



Weekly Libya .Xplored Preview

07 April, 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
QMS/072014/001



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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 QAS/022016/001					
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OUTLOOK

Short term outlook

- LNA operations remain ongoing in Sabha and Jufra. Further airstrikes by Misrata are possible against LNA targets and the situation has the potential to escalate tensions between the two main armed factions in Libya.
- LNA operations are expected to continue in Sabri and Suq al Hout areas of Benghazi. Operations in Derna have reduced at present to give space for potential negotiations.
- Tensions remain in areas of southern Tripoli and further clashes remain 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

- 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 GNA has continued to press ahead with its decision to strip powers from the NOC further exacerbating the situation. The GNA's position could push the currently neutral NOC chairman over to the east.
- Pressure is growing on the Central Bank of Libya management over the recent devaluing of the LYD. Exports are being restricted while imports are expected to reduce, which will push prices up in country. Bank staff are calling for the resignation of the Governor Sadeq al Kabir.
- Russian concerns over the UN decision to appoint Richard Wilcox as head of mission appear to have derailed the appointment. The move follows the US refusal to accept the original nomination, former Palestinian Prime Minister Salam Fayyad. Martin Kobler, the current UN head of mission is expected to step down this month.
- The HoR has signaled its intent to reengage with the LPA however it has set a number of preconditions including reducing the PC to three people, and crucially, that the LNA heading by Field Marshall Khalifa Haftar is recognized as the 'sole legitimate armed force'.

Security

- The LNA has launched Operation Quick Sand aimed at taking control of Tamanhint Airport. The operation has raised tensions between the LNA and Misrata and will impact on the GNA's relationship with the HoR. There remains the potential for an escalation given the involvement of two of the main armed factions in Libya.
- The LNA has also launched pre-emptive attacks against Jufra Airbase in what appears to be an attempt to disrupt and degrade BDB and associated militias who are believed to be planning further military operations against the Oil Crescent.
- Tensions remain in Zawiyah as the crackdown on fuel smuggling continues. Rival militias engaged in ongoing feuds are also adding to issues currently affecting the city.
- Activity in Derna has reduced to create space for potential negotiations.

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: Minimal, Low, Moderate, High, Extreme

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Governance

GNA pressing ahead with its decision to strip NOC of powers

On 02 April, the GNA established a committee which will be responsible for the licensing and endorsing of new oil deals. The committee will be headed by Mohammed Oun and is likely to exacerbate tensions with the head of the Tripoli NOC, Mustapha Sanalla. Further legal action is taking place against the decision which would give the GNA more control over the country’s main source of income. It has the potential however to push Sanalla, who has largely managed to remain neutral up to this point, towards the east.

Security

LNA: Operations begin against Tamanhint and Jufra Airbases

On 04 April, the LNA stated that they had intelligence suggesting the BDB was preparing for another assault on the oil crescent. The statement claimed that the Muslim Brotherhood had met with BDB representatives in Misrata on 02 April and agreed on which forces would participate in the attack and its timing.

On 28 March, unconfirmed reports suggested a troop build up in Traghen, around 125km south of Sebha. On 04 April, Members of the Desert Brigade of the Free Men of the South (LNA) released a statement, backed up by pictures, claiming they had ‘liberated some military installations’ specifically mentioning Sabah Airport. Further



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reporting suggested that Third Force had retaken control over Sabha Airport later that day, with no clashes reported.

On 05 April, the LNA launched 'Operation Quick Sands' aimed at taking control of Tamanhint Airbase, approximately 30km northeast of Sabha. LNA airstrikes targeted the airbase itself while clashes occurred in areas surrounding the base including at Gweir Al Mal Checkpoint.

In response to the offensive, jets departed Misrata and launched an airstrike against Brak Shati airbase, home to 12 Bde, LNA. 201 Battalion, Third Force is currently reported to still be in control of Tamanhint Airbase, but LNA has stated that the operation is continuing as planned and have posted pictures of captured equipment.

