

STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE DAILY

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

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Executive Assessment

Security dynamics across several African theaters remain volatile, with jihadist groups sustaining operational tempo and targeting both state forces and strategic economic assets. The ISCAP attack in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo highlights the group's capability to strike military positions protecting foreign-operated mining infrastructure and subsequently target civilian populations, underscoring persistent vulnerabilities around critical mineral sites and Chinese investments in the region.

In the Sahel, JNIM and ISSP continue low-intensity but geographically dispersed attacks using ambushes and improvised explosive devices against security forces and allied militias in Mali and Niger, indicating ongoing insurgent mobility and the continued exposure of rural security networks.

Somalia shows mixed trends: security forces report significant militant losses in coordinated counterterrorism operations, yet attacks such as the Puntland landmine incident demonstrate that Al-Shabaab and affiliated networks retain the ability to inflict casualties.

Meanwhile, Nigeria's military demonstrated defensive resilience by repelling large-scale militant assaults on forward positions in Borno State, suggesting improved tactical readiness but also confirming that insurgent groups remain capable of massing forces for coordinated attacks.

Overall, the reporting reflects a persistent pattern across multiple theaters: insurgent groups maintain the capacity to conduct asymmetric operations, target security forces, and disrupt strategic infrastructure, while governments continue to rely on counterterrorism operations and defensive measures to contain—but not yet decisively reduce—the threat.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

- The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo stated that there are indications of the emergence of a new rebel movement in Haut-Katanga Province that may be linked to AFC/M23, and that authorities are investigating possible connections with the Bakata-

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Katanga armed group. According to initial reports from Kinshasa, security forces believe the development may signal a potential destabilization attempt in this strategic region, which is rich in mineral resources and borders Zambia. The government says investigations are ongoing to determine the exact responsibilities and scope of the alleged links between armed groups operating in the east of the country and those active in the south.

- ISCAP claimed it carried out an attack on a Congolese Army barracks guarding a Chinese-owned mine near Muchacha village in Ituri Province. The group stated that 7 Congolese soldiers were killed in the attack, after which the remaining troops evacuated, the barracks were set on fire, and weapons were seized. ISCAP then stormed the Chinese-operated mine, setting fire to most of the machinery and vehicles as well as the housing used by Chinese workers. The group later moved into Muchacha village, where it claimed to have killed 17 Christians, abducted dozens of others, and burned around 60 houses.

SOMALIA

- Somalia's Minister of Defence, Ahmed Moallim Fiqi, held a telephone conversation with Qatar's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs, Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, during which the two officials discussed defence cooperation between their countries.

- Somalia's National Intelligence Agency announced that at least 22 Al-Shabaab militants, including several senior figures, were killed in coordinated operations in the Mudug and Hiiraan regions.

- Puntland security forces were targeted by a landmine attack in Somalia's Puntland region; according to local sources, 8 soldiers were killed in the incident.

NIGER

- The U.S. Department of State's Senior Bureau Official for African Affairs, Nick Checker, is traveling to Niamey to meet with Nigerien officials, where he will reaffirm the United States' respect for Niger's sovereignty and discuss steps to enhance economic and security cooperation.

- ISSP claimed that 3 soldiers were killed in an ambush against an army patrol near Makal in the Tahoua region. Local sources, however, claim that 12 soldiers were killed in the attack.

- JNIM claimed that it targeted an army vehicle with an improvised explosive device near Samira in the Tillaberi region.

MALI

- A convoy of fuel tankers reportedly arrived in Bamako.

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- JNIM claimed that it targeted two soldiers with an improvised explosive device in the Sikasso region.
- JNIM claimed that two Dozo militiamen were killed in clashes in Nayo in the Segou region, and that motorcycles and rifles were seized.
- JNIM claimed that three Dozo militiamen were killed in an attack on a Dozo headquarters in Somadougou and that motorcycles and rifles were captured.

NIGERIA

- The Nigerian Army announced that troops of the Joint Task Force (North East), Operation Hadin Kai, successfully repelled attempted terrorist attacks on military positions at Azir Bridge in Sector 2 and Banki in Sector 1 of Borno State on 13 March 2026. According to the statement, the terrorists advanced in large numbers in an attempt to overrun the positions but were met with swift and overwhelming resistance from vigilant troops. Demonstrating superior tactical awareness and combat readiness, the troops launched well-coordinated spoiling attacks that disrupted the terrorists' assault formations and forced them into disarray.