Weekly Libya .Xplored Preview
17 March, 2017

Prepared by Risk Analysis Team, Libya

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ACTIVITY MAP
OUTLOOK

Short term outlook

- A second ceasefire in Tripoli appears to be holding for now. However, the agreement is fragile and armed clashes in Tripoli could easily reignite and escalate quickly. Fighting is now expected to focus on the outer areas of the city. Any Misratan deployments or reinforcements could escalate the situation further.
- Following the LNA’s recent success in the Oil Crescent, it is likely that clashes will continue in the area throughout the coming week as the LNA seek to increase their territory South and West. Attacks are likely to focus on airstrikes during the coming days. Incursions into Misratan territory could result in retaliations.
- As groups supportive of the BDB try to stretch LNA resources, further clashes in Benghazi and Derna are likely. “Breakouts” by groups previously trapped in each area may occur as LNA troops are redeployed elsewhere.

Medium to long term outlook

- Recent clashes in Tripoli have led to increased uncertainty in the capital. The attack against the GNC compound has resulted in pro-GNC groups being pushed outside central Tripoli. This has changed the security dynamics in Tripoli.
- Clashes in the Oil Crescent are becoming increasingly polarizing in Libya, forcing stakeholders to take a side. The situation has the potential to escalate in the longer term if other groups become involved.
- The Oil Crescent incident has caused major political setbacks leaving the LPA in question. International pressure is now required to return the eastern HoR to the negotiations. A breakthrough is unlikely in the coming months.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

Governance

- 75 HoR members have issued a statement giving their backing to the LPA. The group are holding meetings in Tripoli to decide future courses of actions.
- A member of the NOC has warned that a force majeure could be called soon if fighting in the Oil Crescent continues.
- Two ceasefires have been agreed in Tripoli, following clashes in the city. The first was broken within the first day. The second was implemented close to the time of reporting and appears to be holding.

Security

- Heavy armed clashes have occurred in Tripoli, mainly between local militia and Misratan groups.
- Pro-GNA militias have taken control of the GNC HQ at the Rixios compound.
- Heavy LNA airstrikes preceded a major air, sea and ground offensive against BDB positions in Ras Lanuf and As Sidr. The offensive was successful in retaking control of the positions.
- An unnamed official has said that the Coastal Highway west of Tripoli will soon be manned by MoI troops and reopened up to the 27th CP.

Oil and gas

- Oil production has fallen by 80,000bpd to 620,000bpd
KEY DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Occasion</th>
<th>Comment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19 March 2017</td>
<td>Commemoration</td>
<td>Commemoration of victory over Gadhafi.</td>
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<tr>
<td>01 May 2017</td>
<td>Labour Day</td>
<td>National holiday.</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 – 27 June 2017</td>
<td>Eid al Fitr</td>
<td>End of Ramadan.</td>
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<tr>
<td>01 – 03 September 2017</td>
<td>Eid ul Adha</td>
<td>Feast of Sacrifice.</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 September 2017</td>
<td>Martyrs Day</td>
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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 |

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Governance

HoR remains divided over support for the LPA
Towards the end of last week, 75 members of the HoR presented an open letter to the international community pledging their support to the LPA and rejecting an earlier vote in the HoR to revoke their support for the LPA. The group called the vote inadmissible because it was added to the agenda without an appropriate level of notice for such an important decision, and it occurred after most of the HoR representatives had left Tobruk.

Security

Major armed clashes in Tripoli
Throughout the week, major clashes occurred in Tripoli between pro-GNA and pro-GNC groups. These have been described as the most violent clashes in the city since 2014 and resulted in Misratan militia and the GNC from being pushed south of the city centre. The incident escalated slowly at first but then spread quickly throughout Tripoli.

LNA offensive in oil crescent
After a period of airstrikes in the Oil Crescent, the LNA launched a long anticipated ground offensive against BDB positions in Ras Lanuf, As Sidr, Bin Jawad and An Nawfaliyah. The LNA quickly took control of all BDB positions and oil facilities in the Oil Crescent within the day. The BDB, rejected these claims, stating that they had already handed over the positions to the GNA PFG and moved away from the area prior to the attack.