Reporting indicated that the LNA was also sending units to Jufra after airstrikes were reported by LNA against the base. The Zawiyah Martyrs Battalion, whose commander has recently been appointed as the new Jufra Operations Room commander, was redeployed from Benghazi while 153 Battalion was redeployed from As Sidra to Jufra. Jufra is assessed as remaining a key target for LNA and as such, they may use the momentum to push for control. At the very least the LNA will be looking to disrupt and degrade BDB and associated militias in a bid to prevent another attack against the crescent.

Tensions result in violence in Zawiyah

This week, a notorious member of Hneish militia Arafa Al Lateef, accidentally killed himself when an IED detonated in his vehicle, triggering a number of others. Lateef was known to emplace IEDs around his home as protection from rival gangs and was believed to be collecting the devices during the morning when the incident occurred. Lateef was involved in a feud with the Awlad Suker tribe who had burned down four of his family homes. After identifying those involved from CCTV, he was then reported to have assassinated 13 people before his untimely demise. Known for building IEDs as well, his death is likely to have a tactical impact on operations in the city and the ongoing feud between Hneish and Awlad Suker.

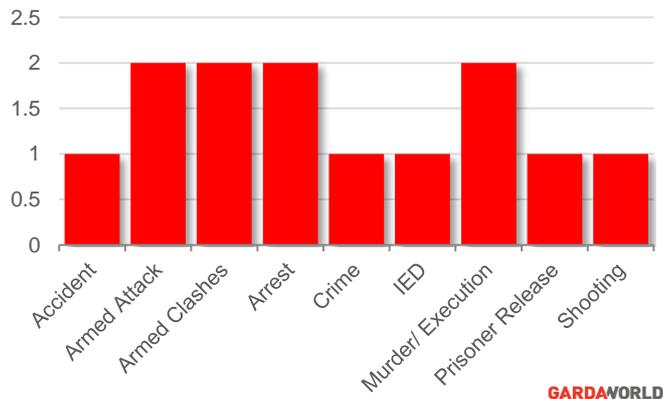
Activity drops in Derna as talk of negotiations gains traction

The last couple of weeks have seen a buildup of LNA troops around Derna and a number of airstrikes and skirmishes have been reported raising the expectation that the LNA was finally planning an assault on the city. Activity in the area dropped this week however as talk of possible negotiations between MSCD and the HoR gained traction. On 02 April, the HoR sent an envoy to MSCD to 'begin bilateral negotiations in the area of Kirsah to end the military confrontations with the LNA.' While the HoR had not set any pre-conditions for talks, MSCD reportedly stated that all Derna locals, detained based on the fact they are from Derna, should be released.

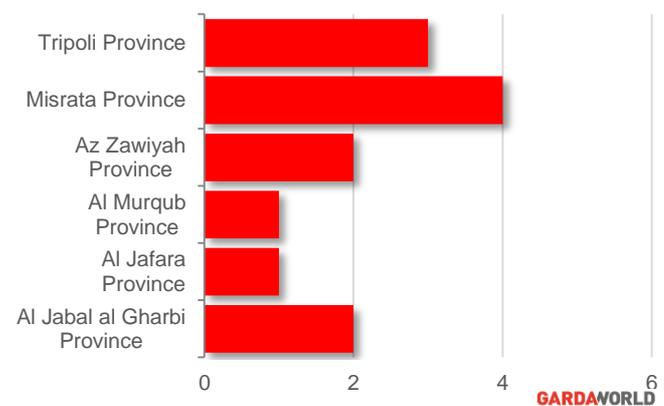
WEEKLY OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT

