



Weekly Libya .Xplored report

17 February, 2017

Prepared by Risk Analysis Team, Libya

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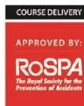


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ACTIVITY MAP



OUTLOOK

Short term outlook

- The situation in Tripoli between the GNA and the GNC has escalated after the GNC established the 'Libyan National Guard'. Further clashes are expected in the capital, especially around disputed areas.
- The 17 February anniversary of the Libya Revolution is ongoing. Flashpoints are likely at some level and security forces have mobilized troops in preparation for possible clashes.
- The LNA has resumed pre-emptive airstrikes against opposition forces based in Jufra following growing indications that a new assault is being planned against the oil crescent.
- Tensions are growing in Bayda, Cyrenaica as the LNA moves against a local ex-LNA senior military officer.

Medium to long term outlook

- The GNC has increased its power base in the west of Libya. It effectively controls a number of neighborhoods in the capital through loyal militia groups under the Libya National Guard banner.
- There is an increasing potential for destabilization in the south as feelings of marginalization grow and living conditions deteriorate. The situation could leave the area more vulnerable to exploitation by various factions and groups.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

Governance

- Haftar and Serraj meeting in Cairo cancelled
- GNA request assistance from NATO
- Tripoli International Airport holds opening ceremony

Security

- LNA resumes pre-emptive airstrikes in the oil crescent
- LNA face opposition in Al-Bayda

KEY DATES

Date	Occasion	Comment
17 February 2017	Revolution Day	Anniversary of the 2011 revolution.
19 March 2017	Commemoration	Commemoration of victory over Gadhafi.
01 May 2017	Labour Day	National holiday.
25 – 27 June 2017	Eid al Fitr	End of Ramadan.
01 – 03 September 2017	Eid ul Adha	Feast of Sacrifice.
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	Minimal	Low	Moderate	High	Extreme
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LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Governance

Haftar and Serraj meeting in Cairo cancelled

On 13 February, news broke that GNA Prime Minister Fayez Serraj and Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar had met in Cairo. The reports proved premature. Although both men were in Cairo, they had met separately with Egyptian officials in an attempt to hammer out an agreement. Reports then indicated that the two men were to attend a meeting on 14 February, chaired by Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi. The reports raised hopes that a deal could be reached between two of the main factions in Libya however by the end of the day, it was reported that the meeting had not taken place. After waiting for a number of hours for Haftar, Serraj was then reported to have departed Egypt, bound for Tripoli. The event was marked by conflicting reporting however there were some indications some progress may have been reached, via mediators.

GNA request assistance from NATO

A NATO spokesman has confirmed that the GNA has made an official request for assistance in the improvement of security and defense in Libya. Head of NATO, Jens Stoltenberg told a press conference in Brussels that Prime Minister Fayez Serraj had requested “NATO's advice and expertise in the field of defense and security institution building”. Stoltenberg said that the request would be discussed and a response provided as soon as possible. The request follows discussions between Serraj and Stoltenberg earlier this month and offers of assistance if a formal request for help was made. The request does not indicate international troops on the ground or NATO intervention.

Tripoli International Airport holds opening ceremony

On February 16, Tripoli International Airport was officially reopened after over two years of closure following severe damage during heavy clashes in 2014. Despite the presence of some officials closely linked to the GNA, the ceremony was very much led by the GNC. GNC leader, Khalifa al-Ghweil, gave a televised speech at the airport claiming that flights will resume soon. The ceremony was timed to coincide with celebrations of the 2011 Libyan Revolution, but could be slightly premature. The VIP lounge at the airport has been restored but work to rebuild the terminal, control tower and airport parking is still ongoing.

Security

LNA resumes pre-emptive airstrikes in the oil crescent

Following a number of indicators that a new offensive against the oil crescent was being planned, the LNA resumed pre-emptive airstrikes against targets in Jufra and Mabruk oilfield. It is understood that both BDB and GNA MoD 12 Brigade were targeted in a series of strikes starting on 09 February.

The operation has not gone entirely LNA's way however. On 10 February, a Mi35 multi-purpose attack helicopter came down near Mabruk after it had conducted an airstrike against a BDB column moving through the area. BDB claimed responsibility. On 14 February the BDB claimed to be in possession of the body of one of the three

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crewmen who died in the crash, despite the LNA claims that the bodies had been taken back to their families. The BDB attempted to use the body as leverage, stating they would refuse to return him and deny a proper burial unless aid was sent into Ganfouda.

LNA face opposition in Al-Bayda

The already strained relationship between Haftar and one of his senior commanders from Bayda Colonel Faraj al Barasi, deteriorated even further this week after the LNA launched a raid at Barasi’s home. Barasi was not present at the time of the raid however members of his family were reportedly detained and items taken from the farm. Barasi resigned his commission in the LNA following the raid.

