

# Airstrikes kill scores of B'Haram members –NAF

Emmanuel Onani

ABUJA

2 Nigerian Air Force (NAF) said its troops had killed scores of suspected Boko Haram Terrorists (BHTs) in airstrikes within the Sambisa Forest general area of Borno State.

The NAF added that many operational vehicles of the terrorists, sighted in a workshop within the forest, were destroyed.

The NAF Director of Public Relations and Information (DOPRI), Air Commodore Ibikunle Daramola, made the disclosure in a statement yesterday.

Daramola said the April 24 air operation followed outcome of an Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) mission.

The DOPRI added that an Alpha jet was scrambled for the purpose of taking out threats.

He said: "The Air Task Force (ATF) of Operation Lafiya Dole has destroyed some vehicles and neutralised some Boko Haram Terrorists (BHTs) at a suspected vehicle workshop in Sambisa Forest, Borno State.

"The operation was conducted on 24 April 2019, after a Nigerian Air Force (NAF) Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) platform on a routine mission observed significant activities as well as some serviceable vehicles hidden under some trees at a previously abandoned BHT vehicle workshop.

"Accordingly, the ATF scrambled an Alpha Jet to attack the location. Overhead the target area, some of the BHT fighters were

seen attempting to flee the location but were taken out by the Alpha Jet's successful strikes, which also caused the destruction of two vehicles and other equipment at the workshop.

"The NAF, operating in concert with surface forces, will sustain its operations to completely degrade the terrorists in the North-East."

Earlier, Daramola had reported the killing of at least 10 suspected bandits within Sububu Forest area in Zamfara State.

He said: "The Air Task Force (ATF) for Operation DIRAN MIKIYA has neutralised no fewer than 10 bandits at Sububu Forest area in Zamfara State. This was achieved on 22 April 2019, while the ATF was responding to a request for close air support by ground troops of Sector 7 Area of Responsibility of Operation SHARAN DAJI, who had come into contact with bandits in Shinkafi Local Government Area.

"Accordingly, the ATF dispatched two Alpha Jets and an attack helicopter to provide the needed support and also conduct armed reconnaissance over identified locations in Shinkafi Local Government Area as well as Sububu and Dumburum forests and environs.

"In Sububu Forest, one of the Alpha Jets spotted a group of bandits, who fired at the aircraft with their rifles, while running for cover. The Alpha Jet engaged the bandits, neutralising no fewer than 10 of them while others escaped with injuries.

"The NAF, working in consonance with surface forces and other security agencies, will sustain its operations to flush the bandits out of the North-West of the country."