

# Military neutralizes several bandits in Kaduna forests

By Ibrahim Hassan Wuyo

**K**ADUNA—MILITARY fighter jets have neutralized scores of armed bandits on motorcycles in the forests around the Gidan Sule community.

The Commissioner, Ministry of Internal Security and Home Affairs, Kaduna State, Samuel Aruwan told journalists in Kaduna yesterday that the bandits scampered for cover as they were engaged by the fighter jets.

Aruwan said troops under the auspices of Operation Thunder Strike on Saturday conducted joint ground and air patrols on Chikwale village, along the Polewire-Mangoro-Sarkin Pawa road, Chikun local government area.

He said "These patrols followed credible reports of bandits' movement from a neighboring state, towards Akilbu in Kachia local government area. According to the operational feed-

back to the Kaduna State Government, no contact was made initially by the ground troops.

"The air component however conducted further armed reconnaissance into the forest, and scores of armed bandits were sighted on motorcycles around Gidan Sule. The bandits scampered for cover as they were engaged by the fighter jet crew. The fighter jets conducted further missions in quick succession, as the bandits were tracked accordingly. When they eventually regrouped to continue their movement, they were effectively engaged and neutralized by the fighter jets around the inter-state boundary"

The commissioner said Governor Nasir El-Rufai had expressed satisfaction at the report, and thanked the troops for their relentless tracking of the criminals during the mission, adding "aggressive ground and air patrols are set to continue in the general area."