



Weekly Libya .Xplored Preview

14 April, 2017

Prepared by Risk Analysis Team, Libya

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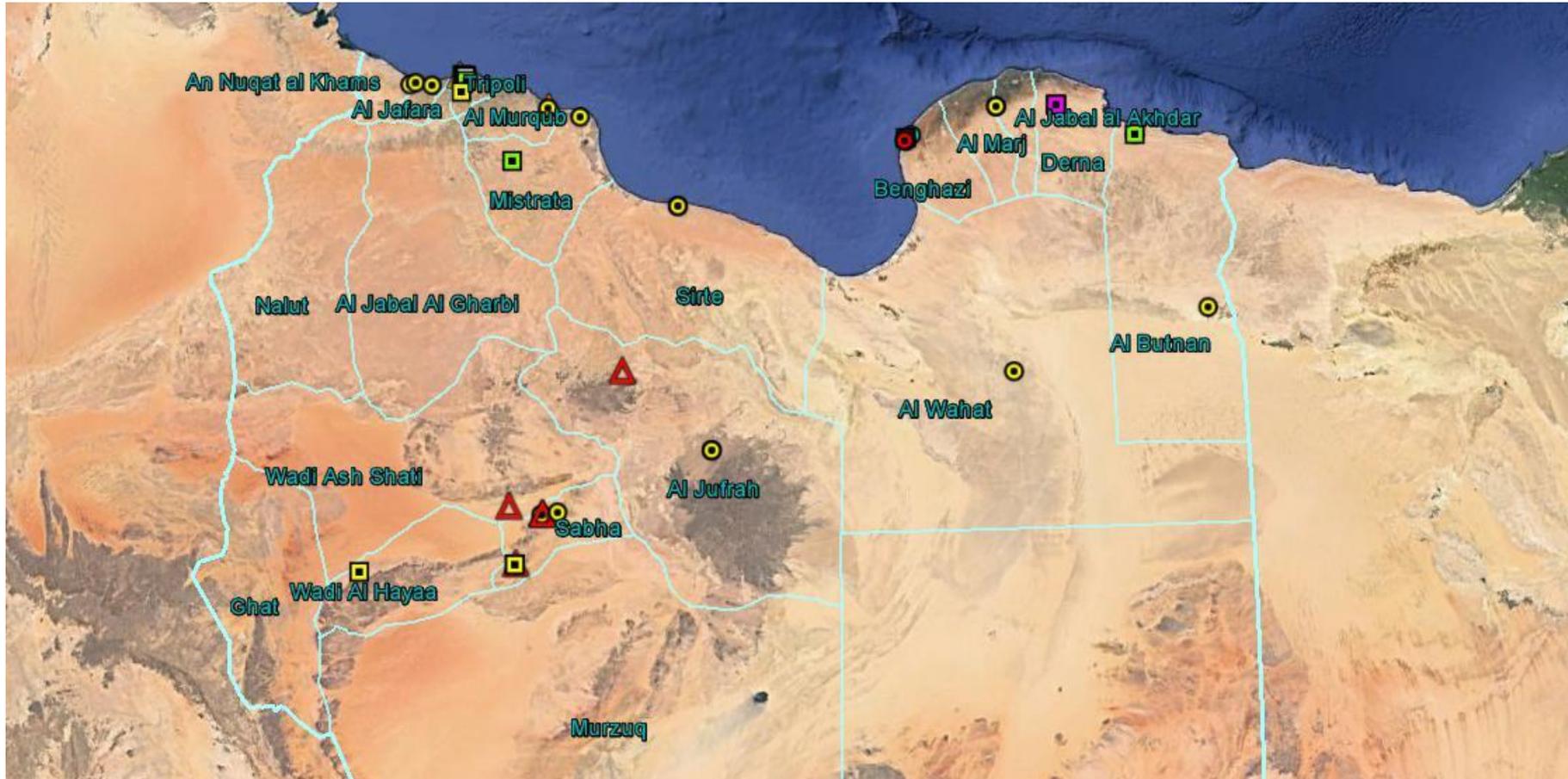
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ACTIVITY MAP



