



Weekly Libya .Xplored report preview

September 15, 2017

Prepared by Risk Analysis Team, Libya

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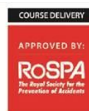
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ACTIVITY MAP



IED	SAF	CPX	Suicide	VBIED	IDF	SA Fire	HG/Mine/RPG	Kidnap	Civil Unrest	Crime	Accident	Health

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OUTLOOK

Short term outlook

- Political tension is likely to continue following the appointment of the Deputy Minister of Interior; a controversial figure from the Awageer tribe in Benghazi.
- Tensions are high in the oil crescent following an increase in IS activity which has prompted both the LNA and BAM to send reinforcements. An increase in troop levels from BAM and the LNA once again increases the risk of confrontation between the two with the LNA still perceived as being a threat to BAM. There is an increased threat towards the LNA held oil installations along the crescent.
- Clashes or revenge murders are possible in Tripoli following the murder of a militiaman in Tajura. Incidents are likely to remain relatively small initially but escalations are possible.
- Tensions remain elevated along the Zuwara, Sabratah and Zawiyah coastal areas due to a number of issues including a complex security environment involving fuel smuggling and people trafficking.

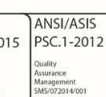
Medium to long term outlook

- The political and security environment in Libya continues to absorb the impact of the GCC move to isolate Qatar. The east of the country remains supportive, looking to exploit the situation and reduce the influence of in country opponents, while simultaneously improving international support.
- GNA President Serraj and LNA Commander Khalifa Haftar, remain central to international stakeholders' attempts to unify east and west. However, alternative solutions are being pursued by other entities with opposing factions. As factions move closer to a possible deal, tensions are likely to increase inside Libya, and there is potential for some level of fragmentation of their support bases. As a result, new alliances may be formed as progress leaves some with reducing levels of influence.
- The remnants of the GNC, which has allegedly benefited from Qatari support, remain politically isolated after losing their footprint in the capital at the end of May. Their last attempt to take territory in the capital by force failed when their fighters were forced from Garabuli on July 11, and support appears to be waning. The threat is assessed to be evolving as the GNC, and associated forces adapt to the changing environment. While intent is assessed to remain, especially for the hardliners, tactics may alter.
- There are indications that IS is beginning to regroup in Libya. Some reports suggest fighters from Iraq and Syria are heading to North Africa. The group is reported to be present in some areas south of Sirte, Bani Waled, and Sabratah.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

Governance

- The Head of the HCS, Abdulrahman Asswehly, Head of the HoR, Agila Saleh, and GNA President, Fayeze Sarraj, attended the African Union meeting on Libya this week. No major breakthroughs were reported. However, in the sidelines of the meeting the HOR and the HCS dialogue committees have conducted their first meeting. A follow-up meeting has been planned for the end of month in Tunis.
- A televised debate involving President Fayeze Sarraj has provided an insight into political topics, including elections, the economy, security and relations with the eastern government.
- The UN envoy to Libya, Ghassan Salamé has indicated that elements of the UN will return to Tripoli in early October.
- A campaign in eastern Libya is encouraging local residents to nominate Khalifa Haftar for President of Libya. Another campaign for Basim Igtet is also gathering momentum.
- Foreign Ministers, at an Arab League meeting, have called for the unfreezing of Libyan assets overseas.
- The International Criminal Court (ICC) has again called for the senior LNA Commander, Mahmoud al-Wefalli to be handed over to face accusations of war crimes and summary executions.



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Security

- The Head of the HoR has issued a decree forming four new military zones affiliated to the LNA; the Gulf Military Zone, based in Ajdabiya; the Misrata Military Zone, based in Khoms; the Tripoli Military Zone, based in Suq Khamis; and the Zawiyah Military Zone, based in Sabratah.
- A suspected IED found in Tripoli on September 12 appears to have been a false alarm.
- A member of Tripoli Revolutionaries' Brigade was shot and killed on September 13. Retaliations are possible in the coming days.
- Security arrangements have been agreed between Tarhunah and Tripoli security forces to secure the main highway between Tripoli and Qaser Bin Ghashir.
- The US AFRICOM Commander has indicated that the US will coordinate with the LNA in strikes against IS groups in the Oil Crescent. Both BAM and LNA have deployed reinforcements to the area.
- The Mayor of Sabha has warned that the city is becoming overrun by foreign criminal gangs.

