



Weekly Libya .Xplored report preview

14 July, 2017

Prepared by Risk Analysis Team, Libya

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ISO 9001:2015
Quality Management
QMS/112016/001

ISO 14001:2015
Environmental Management
EMS/112016/001

BS OHSAS 18001:2007
Occupational Health & Safety Management
HMS/112016/001

ISO 18788:2015
Security Operations Management
SMS/022016/001

ANSI/ASIS PSC.1-2012
Quality Assurance Management
SAS/022014/001



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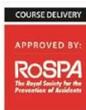
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ACTIVITY MAP



MSS GLOBAL		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 SAS/072014/001					
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OUTLOOK

Short term outlook

- The LNA has indicated it is planning to launch a ground offensive against opposition forces in Derna. The area has seen recent military maneuvers and airstrikes over the last few days. There also remains the potential for the LNA to make further moves westwards in the Sirte/ Bani Walid area.
- Pro-GNA forces have pushed pro-GNC forces west out of Garabuli and taken control of the town. There remains a possibility that pro-GNC forces could mount another attempt to regain territory in Tripoli in the short-term.
- All opposition positions in Benghazi have now fallen to LNA control. Further attacks and incidents are anticipated as the LNA conduct clearance operations.
- Threat levels in Zawiyah are high. In addition to militias competing for dominance over the city, criminal networks involved in human trafficking and smuggling threaten the stability of the city.
- There is an increased risk of civil unrest over the provision of basic services and deteriorating living conditions in the west and south while the ongoing liquidity crisis has increased the potential for flashpoints and civil unrest at, or near, to banks/financial institutions throughout Libya.

Medium to long term outlook

- The plans for Zintani militias and IDPs to return to Tripoli could increase tensions within the city in the coming weeks. Tripoli-based militias have already issued warnings against armed groups returning to the area.
- The political outlook remains unclear in the long term. A series of meetings in early May led to hopes that a political breakthrough might be possible. However, minimal progress has followed, and attempts by Zintani politicians to broker a new meeting appear to have been unsuccessful.
- There is potential for an increase in terrorist type attacks in Benghazi as those opposed to the LNA look to continue their fight following the loss of territory.
- IS fighters are regrouping in Libya. Possible activity has been reported in Sabratha, Abu Grain and the area of Bani Walid. Cells are also thought to have been established in Tripoli but are likely to be maintaining a low profile at this time.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

Governance

- Plans to move the HoR to Benghazi following the LNA victory may prove contentious with reports HoR President Aguila Saleh is against the move.
- Saudi Arabian authorities have agreed to extradite four Libyans previously arrested in Saudi Arabia to Egypt. The Libyan nationals are accused of being involved in the kidnap of Egyptian diplomats from Tripoli in January 2014.
- Reports indicate that the US may be devising a new diplomatic and military policy for Libya. This policy could lead to a rise in US involvement in Libya especially in the field of counterterrorism. If approved, sources claim up to 50 US special operations troops could be sent to Libya to share counterintelligence information.
- Reports that Khalifa Haftar, the commander of the LNA, had met with the US ambassador and commander of AFRICOM the day after the above-leaked report have been denied by the US.

Security

- Pro-GNA fighters advanced on pro-GNC forces who had gone firm in Garabuli after stating they were about to launch another offensive against the capital this week. Various reports suggested that pro-GNC forces were looking to bring in reinforcements and open up further fronts however this has yet to materialize. Three days after fighting began, pro-GNA forces claimed control of the town. The offensive appears to have lost momentum for the time being, however, the threat remains extant.

14 July 2017

- The LNA engaged in fierce clashes to take control of the last few remaining areas of opposition control in Sabri this week, losing at least 22 soldiers in the process. Incidents continue to be reported as the LNA conducts clearance operations in the area.
- Three members of the LNA based at Bir Ghanem, 90km southwest of Tripoli, were found murdered with two friends in Wadi Alrabie, south of the capital after going to visit family and friends. The LNA is blaming “Tripoli militias” for the incident.
- A demonstration was held in Zintan to protest against the ongoing power cuts and the GNA’s handling of the deaths of a Zintani family after an RPG round detonated on the beach during internal clashes with Al Buni Brigade on 04 July.
- The LNA has again claimed that it will control Tripoli and the western region and that they have a plan in place. Although there is no set date for the plan to commence, the LNA suggested this would not occur during the six months it had given the GNA to “solve the problem of the Libyan people across the whole country.”

