

Air Force kills Zamfara bandits in air attack

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THE Nigerian Air Force, Friday, said its newly deployed combat aircraft in Zamfara State have recorded huge success by killing several armed bandits in the state in the last three days.



Nigerian Air Force helicopter

The new Director of Public Relations and Information, Air Commodore Ibikunle Daramola, in a statement, said the aircraft deployed in the Operation Diran Mikiya, neutralized several armed bandits during air attacks near Mashema Village and at another location 4km Southeast of Yanmari, both in Zamfara State.

The statement said: "On 1 August 2018, ground troops, while on clearance operations near Mashema, came in contact with a group of armed bandits at a location West of Mashema Village and therefore requested for air support.

"Accordingly, a NAF Alpha Jet aircraft from Katsina and an Mi-35M from Gusau were scrambled. In close coordination with troops on the ground, the combat aircraft engaged the bandits' location with rockets and cannons neutralizing several of them and causing a few survivors to scamper in different directions.

"The 2 aircraft subsequently pursued the fleeing bandits and thereafter neutralized them in follow-up attacks."

"Similarly, while on armed reconnaissance on 2 August 2018, a NAF combat helicopter located over twenty armed bandits dressed in black attire with stolen cattle in their custody, in an open field near Yankari and Hayin Alhaji villages, "it added.

The statement continued thus: "The bandits, a few of whom mounted motorcycles, began to disperse on hearing the sound of the helicopter but were engaged by the helicopters' machine guns.

"Several armed bandits were neutralized in the air attack while a few survivors, seen fleeing the location, were taken out in subsequent follow-up attacks."

It will be recalled that Operation Mikiya, which commenced on 31 July 2018, is an intensive air operation aimed at locating and neutralizing armed bandits and other criminal elements in the Northwest with a view to restoring normalcy in the affected areas.