3, 2024, when the air component

of Operation Whirl Punch conducted pre-emptive air strikes over terrorists hibernating in Allawa village, near Shiroro in Niger State.

The mission was conducted following credible intelligence, which had revealed the migration of terrorists into the village after the mass exit of locals for fear of their safety.

These terrorists had, on May 1, 2024, stormed the deserted Allawa community in Shiroro

Local Government Area (LGA) and torched the Central Primary School. In the evening of the same day, another group of terrorists also arrived at the location, wielding AK-47/49 rifles after invading Galapai village in Galadima Kogo District of the same LGA.

"Accordingly, to prevent further occupation as well as pursue the terrorists from the location, the air component scrambled a formation of its

platforms to attack the location. On arrival at the location, several terrorists were sighted and engaged effectively.

Furthermore, following credible intelligence as well as detailed aerial observation, which confirmed the presence of their cache of arms hidden inside Allawa Forest, the air component further carried out air strikes at the location.

(Continued on www.sunnewsonline)

Former CDS, Olonisakin, hails Nigerian Military School at 70

FORMER Chief of Defence Staff, Gen. Abayomi Gabriel Olonisakin (CFR), was among a retinue of alumni of the Nigerian Military School at commencement of activities to mark the school's 70th anniversary celebrations, yesterday.

Speaking at the end of a 12km route march to mark the commencement of activities to celebrate the milestone, Gen. Olonisakin, who is a member of the NMS 1973 set, said the school has, indeed, played its part in helping to keep Nigeria united.

"The Nigerian Military School Zaria nurtured many of us and contributed to who we are today. Indeed, the school has lost quite a number of its alumni in providing security for the country and that is important to note. As it marks 70 years, it can be said that the school has gone a long way in meeting its mandate."

The Nigerian Military

School, Zaria is Nigeria's premier military secondary school. Established on May 20, 1954, in its 70 years of existence, it has trained young Nigerians from all states of the country, who have gone on to occupy strategic leadership positions in the country, occupied critical roles in the military and become renowned leaders in the private sector.

Gen. Olonisakin called on all alumni to rise to the task of supporting the ex-boys association. "Being part of an association is good. I want to encourage those of us who are ex-boys to continue to be part of the celebrations and contribute all that we can, to make it worthwhile," he said.

Also present at the event was a member of the 1958 set, Col. John Okoli (retd).

"NMS always holds fond memories for me, even after all these years. It was the beginning of our different journeys.

I am always excited to be a part of any gathering of ex-boys. NMS created a bond among its alumni that transcends ethnicity or religion and even generations. You learned that from NMS. Ever since the first day, I attended one of the association's events seven years ago, I always feel the same excitement," Col. Okoli said.

Among participants of the 12km route march were ex-Junior Airmen and Airwomen of the Airforce Military Schools, ex-students of the Nigeria Navy Secondary School and old students of Unity schools based in the FCT.

Notable alumni of NMS include the likes of late Maj. Gen. Tunde Idiagbon; former Senate president, David Mark; former SGF, Babachir Lawal; former governor of Niger State, Abubakar Sani Bello; current chairman, NDLEA, Brig. Gen. Buba Marwa (retd) and countless others.

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