Migrant Crisis

- Operation Sophia is a “failure and should not be renewed,” according to a British Parliament report.
- A leaked EU document suggests proposals are being considered to restrict the activities of NGOs in the Mediterranean including stopping them from entering Libyan waters after rescues are occurring closer and closer to the shoreline.
- A far-right group is to deploy a ship into the Mediterranean after setting sail from the Suez Canal on 13 July. The group states it intends to take footage “proving collaboration” between NGOs and human traffickers, an accusation that NGOs deny. More controversially, they state they will abide by maritime law and go to the aid of people in distress, but anyone they rescue will be returned to a “North African Port.”

Travel

- Libyan Airlines has announced new international flights from Benina Airport that will commence on 15 July 2017. The destinations are Oman, Alexandria, Istanbul, and Tunis. Internal flights to Tripoli and Kufra have also been announced.
- A Tunisian delegation from the Tunisian Civil Aviation Authority has visited Matiga Airport in Tripoli to check safety and security measures as well as operational procedures. The visit is focused on checking the viability of the airport before Tunisian airliners decide to conduct flights following a two-year suspension.

Health

- The HoR MoH has warned of a possible scabies outbreak in Benghazi due to the “environmental disaster” resulting from overflowing sewer waters in As Sabri. They have also denied an outbreak of tuberculosis (TB) following reports on social media but have said they are doing their utmost to ensure availability after the suspension of supplies of TB medication.

KEY DATES

Date	Occasion	Comment
20 August 2017	Anniversary of the Liberation of Tripoli	
01 – 03 September 2017	Eid al-Adha	Feast of Sacrifice
16 September 2017	Martyrs Day	
22 September 2017	Hijri New Year	
23 October 2017	Liberation Day	National holiday

THREAT MATRIX

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

Threat Scale	Minimal	Low	Moderate	High	Extreme
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LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Security

Tripoli: Clashes erupt between pro-GNA and pro-GNC militias

On 05 July, the pro-GNC Marsa Brigade deployed to the east of Tripoli from Misrata, stating its intent to move back into the capital along with its allies. In response, pro-GNA forces began establishing a number of checkpoints and roadblocks in the Wadi Al Rabie and Tarhouna areas. On 07 July, GNA President Faye Serraj authorized the use of air strikes to protect civilians. This was seen by some as a request to international supporters to take military action on behalf of the UN backed GNA government and was reported to have "halted" the pro-GNC advance, with mobilized units going firm in Garabuli.

On the afternoon of the 09 July, pro-GNA forces advanced towards the pro-GNC positions in Garabuli. "Heavy" clashes commenced with reports of civilian casualties after IDF was utilised. Fighting paused overnight and allowed some families trapped in the area of fighting to escape before resuming again on 10 July. Pro-GNA forces eventually claimed victory on 11 July after pushing opposition fighters westwards.

Benghazi: Fierce fighting claims more LNA soldiers before final buildings are taken

On the evening of 09 July, the LNA claimed they had taken all remaining enemy positions in Sidi Akribesh in four days, losing at least 22 men. The claim came four days after LNA Commander Field Marshall Haftar had claimed victory in the area, acknowledging that remaining opposition elements had retreated into a small number of buildings in Sidi Akribesh.

Incidents continue to be reported as the LNA conduct sweeps through the area. In one incident on 07 July, RSCB fighters were reported to have attempted to bribe an LNA soldier into letting them escape with LYD 80,000. The LNA soldier stated he would help the militants escape however set up an ambush which resulted in the capture of the men. Some militants have preferred to detonate suicide bombs when faced with capture. On 10 July, three LNA soldiers were injured when a militant detonated a suicide bomb while close to capture while on 11 July, an unknown number of militants triggered bombs when cornered by the LNA as they tried to flee Sabri.

As the LNA regain control over the whole of Benghazi, the threat of opposition elements employing terrorist tactics in the city increases. Opposition forces have already mounted VBIED, suicide and sniper attacks in the city, illustrating their capability. Although they now have no obvious safe areas from which to operate from, elements are reported to have infiltrated the local community in possible preparation for a terrorist strategy.



