



Weekly Libya .Xplored preview

February 02, 2018

Prepared by Risk Analysis Team, Libya

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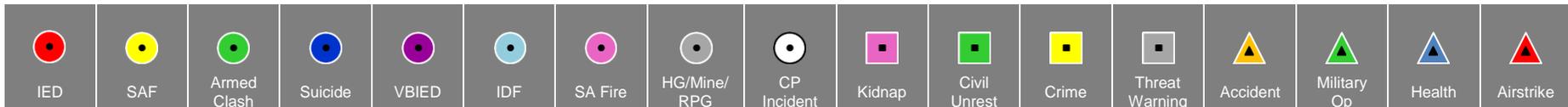
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LIBYA ACTIVITY MAP



TRIPOLI ACTIVITY MAP



IED	SAF	Armed Clash	Suicide	VBIED	IDF	SA Fire	HG/Mine/RPG	CP Incident	Kidnap	Civil Unrest	Crime	Threat Warning	Accident	Military Op	Health	Airstrike

		ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management QMS/112016/001	ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Management EMS/112016/001	BS OHSAS 18001:2007 Occupational Health & Safety Management HSMS/112016/001	ISO 18788:2015 Security Operations Management SMS/022016/001	ANSI/ASIS PSC.1-2012 Quality Assurance Management SMU/022014/001				
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OUTLOOK

Short term outlook

- Tensions are high in Sabha following a series of clashes between the Awlad Suleiman and Tebu tribes.
- The threat in Benghazi is assessed to have increased following the detonation of two VBIEDs on January 23 and the subsequent revenge executions by Major Mahmoud al-Warfali of the LNA Special Forces on January 24.
- Tensions remain in Tajura / Suq al-Juma. Groups opposing RDF are consolidating under a new unified Tajura Battalion. The area remains calm at present, but the underlying issues remain unresolved with negotiations continuing and there remains the potential for further clashes.
- IS has mounted two attempted VBIED attacks in Tripolitania, including one in Tripoli. Both attempts failed; however, they may indicate a change in strategy by the terrorist group. Both devices were to be remotely detonated and targeted against security forces. The group is currently threatening Bani Waled which has resulted in an increased threat in the area.

Medium to long term outlook

- As political talks fail to find any meaningful agreements, the concept of fresh elections has begun to gain traction amongst the political establishment. Deep divisions remain amongst the various factions, and an election blueprint has yet to be agreed. A number of those supporting the idea do not necessarily support the notion of a democratic establishment but are looking to exploit elections in a bid to gain power. The general population also remain skeptical of the political process and remain unclear what they would be voting for, highlighting the lack of structure and agreements currently around the process. The elections will trigger further posturing and maneuvering from various factions.
- IS continues to become bolder, mounting hit and run attacks against security forces and critical national infrastructure. They are also conducting criminal activity to raise funds and to help supply the group. The terrorist organization is believed to be trying to rebuild its capability in Libya and manpower is reported to be heading to the south of the country. IS will continue to benefit from the lack of political and security unity in Libya and may look to establish a fresh alliance with other extremist groups like al-Qaeda.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

Governance

- The Commissioner of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, Ismail Sharqi, stated at the African Union summit in Addis Ababa, that the situation in Libya is so complex that no one organization could solve it on its own. Sharqi is quoted as saying "We (the AU) say we should not rush to elections, we should prepare solid ground for peaceful and credible elections so that their results will be respected by all parties."
- The High National Elections Commission (HNEC) has extended voter registration from February 03 to February 15. The HNEC confirmed that the total number of the registered voters was now 2,242,510 as of January 30.
- Mohamed al-Shurki was sworn in as the new governor of the Central Bank of Libya by the HoR on January 29. The HCS and the Tripoli-based Central Bank of Libya governor, Sadiq al-Kabir, rejected his appointment.
- HoR Prime Minister Abdullah al-Thinni stated on January 30, that Fayez Sarraj and the Presidential Council had failed and that Libyans rejected the man "imposed on them by Britain." He added that European countries, but particularly the UK, have special interests in Libya's oil and are using Sarraj as a marketing front. He finished by alleging that "Britain is the enemy of the Libyan people."
- Factions within Misrata have physically stopped IDPs from returning to Tawergha on February 01 after voicing their opposition late on January 31.

Security

- The Minister of Interior, Arif Khoja, has issued a decision on the establishment of the Tawergha Security Directorate, with its administrative borders being the borders of the town. Khoja has called on the town's youth to join the ranks of the new security force.