MSS GLOBAL	UKAS MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS 7818	ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management OHS/112016/001	ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Management EMS/112016/001	BS OHSAS 18001:2007 Occupational Health & Safety Management HSM/112016/001	ISO 18788:2015 Security Operations Management SOS/022016/001	ANSI/ASIS PSC.1-2012 Quality Assurance Management QAS/022016/001	ICoCA	ROSPA APPROVED BY The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents	BRITISH SAFETY COUNCIL	Member	ISOa
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OUTLOOK

Short term outlook

- The situation in Sabha remains unresolved and further clashes and airstrikes around Tamanhint, Sabha and Brak Shati are expected. Negotiations continue as various stakeholders look to deescalate the situation.
- The LNA has indicated it may look to mount an assault against the Sabri and Souq al Hout areas of Benghazi in the coming week. The area remains besieged by the LNA with as estimated 250-300 opposition fighters remaining inside the contained areas.
- Negotiations between the LNA and MSCD continue over Derna. As a result, kinetic activity has reduced however there remains the potential for a resumption of airstrikes and skirmishes on the outskirts of the city.
- Tensions remain in areas of southern Tripoli, and further clashes are possible between GNC and GNA-aligned militias.
- Further clashes are possible in Zawiyah with tensions elevated between various rival militias as they come under pressure from the crackdown on fuel smuggling.

Medium to long term outlook

- International stakeholders are continuing to adjust their strategies in Libya. There have been some indications that a number of stakeholders on both sides of the divide are looking to expand their influence and communications with internal factions, as there is an increasing realization that no one faction is likely to be able to take full control on its own. The overt focus remains on a political solution revolving around the GNA and the LPA but internally, it is struggling to gain traction. The changes are however likely empowering the GNA to become more overtly assertive against opposition factions.
- Opposing ideologies which have been surfacing for some time now in Misrata, are now threatening the city's unity. While attempts are underway to heal the rift internally, the ongoing power struggle between the GNA and the GNC in Tripoli will continue to exacerbate the situation as well the LNA push against Misratan-aligned units in Fezzan.
- IS fighters are regrouping in remote areas of Libya including central, south and southwest regions. Although their capabilities are severely diminished, reducing their ability to control large areas, the group retains the capability to conduct terrorist attacks. Threats towards city locations such as Tripoli cannot be ruled out, but it is considered more likely that the group will target critical national infrastructure in remote areas, such as some of the more isolated oil fields and facilities in the South West.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

Governance

- The Fuel Crisis Committee has reported a number of successes around the country and also halted fish exports to Tunisia.
- The head of the Central Bank of Libya is under intensifying pressure as the Dinar plummets. The HoR has begun attempts to replace him whilst an armed group looked to force the issue this week with an attempt to kidnap him.

Security

- The MSCD has launched an operation against narcotics and intoxicants in Derna as negotiations remain ongoing with the LNA who are threatening to assault the city.
- Benghazi has been quiet this week however Special Forces have indicated they are preparing an assault against Sabri and Suq al Hout, the two remaining areas under opposition occupation.
- Third Force is claiming to have pushed LNA back towards Brak Shati and now aim to take the airbase however local dignitaries are pressing for LNA control of Tamanhint. An attempt to install a 'neutral' force in Tamanhint may allow both sides to deescalate while saving face.

KEY DATES

Date	Occasion	Comment
01 May 2017	Labour Day	National holiday
11 June 2017	Anniversary of the Zawia second uprising	
25 – 27 June 2017	Eid al Fitr	End of Ramadan
20 August 2017	Anniversary of the Liberation of Tripoli	
01 – 03 September 2017	Eid ul Adha	Feast of Sacrifice
16 September 2017	Martyrs Day	
22 September 2017	Hijri New Year	
23 October 2017	Liberation Day	National holiday
16 September 2017	Martyrs Day	

THREAT MATRIX

Region	Political	Terrorism	Militancy	Crime	K&R
Tripolitania	High-Extreme	High	High	High	High
Cyrenaica	High	High-Extreme	Moderate	High	High
Fezzan	High	Moderate	High	High	High

Threat Scale



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Governance

Fuel Crisis Committee: Fish exports targeted as success reported against fuel smuggling

The Fuel Crisis Committee (FCC) has continued its campaign against fuel smuggling this week with notable success in a number of areas including the south where smuggled fuel has been recovered. There was potential mission creep by the end of the week however when the FCC halted the export of all fish and fish related products through the Ras Jdeir border crossing to Tunisia. The move was reportedly to stop the depletion of Libyan marine resources and also halt the rising price of fish in the Libyan market.