Travel

- The Benghazi port authority has announced that the port of Benghazi will reopen on 1 October.
- Misrata International Airport will shut down on Sunday, September 17, due to a Ground Handling Services strike.

Oil and gas

- Tunisia is to host a conference on Libya's energy sector on October 7-8.

Migration

- The number of migrants reaching Italy from Libya in the last nine weeks has seen huge decreases. More than 80% fewer people made the crossing, compared with the same period last year. In the first week of September, 862 arrived, down 17% from the previous week.

KEY DATES

Date	Occasion	Comment
14 September 2017	UK meeting on Libya	Attendees to include: British Foreign Secretary, the UN Special Envoy and US Secretary of State
16 September 2017	Martyrs Day	
22 September 2017	Hijri New Year	
25 September 2017	Protest in Martyrs' Square, Tripoli	Organized by Basit Igtet.
26 September	Meeting for HCS and HoR dialogue committee in Tunis.	
07 – 08 October 2017	Oil sector conference in Tunis	
23 October 2017	Liberation Day	National holiday
24 December 2017	Independence 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

Governance

Election news

During the reporting period, there have been several reports relating to possible national elections in Libya in 2018. The news comes despite no formal plans being made public on the timelines of elections. In a television interview GNA President Fayeze Sarraj this week insisted that the difficult security situation in Libya should not prevent elections from occurring. He said that with at least six months' notice, sufficient preparations could be made. However, these preparations must include guarantees from international and local stakeholders, and election candidates, that the election results would be accepted. This demand is a key point considering the disputes following previous elections which has led to competing parallel governments and civil war in Libya. "I see elections as the only way out from Libya's crisis", he said.

Security

Coordination between forces opposing IS in Libya

After a busy period in recent weeks, indicating a growing IS resurgence between Sirte and Harawah, activity now appears to be reducing. The lack of activity indicates that IS, fearing reprisals, has gone to ground for a short period at least. In response to the threat, BAM has offered to work with any group in the region that will fight with them against IS. The statement appears to be aimed at the LNA. Similarly the US AFRICOM commander has stated that it will work to open channels with the LNA leader, Khalifa Haftar, likely in the hope of coordinating airstrikes. At this time, the LNA has not issued a public response.

Travel

Benghazi port to open in October

The Benghazi port authority has announced that the port of Benghazi will reopen on October 01. The port has been closed since 2014 after militants in the city seized control of the site. The main airport in Benghazi also reopened during the summer, suggesting that, while insecurity still exists in Libya's second city, there is increased stabilization over recent months.

Oil and gas

Energy conference to be held in Tunis

A conference on the Oil Sector in Libya is to be held in Tunis, beginning on October 07 and lasting for two days. The event is organized by the "Superior Council of Libyan and Tunisian Entrepreneurs." According to local media, the forum will look at performance in 2016 and forecasts for the coming years. Over 200 entrepreneurs and company representatives are expected to attend.

