



Weekly Libya .Xplored report preview

28 July, 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
SAS/022014/001



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ACTIVITY MAP



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		ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management QMS/112016/001 7818	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/02016/001	ANSI/ASIS PSC.1-2012 Quality Assurance Management SMS/072014/001					
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OUTLOOK

Short term outlook

- BAM claim that IS has regrouped and is planning a “large and imminent” attack on Sirte. The claim comes as the LNA, which is stationed to the east and south of Sirte, is threatening BAM’s control over the city.
- Tensions are currently elevated along the Zuwara, Sabratah and Zawiyah areas due to a number of issues including the murder of a key commander in Sabratah, the arrest of a Sabratah man in Zuwara and two hit murders in Zawiyah. This is against the backdrop of ongoing smuggling and people trafficking along the coast.
- Remnants of opposition elements in Sabri, Benghazi have regrouped resulting in further fighting. The threat from opposition remnants and IEDs remain in the area, and further incidents are expected as the LNA continues clearance operations.

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 of the move and is looking to exploit the situation to reduce the influence and threat from some opponents in country while they try to shape international support.
- The remnants of the GNC, which has allegedly benefited from Qatari support, remain largely 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 resulted in failure when their fighters were forced from Garabuli on 11 July. Allies of the pro-GNC forces fighting in Garabuli did not materialize during the clashes, and a number were quick to disassociate themselves after the fight had concluded, suggesting support for such tactics could 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.
- GNA President Serraj and LNA commander Khalifa Haftar remain central to attempts to unify east and west for a number of international stakeholders 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.
- Negotiations continue over Derna with reports the LNA is currently looking to create delays. Sporadic airstrikes and ground clashes are taking place and are expected to continue while negotiations are ongoing. There also remains the potential for the LNA to make further moves westwards in the Sirte/ Bani Walid area.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

Governance

- Sarraj and Haftar met in Paris with the French President and the UN Envoy. A joint statement has been issued following the meeting accompanied by positive sentiments from Sarraj. The day after the meeting, Sarraj met with the Italian Prime Minister in Rome to discuss the ongoing migration crisis.
- A Misratan military delegation and senior LNA commanders met in Cairo this week to discuss the unification of the military. The issue was also discussed at the Sarraj-Haftar meeting with Haftar later stating he saw all those commanders who met in Cairo as being in the Libyan Armed Forces and that all security forces should “join the larger force.”
- Sarraj has reportedly “annulled” the powers of his deputies. In response, Deputy PM Ahmed Maetig issued a number of decisions in the name of the PC while Sarraj was away in Paris and Rome. In one decision, Maetig awarded 5,000 LYD to every member of BAM. He has also promised community leaders in Gasr Ben Gashir near Tripoli International Airport, compensation for losses suffered during the 2014 civil war.
- Tensions between Sudan and the eastern Libyan government have escalated further this week. Amidst claims by the HoR that Sudan is sponsoring terrorism in Libya, the Sudanese Army has now claimed that Darfur rebels are being paid to fight as mercenaries by the LNA. In response, the HoR is closing the Sudanese Consulate located in al-Kufra.

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- Saudi Arabia and allies have added further Libyan entities and individuals to their “terrorist list,” the majority of which are news outlets associated with individuals or groups also on the list.
- After meeting with the Turkish president last week, Head of the HCS Abdulrahman Sewehli met with the ambassadors from France, Italy, and Britain this week.
- The Benghazi Mayor and UNSMIL Deputy head have discussed the return of UNSMIL to their offices in Benghazi in a meeting held in Tunis.
- A reconciliation committee meeting between Zintan and Mashashiya took place in Hawamad in the Nafousa Mountains. Members of Mashashiya Tribe have given the GNA’s PC a 72-hour ultimatum due to what they described as the marginalization of the tribe and the lack of basic services in the region.
- The Benghazi Support Committee has stated it can no longer afford to pay rents for Benghazi IDPs living in Tripoli. The committee has been paying rents since 2014, however, the situation has gone on longer than expected and combined with the liquidity issue, has resulted in a lack of funds.
- GECOL has added 60MW of new capacity with two new turbines which were installed at Tripoli West power station. It is hoped the additional capacity will make a positive difference to the capital during the summer month however power cuts are continuing leading to calls for a protest in Tripoli on 28 July.
- The city of Tarhunah has hosted tribal delegations from various areas of Libya who were attending the Forum for National Reconciliation of Libyan Tribes.