WEEKLY OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT

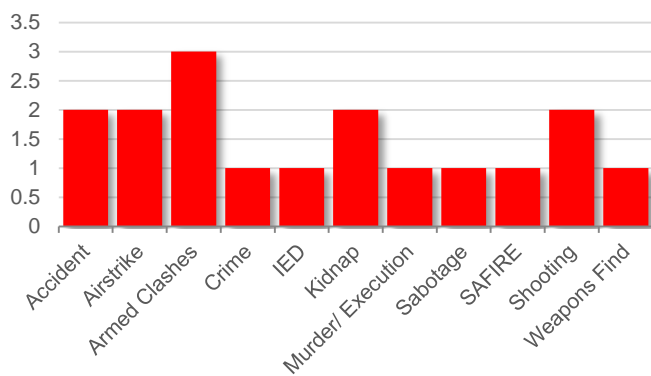
Tripolitania

Summary

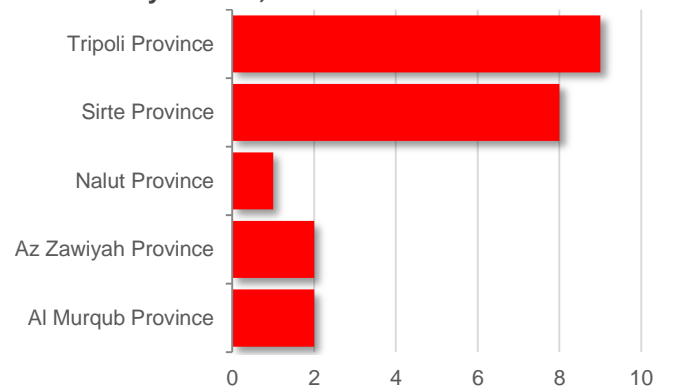
Activity levels decreased in Tripolitania this week with 17 incidents reported compared to 24 from the previous week. Following the emergence of the newly formed Libyan National Guard (LNG) in Tripoli, the capital has remained stable but tense. Security in the city has been high in preparation for the 17 February anniversary of the 2011 Libya revolution and the GNA MoD has ordered full mobilisation of troops in preparation of any incidents. Flashpoints during the day are possible throughout the country; however the local population appear to be less inclined to celebrate this year given the severity of the situation throughout Libya and the perceived lack of progress in recent years.

Incidents

Incidents by type, 09 - 15 Feb



Incidents by district, 09 - 15 Feb



Significant activity

- Armed Clashes - 09 Feb 17, Tripoli Province, Salahaddin: National Guard forces fought with pro-GNA groups.
- SAFIRE - 10 Feb 17, Sirte Province, Mabruk: A LAF helicopter crashed resulting in the deaths of three crew members. The cause of crash is unconfirmed, but the BDB claim to have shot down the helicopter.
- Armed Clashes - 11 Feb 17, Tripoli Province, Qaser Bin Ghashir: LNG advanced on TRB positions in the Qasr Bin Ghashir area and took ground between Ain Zara and Salahuddin.
- Airstrike - 12 Feb 17, Sirte Province, Mabruk: The LNA launched an airstrike against BDB in Mabruk. LNA claimed to have destroyed 40 x BDB vehicles.
- Kidnap - 11 Feb 17, Tripoli Province, Ghut al Roman Bridge: The Mayor of Sirte, was kidnapped/ detained at an Al Bogra militia checkpoint along with his two bodyguards as they travelled from Sirte to the capital at 2030hrs.

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- Kidnapping - 14 Feb 17, Sirte Province, Mabruk: BDB has released a video stating the still hold one of the pilots bodies from the Mi35 helicopter crash on 10 February and have given LNA 48 hours to provide supplies to Ganfouda otherwise they will no return the body and deny the pilot a proper burial.
- IED - 13 Feb 17, Az Zawiyah Province, Zawiyah: An IED detonated at the Martyrs Memorial in Zawiyah.
- Sabotage - 15 Feb 17, Sirte Province, Al Jafarah: Water Station 304 of the Great Man Made River (GMMR) was damaged after unidentified persons used explosives to sabotage the site. The main air turbine valve was damaged in the attack however water supplies would not be cut as the explosion had not affected the pumps.

Cyrenaica

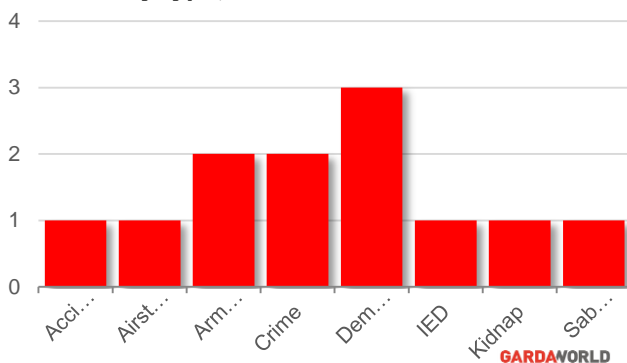
Summary

Activity in Cyrenaica increased this week with 15 incidents reported compared to 10 from last week. Despite the increase, activity remains comparatively low after the LNA took control of Ganfouda in Benghazi. Remnants of the RSCB remain in small packets in the city resulting in relatively minor clashes, which are expected to continue at a low level during the coming week.

