STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE DAILY

Region: Somalia-Democratic Republic of the Congo-Nigeria-Mali-Burkina Faso-Niger
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Scope: Security |Diplomacy | Defence
Classification: Client Confidential

Executive Assessment

Militant activity across the Sahel and Horn of Africa remains elevated, with JNIM and IS-affiliated groups sustaining a high tempo of asymmetric attacks, including IED strikes, ambushes, and targeted executions across Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, and Nigeria. In parallel, ISCAP's reported drone activity in eastern DRC signals a potential shift toward more advanced surveillance or strike capabilities, indicating evolving operational sophistication.

State forces demonstrated localized tactical gains, particularly in Somalia where joint operations with AUSSOM repelled attacks and degraded Al-Shabaab positions; however, these successes remain geographically contained and do not yet indicate broader strategic reversal. In Niger, the leadership continues to project institutional consolidation and sovereignty over security and resources, but persistent attacks in Tillaberi highlight an ongoing gap between political messaging and ground-level security realities.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

• According to sources within the reserve, drones allegedly belonging to Islamic State Central Africa Province (ISCAP) flew over the headquarters and several patrol posts of the Okapi Wildlife Reserve (RFO) in the Mambasa territory of Ituri, Democratic Republic of the Congo, on March 18 and 19.

• ISCAP claimed that it carried out attacks on military and militia positions in Ituri, killing four soldiers.

BURKINA FASO

• JNIM claimed to have taken control of a VDP position in the village of Léré in Dedougou.

• JNIM claimed to have targeted an army vehicle with an IED between Barga and Koumbri.

• JNIM claimed that two soldiers were killed and weapons were seized during an attack on a military post in Piela.

• JNIM claimed to have seized RPGs and ammunition during an ambush in Dedougou.

• JNIM claimed to have taken control of a VDP position in Pensa.

MALI

• FLA claimed that eight soldiers were killed during the Erabedié operation on March 20, and that 10 Africa Corps personnel were killed in drone and mortar attacks on March 24.

• JNIM claimed to have taken control of a Dozo position in Nayo.

• JNIM claimed to have targeted an army vehicle with an IED between Kimparana and San.

NIGER

• According to local sources, an attack on a police post at the entrance of Tillaberi city resulted in the deaths of eight police officers.

• ISSP claimed that six soldiers were killed and a vehicle was burned in an ambush in Sanam, Tillaberi, and that an army informant was killed in Chetimari.

• Niger's President Abdourahamane Tiani, in a national address on March 25, reviewed the first year of the "Refoundation Charter" declared after the July 26, 2023 coup, stating that constitutional order has been established, all institutions have been formed, and governance is now based on legal foundations. He emphasized that security forces are conducting operations independently without external imposition and that the overall situation has stabilized despite recent attacks. He rejected the establishment of foreign military bases, reaffirmed sovereignty over natural resources, and announced that all exploration and exploitation contracts will be published in the Official Gazette. He also highlighted declining prices, increased public employment, and new industrial investments, while noting the opening of new embassies and the establishment of the Confederation of Sahel States on the diplomatic front.

SOMALIA

• The Somali National Army announced that, in cooperation with Ugandan AUSSOM forces, it repelled an attempted Al-Shabaab attack in Mubaarak in the Lower Shabelle region, killing 40 militants.

• Somalia's 20th Gorgor Commando Brigade announced that it destroyed militant hideouts and neutralized multiple elements during clearing operations along the Lower Shabelle coastline.

NIGERIA

• ISWAP claimed that it executed a previously captured CJTF militia leader and a militia member in two separate villages in the Timbuktu Triangle in Borno State.

• According to local sources, Nigerian army units killed two militants and seized weapons and equipment during an ambush operation in the Anka area of Zamfara State.