WEEKLY OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT

Tripolitania

Significant activity

- Kidnap - 06 Jul 17, Al-Jafara Province, Warshefana: Members of the Magarha tribe, residents of Brak Al-Shati, have released a statement urging the residents of Warshefana to release three members of the tribe who are thought to have been kidnaped while passing through Warshefana.
- Murder/ Execution - 07 Jul 17, Tripoli Province, Wadi Alrabie: The bodies of five people were found in Wadi Alrabie near Tripoli International Airport. Three of the men were members of the 103 Brigade which is part of LNA's western command. The men were originally from Tajoura and had been visiting friends and family in the capital. The LNA has blamed "Tripoli's militias." Brigade 103 is based in the Bir Ghanem area, 90 km southwest of the capital.
- Demonstration - 07 Jul 17, Sirte Province, Sirte: Residents of Sirte have staged a demonstration against what they described as the marginalization of the city and total disregard from the Local Council of Sirte for basic services to residents. Protestors demanded that Sirte Local Council improve services or leave.
- Demonstration - 08 Jul 17, Evening, Al-Jabal Al-Gharbi Province, Zintan: Residents of Zintan have burned tires and blocked roads as a form of demonstration against prolonged electricity cuts and how the GNA handled the case of the attack on the beach opposite Matiga Airport, where a family of Zintani descent was hit by a missile on 04 July.
- Murder/ Execution - 08 Jul 17, Al-Jabal Al-Gharbi Province, Gharyan: Unknown assailants have shot and killed the Commander of Gharyan Security Directorate, Colonel Abdulrazag Ameish near his home.
- Armed Clashes - 09 Jul 17, 3.20 pm, Tripoli Province, Garabuli: Armed clashes broke out between pro-GNC forces and pro-GNA forces around Garabuli.
- Armed Clashes - 10 Jul 17, 13:00, Tripoli Province, Garabuli: Fighting resumed between pro-GNA and pro-GNC militia groups.
- Crime - 10 Jul 17, Al-Jafara Province, Warshefana: Reports indicate that the body of a previously kidnaped Libyan national has been found with bullet wounds following his family's inability to pay the ransom.
- Armed Clashes - 10 Jul 17, Tripoli Province, Garabuli: One death has been reported in the ranks of Daman Bde following overnight clashes around Garabuli between forces allied to the GNA and others allied to the GNC.
- Crime - 10 Jul 17, Tripoli Province, Garabuli: Unconfirmed reports state that a Ukrainian surgeon and his wife, also a doctor believed to be working in Garabuli, have been murdered. NFDK.
- Armed Clashes - 11 Jul 17, Tripoli Province, Garabuli: Six people were killed when their vehicle exploded near Maqrun. The vehicle was reported to have been transporting explosive material. Five of the recovered bodies were charred beyond recognition, and the sixth body's identity is currently unknown NFDK.
- Armed Attack - 11 Jul 17, Tripoli Province, Tajoura: Unconfirmed reports suggest TRB may have attacked the Rahba Camp in Tajoura.
- CP/ Road Block - 11 Jul 17, Nuqat Al-Khams Province, Ras Ajdir: The Ras Ajdir border crossing was closed from the Tunisian side in protest at the "strict measures against smuggling" taken by the Fuel Crisis Committee (FCC) in Libya. The crossing was reopened at 1300hrs on 12th July 2017.
- Kidnap - 12 Jul 17, Tripoli Province, Al-Hany: The Office of Public Services in Al-Hany has reported that an undisclosed number of their employees (street cleaners) have been kidnaped. The victims are thought to be of various nationalities which may include African and Bangladeshi nationals. As reported by the Public Services Office, a Libyan national came to the office and requested to be provided with a team of employees to undertake an unknown job. The Libyan national then kidnaped the group and demanded a ransom of eight thousand LYD for their release. This incident has caused the other employees of the Office of Public Services of Al-Hany to go on strike.

Cyrenaica

Significant activity

- Accident - 06 Jul 17, Benghazi Province, Benghazi: Two people were killed and six more injured after celebratory fire erupted in Benghazi. Two further injuries were sustained from fireworks as the city celebrated the LNA victory over opposition forces in Sabri.