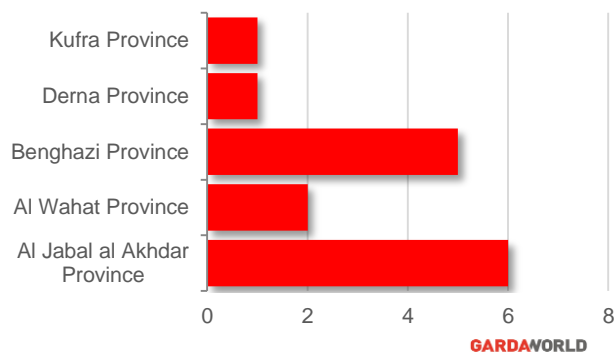
In Al Bayda, tensions have been increasing following LNA operations against Colonel Faraj al Barasi. A number of Barasi’s staff have been arrested including his brother and Barasi’s tribe have threatened retaliation.

Incidents

Incidents by type, 09 - 15 Feb



Incidents by district, 09 - 15 Feb



Significant activity

- IED - 13 Feb 17, Benghazi Province, Al Halis: An IED detonated in Al Halis injuring a civilian.
- Airstrike - 14 Feb 17, Derna Province, Derna: Three MSCD fighters killed while manning an OP in south Derna by an airstrike.
- Arrest - 13 Feb 17, Al Jabal Al Akhdar Province, Al Bayda: The LNA raided the farm of Colonel Faraj al Barasi in Garnada, 10km north of Al Bayda and arrested a number of people including Barasi’s brother. His tribe has promised retaliation.
- Demonstration - 13 Feb 17, Al Jabal Al Akhdar Province, Al Bayda: A demonstration was held in support of Colonel Faraj Al-Barasi following the raid on his farm earlier in the day.
- Prisoner Release - 14 Feb 17, Al Wahat Province, Ajdabiya: LNA launched an operation near Ajdabiya, freeing 14 Egyptian nationals who had been kidnapped. The operation was reported to be in conjunction with the Egyptian Army.
- Armed Clashes - 15 Feb 17, Al Jabal Al Akhdar Province, Al Bayda: The LNA again raided Colonel Faraj al Barasi's home in Wasita in an attempt to arrest him. Clashes ensued and one LNA soldier was killed with several injuries reported on both sides. Four people were arrested by the LNA, excluding Barasi who reportedly escaped the area.

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Fezzan

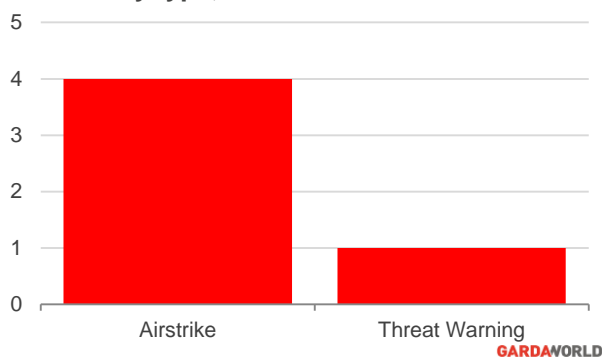
Summary

Incidents continue to be under-reported from the south with only four incidents (all airstrikes) being reported this week. In the Sabha area, IS activity has been reported, adding to earlier assessments that IS groups are consolidating in the south.

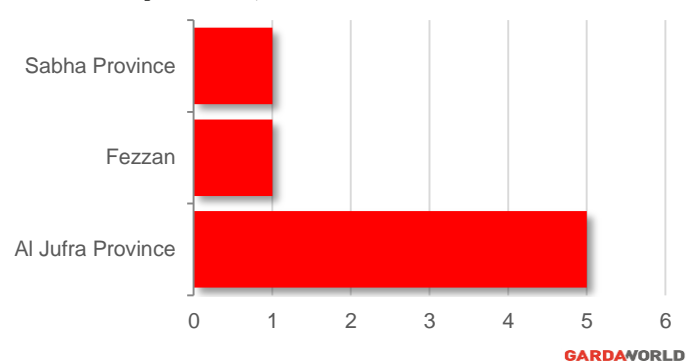
Further LNA airstrikes are likely in the coming week against BDB positions in the Hun area of Al Jufra Province, as the LNA seek revenge for an LNA helicopter downed last week, and attempt to pre-empt any offensives in the Oil Crescent.

Incidents

Incidents by type, 09 - 15 Feb



Incidents by district, 09 - 15 Feb



Significant activity

- Airstrike - 10 Feb 17, Al Jufra Province, Hun: LNA air assets conducted airstrikes against BDB positions in Jufra prior to the downing of a Mi35 multi-role attack helicopter.
- Airstrike - 15 Feb 17, Al Jufra Province, Hun: BDB reported that LNA had carried out another airstrike on a farm in Jufra.
- Airstrike - 15 Feb 17, Al Jufra Province, Al Jufra Airbase: LNA launched three airstrikes, this time targeted against Jufra airbase. Unconfirmed reports suggest there may have been two fatalities.

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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