Central Bank of Libya: Kabir under intensifying pressure as the Dinar drops in value

The Head of the Central Bank of Libya, Sadeeq al Kabir, has stated he will hold a press conference to address questions regarding the current monetary policy the country has adopted. Analysts had suggested that without fiscal reform, the Dinar could go as low as ten to the dollar by the end of the year. As the situation deteriorated over the last few weeks, that predication has moved from the end of the year, to the end of the month. Kabir is reportedly concerned that the measures needed to shore up the economy in the long term, will cause short term distress and as a result, is currently reluctant to take the steps needed. Kabir is coming under intensifying pressure as the HoR again make moves to replace him and the Dinar plummets.



Security

Derna: MSCD launch security operation aimed at narcotics and other intoxicants

On 10 April, MSCD launched a security campaign named 'By Eliminating Wrongdoing, We Achieve Victories'. The campaign aims to 'cleanse' the city of narcotics and other intoxicants. Factories producing alcohol and narcotics have so far being targeted this week. While the campaign in itself is not unusual for the group, which adheres to a strict interpretation of Sharia Law, the timing is interesting given the LNA has deployed units to the area and are threatening an assault on the city.

Benghazi: LNA threatening to launch an assault against Sabri and Suq al Hout

Kinetic activity has remained at a low level in Benghazi through the week. The area was reported as experiencing a 'cautious calm' despite 'threats of a large-scale mobilisation of LNA' according to a local inhabitant following an evacuation order from LNA Special Forces on 11 April. The order instructed families living around the Sabri and Suq al Hout areas to evacuate their homes within a week. The evacuation order stated that the move was to protect civilians in anticipation of an assault against opposition forces.

Sabha: Third Force claim to have pushed back LNA however LNA retain local support

On 05 April, the LNA launched Operation Quicksand aimed at taking control of Tamanhint Airbase from 201 Battalion, Third Force. In response, the GNA MoD launched Operation Promised Hope. After receiving ridicule on social media, the operation was renamed to the rather more aggressive 'Deserts Wrath'. Initial reporting suggested LNA were taking ground and were besieging Tamanhint however by the end of the week, GNA aligned forces were all but claiming success after pushing LNA forces back.

On 08 April, 'fierce' battles were reported during dark hours with 201 Infantry Battalion, Third Force and LNG stating that had taken possession of a number of items they termed 'war spoils' including two all-terrain vehicles. On 10 April, Third Force claimed to have retaken control of Samnu and the Jufra to Sabah road. Further airstrikes were reported by LNA jets against Tamanhint and a base in Al Suknah.

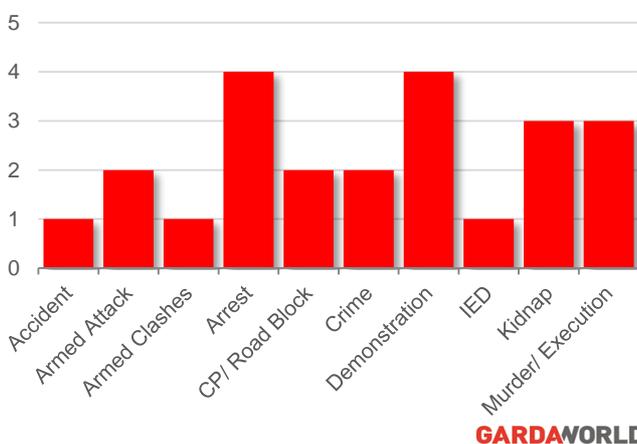
By 11 April, Third Force was claiming that 116th Battalion of the LNA had withdrawn and relocated inside the 'Higher Institute for Comprehensive Crafts' and the rest of the LNA were shored up inside Brak Shati which Third Force stated they would be targeting. On 12 April, both sides conducted airstrikes against positions near Tamanhint and Brak Shati.

Despite the apparent push back of the LNA, on 13 April, the Council of Elders of the Wadi Shati Tribes issued a statement demanding the withdrawal of what they called 'militant militias in Fezzan' in reference to Third Force. The statement went on to call upon Haftar to secure the area.

