

Air Strikes Kill Scores of Insurgents in Borno, Says Military

Kingsley Nwezeh in Abuja and
Michael Olugbode in Maiduguri

The Nigerian Air Force (NAF) yesterday resumed air strikes on terrorist positions in Borno State, killing scores of insurgents in Bura Kolege on the fringes of Sambisa Forest.

The air strikes came as the Nigerian Army sought to block revenue streams of the Boko Haram terrorist group derived from fishing in Lake Chad.

Meanwhile, the Borno State government said on Saturday that Boko Haram insurgents set ablaze 73 houses and 28 shops in Thursday's attack on three Borno villages.

The air strikes conducted

by two NAF Alpha jets killed many insurgents in the area. The bombings followed intelligence reports.

An update on the ongoing war against insurgency provided by NAF spokesman, Air Commodore Ibikunle Daramola, said the bombardment of terrorist hideouts killed many Boko Haram fighters.

Daramola stated, "Scores of Boko Haram Terrorists (BHTs) have been neutralised and their hideout destroyed at Bura Kolege on the fringes of the Sambisa Forest in Borno State.

"This was achieved yesterday in devastating air strikes conducted by the Air Task

Force (ATF) of Operation Lafiya Dole as part of missions in the ongoing Operation Green Sweep 3.

"The target was designated for attack based on credible intelligence reports, which were further corroborated by series of Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) missions, that established the settlement as a major hub of BHT activities."

Daramola added that following the intelligence reports, "The ATF therefore detailed two Alpha Jets to attack the target area. The air strikes were synchronised for maximum effect, recording devastating hits

on the BHT hideout and killing several of their fighters, as captured in the Battle Damage Assessment (BDA) footage.

"The NAF, operating in concert with surface forces, will sustain its operations against the terrorists in the North-east."

As part of the ongoing war against insurgency, the Nigerian Army said it was trying to block Boko Haram revenue streams from fishing. Speaking in Maiduguri, Theatre Commander of Operation Lafiya Dole, Major-General Olusegun Adeniyi, said Boko Haram was running a fishing economy to fund terrorist activities in the North-east.