

Using Tucano jets, military wipes out 63 terrorists in Sambisa forest, Kaduna

By Kingsley Omonobi

ABUJA—THE air component of Operation Hadin Kai has killed no fewer than 49 Boko Haram terrorists in Sambisa forest in Borno, deploying two Tucano jets.

This is even as the air component of Operation Whirl Punch in continuation of intensive air operations, killed 14 terrorists in their hideouts at Alhaji Isiaka location and Kuduru in Igabi Local Government Area of Kaduna State, bringing the total eliminated to 63. Both operations took place on August 30.

Sources said the multiple airstrikes were conducted by the Air Task Force, ATF, on August 30 and 31, 2022, at the terrorists camps of Gargash, Minna and Gazuwa, in Bama Local Government Area of Borno State.

A source said the air strikes targeted a moving truck of the terrorists at Gargash, killing all occupants on August 30, 2022.

The source added that the combat aircraft took another turn attacking targets at another location given as Minna, scoring crucial hits on the hideouts, leading to the neutralisation of several Boko Haram fighters, while others escaped with bullet wounds.

"On August 31, another air strike was conducted in Gazuwa after intelligence surveillance revealed large presence of the fighters who were engaging in some sort of transactions.

"The ATF, therefore, detailed its fighter jets to attack the two locations, killing scores of the terrorists and destroying their equipment, some of which were seen engulfed in flames," he said.

Counter insurgency expert and security analyst in the Lake Chad, Zagazola Makama, who confirmed the onslaught, noted that about 29 terrorists were neutralised in Gazuwa, one truck with four fighters killed in Gargash, while 16 other fighters met their Waterloo in Minna.

The source vowed that the Nigerian Air Force, operating in concert with surface forces, would sustain their offensives against the terrorists in the North-East.

Military air strikes kill 14

terrorists in Kaduna

Similarly, the air component of Operation Whirl Punch in continuation of its intensive air operations, on August 30, 2022, neutralised 14 terrorists while conducting air interdiction missions against identified terrorists hideouts at Alhaji Isiaka location and Kuduru in Igabi Local Government Area of Kaduna State.

The strikes, as revealed by

reliable sources, were successful as the terrorists were eliminated, while several others sustained injuries.

Sources said similar strikes were also undertaken at Udawa, along Kaduna-Birnin Gwari Road in Kaduna State after receiving intelligence report on terrorists activities and cow rustling in the area.

A source said: "On receipt of the distress call, NAF aircraft were immediately scrambled to the location where they

intercepted and neutralized several terrorists on bikes guiding the rustled herds of cattle.

"Feedback from local sources and own troops' deployment around the area, revealed that the terrorists suffered heavy casualties from the airstrikes." In the Northeast, strikes were also carried out same day at Amchile and Gargash, both terrorist locations, east of Maiduguri.

Subsidy: House of Reps begins fuel consumption assessment

CALABAR—THE House of Representatives Ad-hoc Committee on Fuel Consumption has begun the assessment of the volume of petroleum products being consumed in the country daily, the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports.

Chairman of the Committee, Uzoma Abonta, led other members of the committee on an oversight visit to tank farms in Calabar.

The lawmakers were conducted round the farms by Mr George Ene-Ita, Regional Coordinator, Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority, South South Regional Office, Calabar.

Abonta said in view of the current debate on whether fuel subsidy should be removed or not, the House of Representatives set up the committee to ascertain the product consumption in the

country.

According to him, the report of the committee will be used by the House as an indicator to perfect the issues surrounding the subsidy.

He said: "We are trying to find out the volume of product being consumed in the country daily. This report will be used by the House of Representatives as an indicator to perfect other issues.

"Subsidy has become a topical issue that has bedevilled Nigeria for a long while and you cannot get or calculate subsidy without knowing the actual volume.

"At the end of the exercise, if we get it right, the House of Representative will be in a better position to direct or properly place this issue of subsidy or to do otherwise.

"From what the Nigeria Customs Service had told us about products getting into our neighbouring countries, if that is true, then it is not part of what we

claim we consume."

He noted that part of the committee's mandate was also to find out the exact volume of product brought into the country.

Abonta added: "For now, we are on a mission to find out the volume of product been brought into the country and in doing that, we need to take a comparative and quantitative data from all the depots.

"After that, we can then analyse our consumption on a monthly or yearly basis; then we can place it side by side with the subsidy paid out.

"There has been so much controversy on the issue of subsidy; especially on who paid what, who got what and the issue of value."

Some of the tank farms visited included, Northwest Petroleum, Ammasco Petrochemicals Company, Mainland Oil and Gas, Alkanes, Sobaz, Ibafor and Blokk.

New UK law mandates foreigners to declare acquired property

THE United Kingdom has mandated foreigners or overseas entities that own land or property to declare beneficial owners and/or managing officers.

The law, entitled 'Economic Crime (Transparency and Enforcement) Act 2022' established the new 'Register of Overseas Entities', held by the UK's Companies House.

The law, which took effect on August 1, 2022, also made provisions for "severe sanctions" for those who do not comply, including restrictions on buying, selling, transferring, leasing or

charging their land or property in the UK.

The law requires entities who wants to buy, sell or transfer property or land in the UK to register with the Companies House and declare who their registrable beneficial owners or managing officers are.

The law also required overseas entities who already owned or leased land or property in the UK to register with Companies House and disclose registrable beneficial owners or managing officers by January 31, 2023.

"This applies to overseas entities who bought property or land on

or after: 1 January 1999 in England and Wales, 8 December 2014 in Scotland," the UK government said.

"Overseas entities only need to register property or land bought in Northern Ireland on or after 1 August 2022," the UK government stated.

It added that entities that disposed of property or land after February 28, 2022, would need to give details of those dispositions.

The development comes almost a year after the Pandora Papers exposed how world leaders, politicians and billionaires use shell companies to move wealth offshore, anonymously buy real estate or luxury goods and avoid paying huge sums of tax revenue.