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- Security in Sabha has deteriorated after several clashes between the Awlad Suleiman and the Tebu. The Mayor of Sabah has also demanded that the LNA General Command stop the salaries of their soldiers in Sabha following an attack against a security HQ in the city on January 28. They have also reached out to the GNA Mol to support the Security Directorate.
- The head of the Awagir Youths Movement, Jareh al-Aqouri, has claimed Field Marshall Haftar agreed to release the Deputy Minister of the Interior (GNA) Faraj Gaem on January 31 on the condition that a tribal committee is formed. It is unclear whether Gaem has been released yet.
- An airstrike targeted an IS gathering close to Bani Waled on the morning of January 30 after a threat from the group towards the town resulted in an increase in the security alert level. Two days earlier, an IED detonated against a patrol from 16 Infantry Battalion south of Sirte in a possible attempt to restrict security force freedom of movement in the area.
- Two VBIEDs were reportedly intercepted on their way to Benghazi by security forces. The devices have been linked to IS and come six days after a coordinated VBIED attack in the city which killed and injured over 100 people.
- The Municipal Council of Gharyan has held the Minister of Interior, Arif Khoja, responsible for the “security vacuum in the city.” The council stated that the Gharyan security directorate had stopped operating two weeks ago because of the “security chaos and in protest at the failure to appoint a new director by the Mol.” The council had backed Colonel Ali Triki for the position; however, this was refused by the Mol.

Migrant Crisis

- Sudan has called on its citizens not to travel illegally to Libya after footage emerged of Sudanese nationals being tortured on camera in a bid to extort money from their families back at home.
- The Illegal Immigration Authority stated it had shut the illegal immigration center in al-Khoms and sent those detained there to other centers.
- Four immigrant shelters are to be closed by the Illegal Immigration Agency in western Libya. No reason was given for the decision which was announced after the chief of the Illegal Immigration Agency, Brigadier General Mohamed Beshr, had met with Francesco Masini, envoy of the Dutch Foreign Minister. During the meeting, the Netherlands pledged to provide maintenance support for shelters.
- Tensions are once again on the increase in the Mediterranean. MSF claimed that one of their vessels, the Aquarius, was forced to stand down from a rescue on January 27.
- Interviews with 94 illegal immigrants from Somalia who managed to escape from a farm in Tazirbu have revealed that they were held for nearly three months in Kufra city before being held for a further four months in Tazirbu.

Oil & Gas

- Bloomberg has stated that Libyan oil exports are at a three year high. Observed crude exports from Libya recovered to 969kbpd in January, the highest in at least three and a half years. This figure compares with 742kbpd in December, 940kbpd in November.
- The NOC is transporting 107 of those wounded in the Benghazi attacks to Egypt and Tunisia for treatment.

KEY DATES

Date	Occasion	Comment
February 17	Libyan Revolution Day	Public Holiday
March 19-21	International Conference and Exhibition for rebuilding Benghazi city	
May 01	May Day	Public Holiday
June 26 – 28	Eid al-Fitr	Public Holiday
September 01	Day of Arafah	Public Holiday
September 02 – 04	Eid al-Adha	Public Holiday



THREAT MATRIX

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

Threat Scale	Minimal	Low	Moderate	High	Extreme
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LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Governance

Tawergha: Misrata blocks return at the last minute

On January 30, the Tawergha Detainees and Missing Persons Association announced that people would start to return to Tawergha on February 01. On January 31, the Misrata Council of Elders, Misrata Military Council and the Association of Martyrs and Missing Persons posted a statement on social media in which they rejected the return of IDP's to Tawergha until all the terms of the agreement between the two cities were implemented. Early on February 01, the Misratan Municipal Council also urged the PC to postpone the return stating that the peace agreement between the cities had not been fully implemented. The PC responded by accusing unnamed parties of "seeking to undermine the agreement" and stated it remained committed to the agreement reached in June 2017.

Security

Derna: Tensions building after VBIED attacks in Benghazi

In what may have been a response to the VBIED attacks in Benghazi, MSCD announced on January 24 that they had "dismantled" an LNA cell inside the city which was planning on conducting IED attacks. The following day, they announced the execution of three LNA members.