Tripolitania

Incidents by type, 30 Mar – 05 Apr



Incidents by district, 30 Mar – 05 Apr



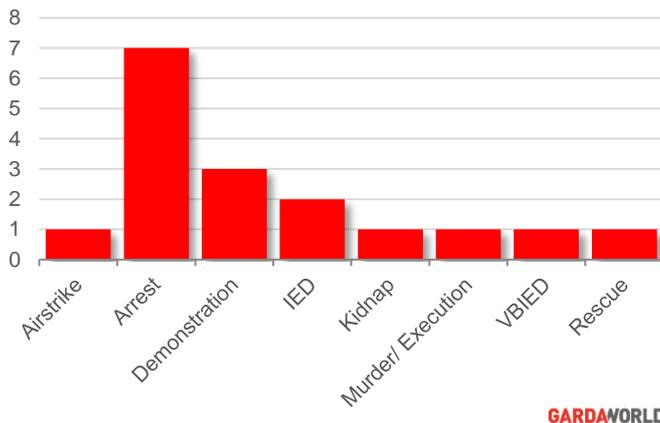
07 April 2017

Significant activity

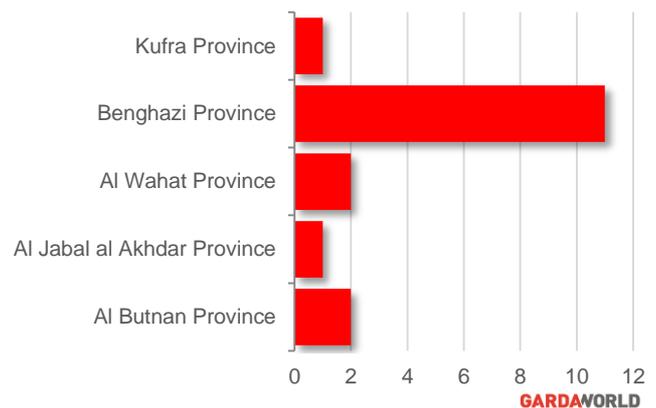
- IED - 31 Mar 17, Al Jabal Al Gharbi Province, Ash Shwayrif: An IED was reported to have been found by 12 Brigade (LNA) inside the Great Man Made River (GMMR) near Ash Shwayrif.
- Armed Clashes - 02 Apr 17, Al Jafara Province, Warshefana: Clashes erupted in Warshefana area, west of Tripoli, between two local armed groups, Abdulhameed Alhimaly battalion and Omar Aldawy battalion, reports state that grad rockets were used in the clashes causing civilian families in the area to flee. Reportedly, a cease-fire agreement has been reached between the two groups.
- Armed Attack - 04 Apr 17, Az Zawiyah Province, Sabratah: The Chairman of the Board of Directors of the International Organization for Cooperation and Relief, Dr. Jamal Al Mabrouk, was attacked by armed assailants while he was driving his vehicle in the city of Sabratah. He escaped unharmed but his vehicle sustained damage.
- Murder/ Execution - 04 Apr 17, Al Murqub Province, Khoms: The Head of the Passports Security Office, Capt. Marwan Abshesh, has been shot and killed by unknown assailants while driving through the coastal road near the city center. Reporting indicates it was a robbery and the assailant was critically injured.
- Armed Clashes - 05 Apr 17, Az Zawiyah Province, Al Harsha: Clashes broke out once again between rival militia groups in Zawiyah. The Awlad Sager and Hneish militias fought in the Harsha area of Zawiyah resulting in two civilian casualties.