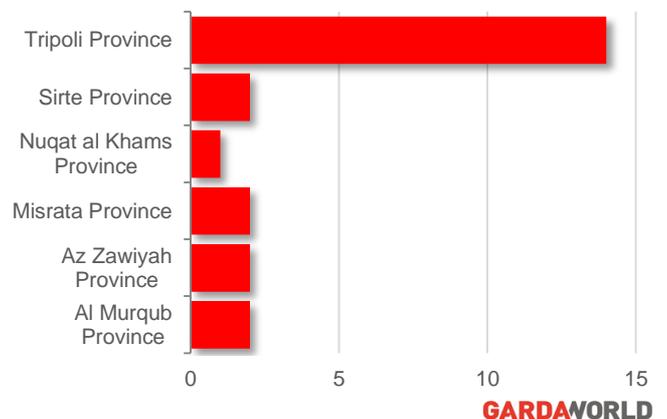
WEEKLY OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT

Tripolitania

Incidents by type, 06 - 12 Apr



Incidents by district, 06 - 12 Apr



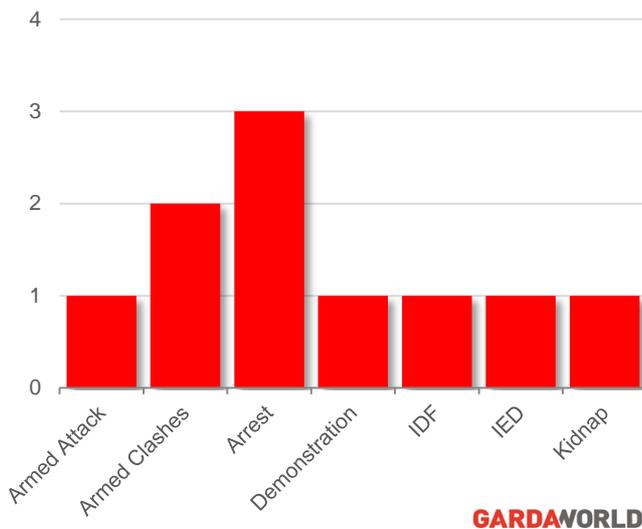
14 April 2017

Significant activity

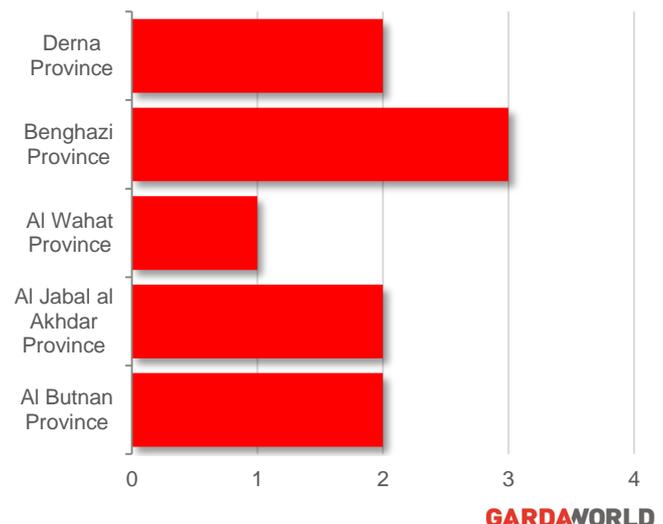
- Kidnap - 06 Apr 17, Tripoli Province, Tripoli: The Civil Status Authority in Tripoli stated that 'an armed militia stormed the Civil Status Headquarters and abducted employees from the administration.'
- Armed Clashes - 08 Apr 17, Az Zawiyah Province, Zawiyah: Clashes resumed in Zawiyah between Khadrawy militias and Hneish militias resulting in one death and three injuries.
- Arrest - 09 Apr 17, Az Zawiyah Province, Sabratah: The Gas and Fuel Crisis Committee said that Law enforcement members in Sabratah have intercepted a fuel transport tanker loaded with 40 thousand liters of diesel.
- Armed Attack - 10 Apr 17, Tripoli Province, Dahra: Unknown assailants fired shots at the Dahra currency market. No injuries or casualties were reported.
- Armed Attack - 10 Apr 17, Tripoli Province, Tripoli: Reports indicate that an unknown armed group has stormed the residence of Al Sadeeq Al Kabir, Governor of Libyan Bank, in Zawiya Al Dahmany area of Tripoli, in an apparent attempt to arrest him. Al Kabir was not at home at the time of the incident.
- Arrest - 10 Apr 17, Tripoli Province, Tripoli: RDF has stormed the main branch of the Bank of Commerce and Development in Al Nasser St, arresting an undisclosed number of employees.
- Kidnap - 11 Apr 17, Tripoli Province, Tripoli: Unknown armed assailants kidnaped Khaled Al Beebas, Head of the Civil Registry. Beebas is also responsible for the Civil Registry's Database.