The city has also seen an increase in the tempo of IDF attacks from the LNA against MSCD positions over the week, culminating in the deployment of multi-barrel rocket launchers by 106 Battalion to the city on January 29. The deployment was accompanied by a number of reports suggesting an offensive was imminent, however it is not the first time the city has seen a similar scenario.

Sirte: Commander of 604 Battalion targeted

Sheikh Abdul Hamid Bin Rajab, the commander of 604 Battalion, was shot at while in his armoured vehicle on January 25 on Amrah Street in Neighborhood Three, Sirte. He was unharmed, but the incident is been seen locally as evidence that the 604 Battalion is becoming somewhat unpopular.

Sabha: Tribal clashes between the Awlad Suleiman and Tebu destabilize the city

A drive-by shooting on January 27 against a café in a Tebu neighborhood of Sabha has led to a series of reprisal attacks between the Awlad Suleiman and the Tebu tribes this week. In response to the shooting, the Tebu established checkpoints in the area. A corporal from 6 Battalion who refused to stop was shot dead. He was from the Awlad Suleiman. The Awlad Suleiman then shot dead a Tebu man prompting the Tebu to go to a nearby shop and demand CCTV footage in a bid to identify the killers. The shop owner refused to cooperate and was taken outside and shot. His shop was then burned down. Full-scale clashes then ensued from January 30 and remain ongoing.

Tripoli: Tensions remain around the Matiga airport area

An unconfirmed report suggested that 33 Battalion had conducted hit and run type attacks against RDF in a possible effort to trigger a response on the evening of January 29/30. A heavy presence of RDF was noted at

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the airport on January 31 which may have been in response. On February 02, Central Security (Tajura branch) reported that the alert state has been raised with increased patrols and checkpoints established at points of entry into Tajura. The reason given was "in order to maintain security and prepare for any emergency." Although negotiations have had some success locally, the militias involved remain deeply opposed to each other, and as such, there remains the potential for a resumption of hostilities in the area.

IS: Bani Walid raise alert following threat from IS

The Bani Walid Joint Security Center, raised the security alert level in the city due to an increased threat from IS against the town this week. In a communication to all military, police and intelligence units, the security center highlighted the need to increase the personal security of individuals as well as sites in relation to the terrorist threat. On the morning of January 30, an airstrike then targeted an IS gathering in Wadi Suf al-Jin near the town.

WEEKLY OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT

Tripolitania

Significant activity

- Demonstration - Jan 26, Az Zawiyah Province, Zawiyah: A small group demonstrated for the release of those arrested in Saudi Arabia in 2017.
- Troop Movements - Jan 26, Az Zawiyah Province, Surman: Colonel Miloud al-Zawi (LNA) has stated that 22 Battalion has deployed from Bir al-Ghanam to Surman.
- IED - Jan 28, Sirte Province, Gardabya Airport: A roadside IED has detonated against a patrol from the 16 Infantry Battalion near Gardabya Air Base. A vehicle was damaged, but no one was hurt.
- Shooting - Jan 28, Az Zawiyah Province, Zawiyah: Unknown gunmen opened fire on Ali Al-Bahloul, the deputy head of the projects department (GECOL) as he arrived at work. He was shot in the foot in the attack, and his company car was stolen. GECOL has called on the authorities to protect its workers after a series of incidents.
- Crime - Jan 29, Misrata Province, Misrata: 23 million tramadol tablets in a container from Sri Lanka have been intercepted by the Counter-Terrorism and Drug control department of customs at Misrata port. In a separate discovery, a container from Malaysia was found containing more than eight million tramadol tablets and 3000 packets of a suspected stimulant
- Shooting - Jan 29, Tripoli Province, Martyrs' Square: Unconfirmed reports suggested there was some intimidatory fire in the currency exchange market area near Martyrs Square in central Tripoli. The dispute was in response to some currency traders increasing the exchange rate to six LYD to the dollar while others stayed at five. The Central Bank Protection Group intervened in the issue, and the situation was reported have calmed.
- Airstrike - Jan 30, Misrata Province, Bani Waled: An unidentified aircraft carried out a strike on an IS gathering in Wadi Suf al-Jin. Bani Walid had increased its security alert state as a result of an increase in threat to the town from IS.
- Shooting - Jan 30, Tripoli Province, Hay Andalous: Unidentified gunmen conducted a drive-by shooting on the home of GNA Deputy Prime Minister Ahmed Maiteeq. The perpetrators used a Hyundai Avante.
- Shooting - Feb 01 04:15, Tripoli Province, Ayn Zarah: Shots were fired near Checkpoint 42.
- RPG - Jan 31 05:30, Tripoli Province, Matiga Airport: An unconfirmed report claims that 33 Infantry Brigade fired an RPG and heavy machine guns at RDF positions near Matiga Airport before withdrawing.

