

STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE DAILY

Region: Mali-Burkina Faso-Somalia-Niger-Nigeria-Democratic Republic of the Congo

Date: 9 April 2026

Scope: Security | Diplomacy | Defence

Classification: Client Confidential

Executive Assessment

JNIM activity is intensifying across Burkina Faso and Niger, with coordinated attacks on military positions, ambushes, and IED strikes indicating sustained operational mobility and cross-border reach. In parallel, ISWAP demonstrated significant offensive capability in northeastern Nigeria by overrunning bases, destroying military assets, and killing a senior officer, underscoring persistent vulnerabilities in force protection.

State responses remain active but fragmented; Nigerien forces reported localized tactical gains, while Somalia conducted high-impact airstrikes with international support, targeting Al-Shabaab leadership and logistics. In Mali and the DRC, asymmetric threats and insurgent dynamics persist, with continued militant claims, external military support flows, and mixed indicators of defections and reinforcement cycles within armed groups.

Overall, the operational environment reflects a multi-theater escalation marked by insurgent adaptability, continued pressure on security forces, and uneven state capacity to stabilize contested regions.

BURKINA FASO

- JNIM claimed to have captured a military post in Bissiga.
- Local sources reported that JNIM attacked two additional villages alongside Bissiga, killing forest rangers and civilians in the process.
- JNIM claimed to have captured a military post between Pissila and Pibaore in Burkina Faso.

NIGER

- JNIM claimed to have ambushed soldiers attempting to cross the Niger River on the Say axis in the Tillabéri region.

MINTEL WORLD

Conflict and energy consultancy

- JNIM claimed to have targeted an army vehicle with an IED between Bossia and Toura.
- The Nigerien army announced that it neutralized a total of 6 terrorists and seized various weapons, ammunition, and motorcycles during Operations Damissa, Almahaou, and Nalewa Dole, conducted in the Dosso, Tillabéri, and Diffa regions.

NIGERIA

- It was reported that ISWAP carried out simultaneous attacks on Benisheikh and Ngamdu in the Kaga local government area of Borno State. A task force brigade and numerous military and civilian vehicles were reportedly burned in Benisheikh.
- Brigadier General O.O. Braimah was reportedly killed in the attack on Benisheikh, making him the fourth high-ranking officer killed recently.
- It was reported that ISWAP attacked Pulka and Bakin Ruwa in the Gwoza local government area of Borno State, capturing the military base in Pulka and burning equipment belonging to a construction company.
- Local sources reported that approximately 2,000 people from communities west of the Tsafe area in Zamfara State fled their villages due to the threat of potential reprisal attacks.

MALI

- JNIM claimed that two soldiers were killed in an IED attack southwest of the Tessalit.
- Russia delivered military equipment to the 100th Military Base in Sénou.

SOMALIA

- The Ministry of Defense announced that, with the support of international partners, airstrikes targeting Al-Shabaab militants gathered around Tawarmooqe in the Mudug region (approximately 8 km south of Aad and 45 km north of Harardhere) killed around 70 militants, including senior figures. An estimated 90 to 95 others were wounded, and 8 military vehicles, including logistics vehicles transporting military equipment, were destroyed.
- Puntland President Said Abdullahi Deni announced that he has ordered security forces to be on high alert against the threats of terrorism, piracy, and internal infiltration in Somalia.
- In a statement made in Qardho, Puntland President Said Abdullahi Deni stated that Puntland is waging a "just war" to defend its people and territory, accusing the federal government of undermining the system.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

- AFC/M23 claimed that a densely populated area in Nyabyondo, in the Masisi territory, was struck by an army drone.
- Local media reported that AFC/M23 deployed reinforcements to the Masisi Centre area in North Kivu province.
- The 34th Military Region Command in North Kivu announced that 263 former members of AFC/M23, including four officers, voluntarily surrendered between February and March 2026.
- Local sources reported that 11 AFC/M23 fighters surrendered to the FARDC in the Sukola 2 sector of South Kivu.