WEEKLY OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT

Tripolitania

Significant activity

- Armed Clashes - Sep 06, evening, Sirte Province, Sirte: Tribal clashes occurred, injuring one civilian.
- Armed Clashes - Sep 07, morning, Sirte Province, Qasr Abu Hadi: IS forces clashed with BAM near Qasr Abu Hadi. Casualties were not reported.
- Arrest - Sep 07, Tripoli Province, Tripoli: Armed men entered the al-Jalaa Hospital in Tripoli and abducted medical staff. Reports suggest that the staff members were detained by militia loyal to the GNA.
- Demonstration - Sep 07, Tripoli Province, Tripoli: Staff at the al-Jalaa Hospital protested following the arrest/abduction of staff by armed men.
- Shooting - Sep 09, morning, Al-Murqub Province, Khoms: Unknown gunmen shot and killed three civilians in the al-Tahlyyah area of Khoms. Reasons behind the attack are unclear.
- Arrest - Sep 10, evening, Tripoli Province, Tripoli: RDF has arrested Abdulrazak Musheirib, a civilian who is considered to be a radical cleric of the Ben Nabi mosque in downtown Tripoli.
- Accident – Sep 10, evening, Tripoli Province, Tripoli: A fire destroyed a hotel in Saadia Street, Tripoli City Center. Two people were killed and eight firefighters reported injured.
- Arrest - Sep 10, Sirte Province, Sirte: LNA members have arrested a Tunisian national thought to be a member of IS south of Sirte.
- Murder/ Execution - Sep 10, Az Zawiyah Province, Zawiyah: A civilian was found murdered in his car in Daman Street.
- Demonstration - Sep 11, Tripoli Province, Tripoli: Family members and friends of the recently arrested Abdulrazak Musheirib have demonstrated demanding his release.
- Arrest - Sep 11, Sirte Province, Sirte: Members of BAM have arrested three civilians in Sirte charged with assisting IS and other crimes.
- IED false alarm - Sep 12, Tripoli Province, Fornaj: Security members found what they initially thought was an IED near the Tripoli University Bridge. Closer examination confirmed that the objects were discarded water heaters.
- Kidnap - Sep 12, Az Zawiyah Province, Zawiyah: Dr. Milud Arud was abducted during a trip from Tripoli to Jmail. Contact was lost with Arud around Zawiyah. Conflicting reports also claim that Arud was seized outside his home in Tripoli.
- Murder/ Execution - Sep 13, evening, Tripoli Province, Tajura: Unknown assailants shot and killed a member of TRB while on duty as a guard at a military camp in Tajura.
- Crime - Sep 13, Misrata Province, Misrata: A civilian was critically injured following a carjacking incident.

Cyrenaica

Significant activity

- Military Operation - Sep 06, Derna Province, Hillah: The LNA has deployed forces to the Hillah area.
- Airstrike - Sep 07, Derna Province, Daher al-Hamer: The LNA used helicopters to conduct airstrikes against the MSCD, reportedly destroying three positions. Casualties were not reported.
- Mine Strike - Sep 07, Benghazi Province, Sabri: A mine detonated, killing a civilian.
- IED - Sep 08, Benghazi Province, Sabri: An IED explosion in Sabri has injured a civilian.
- Airstrike - Sep 10, Derna Province, Derna: LNA helicopters targeted MSCD positions in the southern areas of Derna, killing six militants and destroying an undisclosed number of vehicles.
- Murder/ Execution - Sep 11, Benghazi Province, Qawarishah: A civilian was shot and killed in Benghazi. His body was found in Qawarishah.
- Murder/ Execution - Sep 12, morning, Benghazi Province, As Sulmani: A civilian shot and killed by unknown assailants in Benghazi.
- Armed Clashes - Sep 12, Derna Province, Daher al-Hamer: Armed clashes broke out between LNA forces and MSCD fighters in the south of Derna.



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- Airstrike - Sep 13, Derna Province, Daher al-Hamer: LNA helicopters have conducted airstrikes on MSCD positions in Daher al-Hamer
- Armed Clashes - Sep 13, Benghazi Province, Sabri: Three LNA members were injured, and two RSCB fighters were killed in clashes between the LNA and RSCB.
- IED - Sep 12, Benghazi Province, Sabri: Two civilians were injured due to an IED explosion in Sabri.
- Airstrike - Sep 13, Derna Province, Derna: LNA jets have targeted MSCD positions south of Derna. The airstrike reportedly killed an MSCD leader known as Saad al-Mutairi.

Fezzan

Significant activity

- Shooting - Sep 08, Wadi Al-Hayaa Province, Gaberoun: Gunmen opened fire on a vehicle injuring a civilian.
- IDF - Sep 08, Sabha Province, Sabha: Unconfirmed reports claim that an indirect fire attack occurred at, or near, Sabha Airport. It is not yet clear who was behind this attack. No damage to the airport was reported.
- Crime - Sep 09, Al-Jufra Province, Waddan: A fuel truck driver has gone missing along with the truck he was driving. The truck was carrying 30000 liters of petrol and 20000 liters of diesel.



ACRONYM LIST

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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