Cyrenaica

Significant activity

- Demonstration - Jan 26, Al-Wahat Province, Brega: Workers at a fertilizer company have staged a two-day protest to demand an improvement in health coverage and implement training plans which have been agreed.
- Murder/ Execution - Jan 26, Benghazi Province, Benghazi: The bodies of 12 people were found dumped in Laithi and al-Nahir road. Local residents in Laithi claimed that five of the men had been arrested the day before. They had previously been arrested on accusations of terrorism and released a year ago. One source stated that the men were arrested by the Tarek Bin Ziyad Salafist Brigade (LNA).

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- Kidnap - Jan 27, Benghazi Province, Boatni: Mohammed al-Fitouri was kidnapped from outside of his home. He had previously been employed as a guard for a private educational institute.
- Arrest - Jan 27, Benghazi Province, Benghazi: Security forces arrested two men who they accuse of belonging to a sleeper cell.
- Airstrike - Jan 27, Derna Province, Derna: LNA airstrikes were conducted against targets south of Derna. The strikes targeted vehicles and observation posts and other militant positions in the Bukhtal farm's area.
- Arrest - Jan 28, Al-Wahat Province, Jalu: A terrorist cell in Jalu was arrested by Special Forces.
- Murder/ Execution - Jan 28, Benghazi Province, Suq Al-Hout: Two bodies were found in Suq al-Hout showing signs of torture and gunshot wounds.
- Murder/ Execution - Jan 28, Benghazi Province, Garyounis: A body showing signs of torture and gunshot wounds was found dumped in Garyounis.
- Murder/ Execution - Jan 28, Benghazi Province, Ganfouda: A body showing signs of torture and gunshot wounds was found dumped in Ganfouda.
- VBIED Find - Jan 28, Benghazi Province, Benghazi: 106 Battalion (LNA) arrested seven men driving two VBIEDs (a Toyota pickup and a Chevrolet) at the Maghazah Checkpoint. The vehicles were on their way to Benghazi. Those arrested are allegedly aligned with IS.
- IDF - Jan 28, Derna Province, Daher Al-Hamer: The LNA carried out IDF attacks against MSCD locations during the afternoon.
- Murder/ Execution - Jan 28, Al-Wahat Province, Awjila: A body showing signs of torture and gunshot wounds was found on the outskirts of Awjila.
- Troop Movements - Jan 29, Derna Province, Derna: 106 Infantry Brigade (LNA) has deployed a number of BM21 GRAD Multi Barrel Rocket launchers to Derna. The deployment comes as the tempo of IDF attacks against MSCD positions in Derna increases.
- Prisoner Escape - Jan 29, Kufra Province, Tazirbu: Ninety-four illegal immigrants from Somalia have escaped from a farm where they were being detained by a human trafficking gang. The group reported that they had been tortured and were not provided with enough food or water.
- Murder/ Execution - Jan 30, Benghazi Province, Benghazi: An unidentified body, showing signs of torture, was discovered in the Kweifiya area of Benghazi.
- IED Find - Jan 30, Benghazi Province, Sidi Akribesh: The LNA dismantled a 30kg IED which was found near the Municipal Hotel.
- Demonstration - Jan 30, Al-Wahat Province, Ajdabiya: Staff at the Shaheed al-Amhamed al-Maqrif hospital mounted a protest over unpaid wages.
- Airstrike - Jan 30, Derna Province, Derna: The LNA carried out airstrikes against MSCD positions between Sidi Aziz and Wadi Shwar, south of Derna using helicopters.
- Troop Movements - Jan 31, Al-Wahat Province, Ajdabiya: 276 Infantry Brigade (LNA) and 298 Tank Battalion (LNA) held an exercise in the oil crescent.
- Prisoner Release - Jan 30, Benghazi Province, Benghazi: Amazigh activist Rabee al-Jayash was freed by the LNA. He had been arrested for allegedly speaking in the Amazigh language at a cultural event in Benghazi, however, other sources claim he was arrested for espionage.
- Murder/ Execution - Feb 01, Al-Butnan Province, Tobruk: A civilian was shot and killed.
- Arrest - Feb 01, Al-Jabal Al-Akhdar Province, Shahat: Security forces arrested a drug smuggler and seized 8,000 dinars worth of drugs.

