

# NAF air strikes kill scores of terrorists in Niger

By: Kingsley Omonobi

**F**OLLOWING several terrorists attacks on villages, communities and military locations in Niger State, the Air Component of Operation Whirl Punch on Saturday targeted terrorists' hideouts in Shiroro Local Government Area of the state, killing scores of the terrorists and destroying their hideouts and camps.

Similarly, the Air Component of Operation Delta Safe conducted air strikes against economic saboteurs in the Niger Delta, destroying illegal refining sites and large Cotonou boats involved in illegal oil bunkering/economic sabotage activities.

Air Vice Marshal Edward Gabkwet, Director of NAF Public Relations and Information in a statement in Abuja, yesterday, said: "Air strikes carried out on April 27, 2024, by the Air Component of Operation Whirl Punch targeted at terrorists' hideouts in Shiroro LGA of Niger State and against economic saboteurs in the Niger Delta region have yielded significant results.

"In Shiroro LGA, the strikes were executed at the stronghold of notorious terrorist kingpin, Mallam Umar and several other commanders located in the Alawa Forest area.

"The strikes conducted were sequel to extensive Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance, ISR, operations in the targeted area, revealing clusters of huts within compounds amidst dense vegetation, with significant presence of armed terrorists

loitering around the vicinity.

"Also, painstaking intelligence earlier gathered had confirmed that these same terrorists were responsible for the recent attacks on ground troops at Bassa Community as well as multiple Improvised Explosive Devices, IEDs, incidences along the Pandogari-Alawa Road within the same LGA.

"Accordingly, the Air Component promptly deployed its air assets to decisively eliminate the terrorists, resulting in effective and maximum damage to the targets.

"A post-strike Battle Damage Assessment later confirmed the neutralization of several of the terrorists and the destruction of their hideouts, with positive consequences on their ability to attack surface forces as well as

innocent civilians within the area.

"Similar air strikes were also carried out the same day in the Niger Delta against economic saboteurs and oil thieves bent on illegally siphoning of crude oil from mutilated pipelines, while destroying the environment and ecosystems.

"This time, surveillance over Ke, Egbema, Akaso Krakama, Krikama and Military Council Valley revealed retinue of illegal refining sites which were effectively destroyed by the Air Component of Operation Delta Safe.

"A Cotonou boat fully loaded with crude oil product was also observed at Akaso Krakama about to depart southwards and was subsequently attacked and destroyed."

## Condolences as Iyase of Asaba dies at 91

**T**HE family of the late Chief Hope Harriman has expressed condolences over the death of Chief Patrick Onyeobi, Iyase of Asaba, who died on April 22 at 91.

Onyeobi who served as Secretary to the Bendel State Government and also Head of Service of Bendel State, was a contemporary of the late Chief Hope Harriman at Government College, Ibadan between 1947 and 1952.

Reacting to the death of the late

bureaucrat turned businessman and traditional chief, Temi Harriman in a statement said: "The Hope Harriman family mourns the passing on of Chief Patrick Onyeobi. His tender recollections of the friendship he shared with our father was enduring.

"We condole the Onyeobi family and urge that as they mourn that they will be consoled with the legacy of their father as a great statesman who left behind a cherished legacy worthy to be celebrated."