Cyrenaica

Incidents by type, 30 Mar – 05 Apr



Incidents by district, 30 Mar – 05 Apr

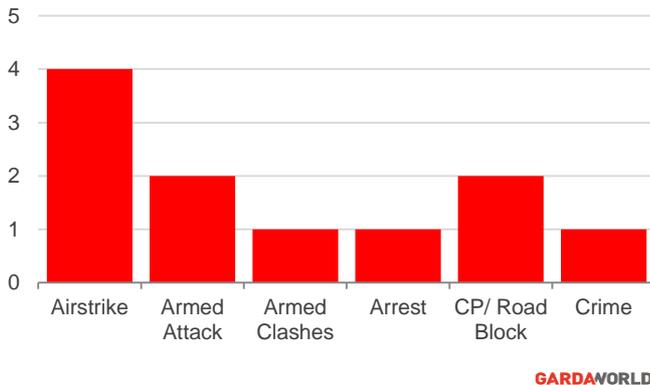


Significant activity

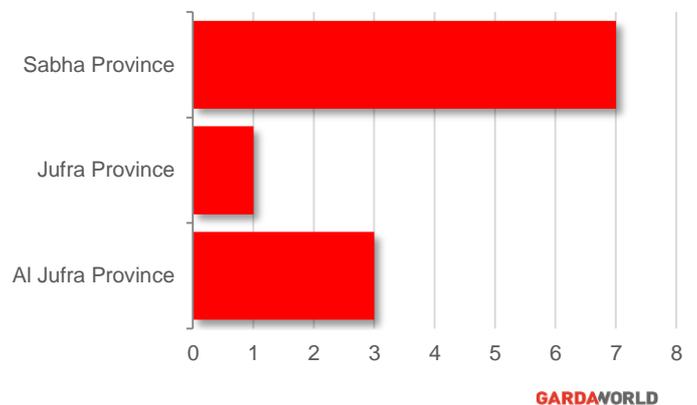
- VBIED - 02 Apr 17, Benghazi Province, As Sabri: Reports state that As Sabri - Al Lathama bridge was targeted by a VBIED that caused major damage to the bridge. LNA spokesperson says this was an attempt by remnants of RSCB forces in As Sabri trying to cut off routes into the area. The explosion that was heard throughout Benghazi is one of the largest to date. **COMMENT:** 'RSCB sources reported that the explosion was as a result of an airstrike by LNA forces.' **COMMENT ENDS.**
- Airstrike - 02 Apr 17, Benghazi Province, As Sabri: LNA have conducted airstrikes against RSCB positions.
- Murder/ Execution - 02 Apr 17, Benghazi Province, Benghazi: Security sources in Benghazi reported that a civilian and a member of the Navy have been killed with two civilians reportedly injured, after being targeted by sniper fire from the city centre of Benghazi. They were reported to have been driving on the Jalyanah Bridge when the incident occurred. The sailor was killed while trying to shield the civilian vehicle using his own vehicle.

Fezzan

Incidents by type, 30 Mar – 05 Apr



Incidents by district, 30 Mar – 05 Apr



Significant activity

- Airstrike - 04 Apr 17 00pm, Al Jufra Province, Al Jufra Airbase: Reports state that LNA fighter jets targeted Al Jufra Airbase
- Armed Clashes - 05 Apr 17, Sabha Province, Tamanhint Airport: LNA forces have begun an operation aimed at taking control of Tamanhint Airbase. Airstrikes against the base have been reported and troops have engaged to the east of the base near Samnu.
- Airstrike - 05 Apr 17, Sabha Province, Tamanhint Airport: Reports state that LNA fighter jets targeted Tamanhint Airport
- Airstrike - 05 Apr 17, Al Jufra Province, Al Jufra Airbase: Reports state that LNA fighter jets have targeted Al Jufra Airbase. Reporting also states that Zawiyah Martyrs Battalion has been redeployed from Benghazi to Jufra and 153 Battalion has been redeployed from As Sidra.
- CP/ Road Block - 05 Apr 17, Sabha Province, Tamanhint Airport: Roads leading to Tamanhint airbase have been blocked; this includes Tamanhint - Sabha road and Tamanhint - Samnu road.
- Airstrike - 05 Apr 17, Sabha Province, Tamanhint Airport: Fighter jets conducted airstrikes on the Brak Shati area and the surrounding areas of Tamanhint Airbase. The aircraft took off from the Misrata Air Academy as per a briefing by the LNA.
- 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 Quick Sand.

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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