Fezzan

Significant activity

- Demonstration - Jan 26, Sabha Province, Sabha: Tuareg tribes demanded that the HoR give them the appropriate documentation to allow them to register in the elections. They further demanded that the HoR give funding for schools and hospitals. They have threatened to disrupt local oilfields and LNA movements in their areas of influence if their demands are not met.
- Demonstration - Jan 27, Ghat Province, Ghat: A group of Tuaregs mounted a demonstration to demand that the HoR resolve the issue over national ID cards to allow them to register for the upcoming elections.
- Armed Attack - Jan 28, Sabha Province, Sabha: The Bank of North Africa was attacked at dawn. Two guards were killed and another wounded. One attacker was also wounded before they fled the scene.



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- Shooting - Jan 27, Sabha Province, Nasriya: A drive-by shooting targeted a café next to a fuel station in a Tebu neighborhood during the evening wounding several people.
- Kidnap - Jan 28, Sabha Province, Mahdiyah: A family from Taraghin has been kidnapped as they drove through Mahdiyah. Their abductors are reportedly demanding LYD 100,000 ransom.
- Armed Attack - Jan 28, Sabha Province, Sabha: Two guards at an oil facility were shot and killed at their HQ during an armed attack. A third guard was wounded.
- Shooting - Jan 28, Sabha Province, Sabha: Corporal Mahdi Omar Mahdi al-Futtaimi al-Suleiman from 6 Brigade (LNA) and a member of the Awlad Suleiman, was shot and killed near the Faculty of Arts after refusing to stop at a Tebu checkpoint which had been established in response to an earlier drive-by shooting.
- Murder/ Execution - Jan 28, Sabha Province, Sabha: Following the death of Mahdi Omar, members of the Awlad Suleiman killed a member of the Tebu.
- Armed Attack - Jan 28, Sabha Province, Sabha: Members of the Tebu raided a shop demanding that the owner show them CCTV of the earlier murder of a member of the Tebu tribe in an effort to identify the murderer. The owner, Osama al-Merimi al-Busaifi, refused and was shot and killed. His shop was then burned down.
- Shooting - Jan 29, Sabha Province, Sabha: Unidentified gunmen opened fire on a civilian vehicle at the al-Gharzah intersection near Sabah. The vehicle had been traveling from Tamanhint. One child was wounded in the attack.
- Armed Clashes - Jan 29, Sabha Province, Sabha: Awlad Suleiman and Tebu tribes clashed in the Naseriya area and near Fares Army Base during the afternoon.
- Armed Clashes - Jan 30, Sabha Province, Sabha: Intermittent low-level clashes occurred in Sabha during the evening. Negotiations are ongoing involving the Sabha Military Council.
- Armed Clashes - Jan 30, Sabha Province, Sabha: Awlad Suleiman and Tebu tribes clashed in Sabha during the evening. One Tebu man was killed while two others were wounded.
- Armed Clashes - Jan 31, Sabha Province, Sabha: Heavy clashes took place between the Awlad Suleiman and Tebu tribes during the night.
- Armed Attack - Jan 31, Wadi Al-Shatii Province, Brak al-Shati: A soldier from 12 Brigade (LNA) approached three men shopping in a local store and ask for identification The men then shot the soldier and escaped in a car however another soldier along with local citizens began firing at the vehicle. The vehicle broke down and two of the men were found dead inside.
- Armed Clashes - Feb 01, Sabha Province, Sabha: Clashes continued into the morning in Sabha between the Awlad Suleiman and Tebu tribes. The city centre was reported as quiet with limited movement however schools and shops were open.
- Armed Clashes - Feb 01, Sabha Province, Sabha Castle: Clashes took place between the Awlad Suleiman and Tebu tribes.



ACRONYM LIST

- AIOR – Anti-IS Operations Room (Sabratah)
- 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
- 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
- LIFG – Libyan Islamic Fighting Group
- 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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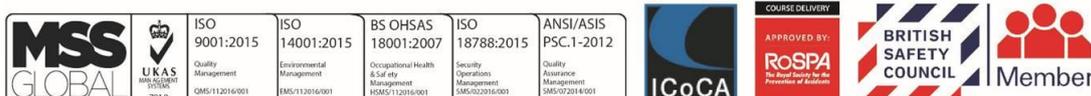
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