BAM announce curfew in Sirte
BAM has implemented an ‘indefinite curfew’ in Sirte, from 2000 - 0700hrs each evening. They claim that the curfew is due to the movement of "IS fugitives" in the South of the City.
Coastal Highway between Zawiyah and Tripoli to reopen “partially”
A government official speaking anonymously has been quoted in the media stating that the Coastal Highway will reopen soon following a meeting between the Zawiyah Crisis Committee and parties from Warshefana. He said that the only condition was that the Interior Ministry would provide troops to secure the road; external groups would not be allowed to man security CPs.

Oil and gas

Oil production drops to 620,000bpd
In the past week, Libya’s oil production has fallen by 80,000bpd to around 620,000bpd as a result of clashes in the Oil Crescent. Production by Waha Oil Co had been entirely halted. A port official at Ras Lanuf said that production by Harouge Oil Operations had also been affected.

WEEKLY OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT

Tripolitania

Incidents

Incidents by type, 09 - 15 Mar

Incidents by district, 09 - 15 Mar

Significant activity
- Airstrike - 10 Mar 17, Afternoon, Sirte Province, Ras Lanuf and As Sidr: LNA airstrikes targeted BDB positions in Ras Lanuf and As Sidr
- Airstrike - 12 Mar 17, Sirte Province, An Nawfaliyah, Ras Lanuf and As Sidr: At least seven airstrikes occurred overnight in As Sidr, Ras Lanuf and An Nawfaliyah.
- Civil unrest - 13 Mar 17, 18:00, Tripoli Province, Gorji: At approx. 1800hrs on March 13, reports indicated increased tension in the Gorji and Hay Andalous area following an earlier ‘drive-by’ shooting. Roads were blocked and locals set fire to tyres in protest.
- Airstrike - 13 Mar 17, Sirte Province, As Sidr and Ras Lanuf: LNA conducted airstrikes on BDB positions
- Armed Clashes - 14 Mar 17, 06:00, Tripoli Province, Hay Andalous: Heavy clashes occurred in the areas of Hay Andalous, Gorji, Gargaresh and several other areas of the city.
- Armed Clashes - 14 Mar 17, Sirte Province, As Sidr and Ras Lanuf: The LNA launched a full offensive against BDB positions in the oil crescent. The LNA successfully retook As Sidr and Ras Lanuf, and later Bin Jawad and An Nawfaliyah.
- RPG - 15 Mar 17, 02:00hrs, Tripoli Province, Tripoli: Militia attacked Al Naba TV station with RPGs in Znata area. The building was severely damaged in the ensuing fire.
Armed Clashes - 15 Mar 17, Tripoli Province, Tripoli: Clashes have continued in Tripoli around in areas of Hay Andalous, Ain Zara and the Rixios Compound. At approx. 0930hrs, the TRB and Ghneiwa troops took control of the Rixios compound.

Armed Clashes - 15 Mar 17, evening, Tripoli Province, Tripoli: Clashes occurred overnight in Tripoli. Incidents were generally in the areas of Salahaddin and Khaled al Furjan.

Armed Clashes - 15 Mar 17, Tripoli Province, Salahaddin: Armed clash involving heavy weapons occurred near the Yarmouk Camp, in Tripoli.

Cyrenaica

Incidents

Significant activity

- Demonstration - 10 Mar 17, Al Jabal Al Akhdar Province, Al Bayda: Hundreds’ of residents held a protest in support of the LNA in the fight against the BDB. According to media reporting protestors burned an Italian flag.

- Armed Clashes - 12 Mar 17, Benghazi Province, Ganfouda: A spokesman for LNA Special Forces, stated that an IS leader, Mu’taz al-Ansar, was one of several people killed in Benghazi during a "failed escape attempt".

- VBIED - 15 Mar 17, Al Wahat Province, Brega: A VBIED was found and diffused by the LNA in Brega. Social media images show soldiers standing beside two large shells apparently taken from the vehicle.

Fezzan

Incidents

Significant activity

- Airstrikes - 13 Mar 17, Al Jufra Province, Hun: LNA conducted airstrikes on BDB positions near Hun.

- Airstrike - 15 Mar 17, Al Jufra Province, Al Jufra Airbase: Media outlets report several airstrikes in Jufra.
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 Bengazi 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
MoI - 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 Bengazi
RTA - Road Traffic Accident
SDB – Saraya Defend Bengazi / 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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