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- Armed Clashes - 07 Jul 17, Benghazi Province, Sidi Akribesh: Armed clashes occurred in the Sidi Akribesh area of Benghazi as the LNA attempted to take the last few remaining opposition positions. Three LNA soldiers and a commander were killed during the fighting.
- Arrest - 07 Jul 17, Benghazi Province, Sidi Akribesh: The LNA arrested three militants during fighting in Sidi Akribesh. One was reported to be a Sudanese sniper. The other two men had offered an LNA soldier LYD 80,000 to help them flee. The soldier had agreed before setting them up in an ambush and capturing them. Special Forces have also discovered suitcases containing large amounts of local and foreign currency.
- IED - 07 Jul 17Morning, Benghazi Province, Sabri: An IED detonated near the Noran Hotel in Sabri killing two LNA soldiers and injuring three others.
- Armed Clashes - 07 Jul 17, Benghazi Province, Sabri: LNA sources have reported that LNA forces have clashed with RSCB fighters in Sidi Akribesh area of the city. These clashes left 18 LNA soldiers dead and several injuries. LNA sources also reported the death of six militants that included Nasser al-Turshany aka Abu Khaled al-Madany, who is thought to be a Commander of Ansar Al-Sharia.
- IED - 08 Jul 17, Benghazi Province, Sabri: IED explosion kills one civilian and injures two. The civilians were trying to reenter their home in Sabri.
- Crime - 09 Jul 17Morning, Al-Butnan Province, Tobruk: Members of LNA's military police have reportedly raided a Turkish ship berthed at Tobruk port. The General Manger of the port said that the military police had confiscated the ship captain's passport. Reports indicate that the ship was suspected of smuggling fuel and/or petroleum products loaded into 40 containers. Tunis was reported as the ship's destination.
- Threat Warning - 10 Jul 17Afternoon, Benghazi Province, Benghazi: LNA sources are reporting that seven militants have managed to flee from the Sabri area. The LNA is conducting an extensive search of the surrounding area in order to locate the escaped militants.
- BBIED - 10 Jul 17Afternoon, Benghazi Province, As Sulmani: Sources indicate that three LNA personnel were injured when an RSCB militant detonated an explosive belt. Two militants had escaped from the Sabri area and managed to reach As Sulmani Martyr's School. They were then cornered by LNA soldiers. One of the militants was killed while the other managed to detonate his explosive pack.
- Arrest - 10 Jul 17, Benghazi Province, Sabri: LNA have reportedly arrested an Egyptian national who is thought to be a member of IS while he was attempting to escape Sabri.
- IED - 10 Jul 17, Benghazi Province, Suq Al-Hout: IED explosion kills two LNA members while conducting sweeps of homes in Suq Al-Hout.
- Airstrike - 11 Jul 17, Derna Province, Derna: LNA helicopters have reportedly launched airstrikes on opposition positions at the western entrance of Derna. No casualties were reported.
- BBIED - 11 Jul 17, Benghazi Province, Benghazi: An undisclosed number of RSCB members who managed to flee the Sabri area have triggered BBIED's in their possession after being cornered around Fifth Ring Road by pursuing LNA members. The casualty count is unknown.
- Arrest - 11 Jul 17, Derna Province, Kirissah: CID members from Shahat have arrested a Libyan national thought to be a member of MSCD from the Kirissah coast area west of Derna.
- IED - 12 Jul 17Evening, Benghazi Province, Suq Al-Hout: IED explosion kills three civilians returning to their home on Derna Street.
- Arrest - 12 Jul 17, Benghazi Province, Sabri: LNA sources have reported the arrest of Mohamed Al-Mijbry, a Libyan national and a known IS member. He was found hiding within the Jredd market.
- IED - 12 Jul 17, Benghazi Province, Sabri: LNA field commander Waleed Farhat was injured when an IED detonated during a clearance operation in the Sidi Akribesh area.
- IED - 12 Jul 17, Benghazi Province, Suq Al-Hout: LNA's Engineering Corps has reported the death of a civilian after triggering an IED when returning to their home.

Fezzan

Significant activity

- Murder/ Execution - 12 Jul 17, Evening, Sabha Province, Sabha: Unknown assailants have reportedly shot and killed the dean of the Faculty of Law of the Sabha University. The incident occurred near the Africa Hotel in downtown Sabha.
- Kidnap - 12 Jul 17, Wadi Al-Hayaa Province, Obari: A spokesperson of the Zawiyah Security Directorate has reported that three Libyan nationals, residents of Zawiyah have been kidnapped from Ubari. The kidnappers are demanding a ransom of one million LYD.

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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For more information on how our services can support your business in Libya contact:

Nigel Lea
Regional Director, Libya:
nigel.lea@garda.com
M: +44 (0)7880 382865

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Middle East

International Protective Services Headquarters
Office 2502, Tower 2, Currency House
DIFC, PO Box 482069
Dubai, United Arab Emirates

United States

1101 Wilson Boulevard
Suite 1725
Arlington, VA, 22209
United States

UK

5th Floor
1, London Bridge
London
SE1 9BG

Europe

37-39 rue des Deux Eglises
1000 Brussels
Belgium

garda.com/ips