Cyrenaica

Incidents by type, 06 - 12 Apr



Incidents by district, 06 - 12 Apr

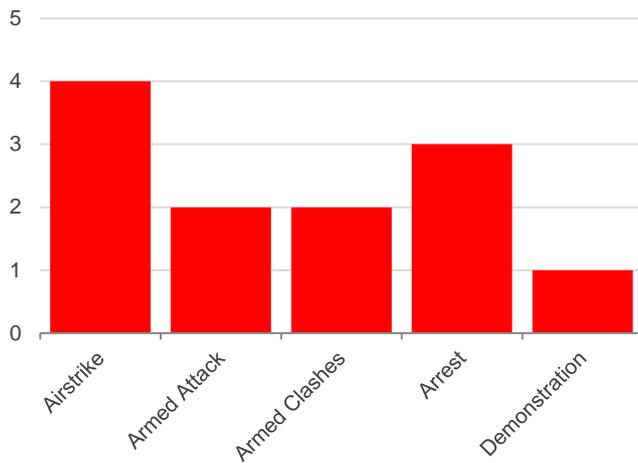


Significant activity

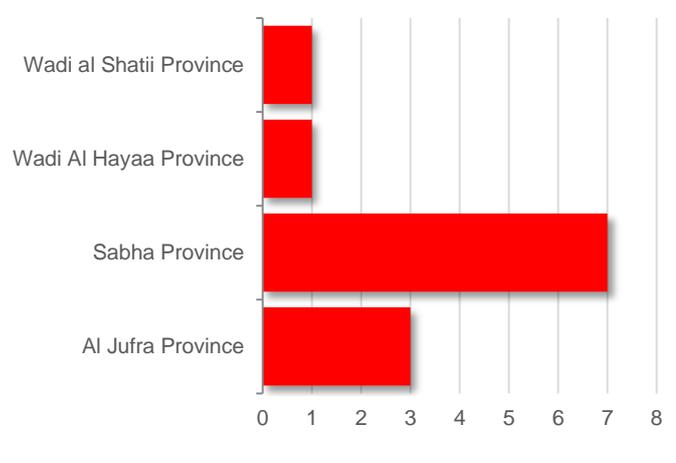
- Arrest - 08 Apr 17, Al Jabal Al Akhdar Province, Al Bayda: Al Hamama Police Station (25km east of Al Bayda) said they have arrested two Libyan nationals who admitted to being members of IS and had participated in fighting against the LNA in the west of Benghazi. The two were transferred to Girnada Military Prison for further processing.
- Arrest - 10 Apr 17, Al Jabal Al Akhdar Province, Al Bayda: Central Security forces assisted by law enforcement members in Wadi Al Koaf Checkpoint, west of Bayda, arrest two people who are wanted for being members of a terrorist group.
- Demonstration - 10 Apr 17, Al Butnan Province, Tobruk: A demonstration was held in Tobruk's Martyr Square. Tens of people demonstrated for the return of the federal system to Libya, dividing the country to 3 federal states.
- Armed Clashes - 10 Apr 17, Benghazi Province, Benghazi: LNA forces have shelled a number of RSCB positions near Al Balady Hotel in the center of Benghazi.
- Armed Clashes - 11 Apr 17, Al Butnan Province, Jaghboub: LNA 501st Reconnaissance Battalion clashed with an unknown armed group 180km south of the town of Jaghboub. Eight members of the Battalion were reported missing in action along with two 4x4 vehicles there were traveling in.

Fezzan

Incidents by type, 06 - 12 Apr



Incidents by district, 06 - 12 Apr



Significant activity

- Armed Clashes - 06 Apr 17, Sabha Province, Tamanhint Airport: Resumption of clashes between the LNA and the 3rd Force around the Tamanhint airport area as LNA continue with Operation Quicksand.
- Armed Clashes - 07 Apr 17, Sabha Province, Tamanhint Airport: Operation Quicksand continued with clashes reported between 12 Bed (LNA) and 201 Battalion of Third Force (Misrata) and allies. Three LNA soldiers and one 201 Battalion soldier were reported to have been wounded in the fighting.
- Arrest - 08 Apr 17, Al Jufra Province, Al Jufra: The Gas and Fuel Crisis Committee has said that 805th Artillery Battalion has managed to intercept two fuel transport tankers loaded with around 80 thousand liters of diesel heading towards the south of the country for onward smuggling to Chad. The two tankers were intercepted in the Jufra area.
- Airstrike - 10 Apr 17, Sabha Province, Tamanhint Airport: LNA Airforce has targeted GNA MoD forces around Tamanhint Airbase, killing three and injuring seven.
- Arrest - 10 Apr 17, Al Jufra Province, Al Jufra: 805th Battalion, who have been cooperating very closely with the Gas and Fuel Crisis Committee, have managed to intercept three trucks tankers loaded with around 123 thousand liters of fuel.
- Airstrike - 11 Apr 17, Al Jufra Province, Sawknah: LNA jets targeted Third Force positions in the vicinity of the town of Sawkanah.
- Armed Attack - 11 Apr 17, Sabha Province, Sabha: The Deputy Counsellor of the state of Niger, Amin Ibrahim, was subjected to an armed attack and robbery. The incident occurred in front of the Chancery building in Sabha. Reports state that the unknown armed assailants got away with 450 LYD and the counsellor's mobile phone.
- Airstrike - 12 Apr 17, Sabha Province, Tamanhint Airport: LNA fighter jets conduct airstrikes around Tamanhint Airbase.
- Airstrike - 12 Apr 17, Wadi al Shatii Province, Brak Al Shati: A MIG 21 reportedly took off from Al Jufra Airbase under command of GNA MoD and conducted airstrikes against Brak Shati Airbase, injuring five LNA personnel.

ACRONYM LIST

- AAS – Ansar al-Sharia (AQ affiliate)
- AQ - Al-Qaeda
- BAM – Al Bunyan Al Marsous (Misrata aligned)
- BDB – Benghazi Defense Brigade / Saraya Defend Benghazi (SDB) (Al Qaeda aligned – AAS and RSCB associated/umbrella group)
- CNI – Critical National Infrastructure
- GATMJB - Operations Room for the Liberation of the City Ajdabiya and Support for Benghazi Rebels
- GECOL – General Electricity Company of Libya
- GMMR – Great Man-made River
- GNA – Government of National Accord (UN backed)
- GNC – General National Congress (Tripoli based)
- HCN - Host Country National
- HoR – House of Representatives (Tobruk based)
- IDP - Internally Displaced Persons
- IED - Improvised Explosive Device
- IOC - International Oil Company
- IS - Islamic State
- LNA – Libyan National Army
- LPA – Libyan Political Agreement
- LROR - Libyan Revolutionary Operations Room
- MoD - Ministry of Defense
- MoF - Ministry of Finance
- MoFA - Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- MoHE - Ministry of Higher Education
- Mol - Ministry of Interior
- MoJ - Ministry of Justice
- MoO - Ministry of Oil
- MoT - Ministry of Transportation
- MSCD – Mujahideen Shura Council of Derna (AQ aligned)
- NFDK - No Further Details Known
- NGO - Non-Governmental Organization (aid/charity)
- NOC – National Oil Company
- NSG – National Salvation Government (GNC)
- NSTR - Nothing Significant To Report
- PAX - Person, Persons or Passenger
- PC – Presidency Council (GNA)
- PG – Presidential Guard
- PFG- Petroleum Facilities Guard
- PSC - Private Security Company
- PSD - Private Security Detail
- RPG - Rocket Propelled Grenade
- RSCB - Revolutionary Shura Council of Benghazi
- RTA - Road Traffic Accident
- SDB – Saraya Defend Benghazi / Benghazi Defense Brigade (BDB) (Al Qaeda-aligned – AAS and RSCB associated/umbrella group)
- TCN - Third Country National
- Technical - An improvised weapon-mounted pick-up truck
- UXO - Unexploded Ordnance



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