Security

- BAM has claimed that IS is planning a “large and imminent” attack against Sirte. The warning came after reports of IS moving south of the city. Towards the end of the week, two airstrikes were reported to have targeted IS gatherings however as of yet, no one has claimed the strikes. The warnings about IS come as the LNA threatens BAM for control of the city.
- Negotiations continue regarding Derna amidst almost daily airstrikes. The MSCD has denied a report from a HoR MP for Derna that they had offered to dissolve and join the military. Mohamed al-Taher, a spokesman for the group, stated that such allegations regarding their negotiating position would “bring us back to zero.”
- Fighting has continued in this week in Sabri as the LNA continue to clear remaining RSCB positions after they regrouped last week. The LNA has warned that remaining RSCB fighters have suicide vests.
- LNA Special Forces commander Captain al-Warfalli has reportedly appeared in another video on Social Media showing him overseeing the execution of 20 individuals in orange jumpsuits with their hands bound behind their backs. The 20 individuals are thought to be members of extremist groups captured by LNA.
- Clashes occurred in Sabratha following the death in custody of a man suspected of murdering a senior security force commander on 18 July.
- The LNA arrested 70 ex-fighters from their ranks before Ramadan for collaborating with the enemy. The LNA stated that the arrests came after the interrogation of Randa al-Maghribi (aka Randa al-Abed) who was arrested a number of months ago in Ajdabiyah.
- The arrest of a man from Sabratha in Zuwara has resulted in mass detentions of people from Zuwara passing through the town in order to gain leverage.
- The UN backed Presidential Guard has continued to gain traction this week. Last week, reports indicated that 600 officers and soldiers were being trained at camps in Gharyan, Misrata, and Tripoli. This week, Ghneiwa handed over a number of camps in the Abu Saleem area of Tripoli to the force which already has control over Tripoli International Airport. It has also tried to flex its muscles somewhat with a decree that all unauthorized weapons are to be withdrawn from people and has issued a ban on light and medium weapons being brought into the capital.

Migrant Crisis

- The European Council of Ministers in Brussels has extended the mandate of Operation Sophia until the end of December 2018. A review is to take place which could see additional items added to the operations mission.
- Sarraj has reportedly asked the Italians for naval support in fighting human trafficking in Libyan territorial waters. Reports that he had then allowed Italian naval vessels to enter Libyan territorial waters were quickly denied by the PC.



KEY DATES

Date	Occasion	Comment
20 August 2017	Anniversary of the Liberation of Tripoli	
01 – 03 September 2017	Eid al-Adha	Feast of Sacrifice
16 September 2017	Martyrs Day	
22 September 2017	Hijri New Year	
23 October 2017	Liberation 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

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Governance

Sarraj and Haftar meet in Paris with the French President and UN Envoy

This week, GNA President Fayez Sarraj and LNA Commander Khalifa Haftar met in Paris with French President Emmanuel Macron and the new UN Envoy to Libya, Ghassan Salame. The meeting has reportedly caused tensions between France and Italy over differing approaches to the Libya crisis. In many ways, the meeting was more positive than the last time the two men met in Abu Dhabi in early May. A smiling handshake gave way to a joint statement, something not seen following the meeting in Abu Dhabi.

The statement had no major surprises and fits with recent rhetoric regarding unification of the military under civilian leadership and a pledge to hold new elections. It also contained a conditional ceasefire with the exception of counter-terrorism operations. While the ceasefire sounds a positive step forward, the two factions are not currently fighting each other, and there is assessed to be enough 'gray area' to allow for future military action. In the most recent conflict involving elements from both factions which played out around Tamahint and Jufra, the presence of the BDB fighting alongside units aligned to the GNA would have allowed Haftar to claim the conflict fell under 'counter-terrorism.'

A pledge to hold elections, with March 2018 currently in the frame, has proved somewhat contentious. The initiative was raised around the Sarraj-Haftar talks at the start of May and raised again during Sarraj's recent roadmap to move the country beyond the current political impasse. Sarraj is yet to state whether he intends to stand while Haftar has indicated he currently has no ambition to be president but will lead the security and military elements of the country.

GNA: Tensions become apparent within the PC

As Sarraj works hard towards a deal with Haftar, tensions between him and one of his key deputies, Ahmed Maetig from Misrata, are becoming apparent. Earlier in the week, Sarraj reportedly issued a circular to his



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ministries stating that unless an order had his signature or the signature of someone he had authorized in writing, it held no weight. The move was seen as an attempt to increase his personal control at the expense of the PC. Maetig opposed the move and has taken it to the judiciary.

With Sarraj away in Paris and Rome this week, he then issued two potentially controversial orders. The first was the decision to give 5000 LYD to every member of BAM who fought in Sirte against IS. The decision reportedly committed the PC to paying out 150 million LYD in payments suggesting 30,000 fighters will benefit. The second decision saw Maetig promise compensation to Gasr Ben Ghasir, the area near Tripoli International Airport, for damage suffered during 2014. It is unclear as yet whether Sarraj will try to oppose the decisions however he would risk damage to his Misratan support base if he did, placing him in a difficult situation.

Security

Sirte: BAM claim IS is regrouping and threatening the city

BAM claimed this week that IS was planning a “large and imminent” attack against Sirte. The claim came after they had reported IS elements were moving freely to the south of the city and had a safe haven in Zillah, areas nominally under control of the LNA. Towards the end of the week, reports indicated two airstrikes had been carried out by unknown aircraft against gatherings of IS south of Sirte. The airstrikes have yet to be confirmed and have not been claimed by anyone.

WEEKLY OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT

Tripolitania

Significant activity

- Arrest - 20 Jul 17, Nuqat Al-Khams Province, Zuwara: Members of an unknown security force in Zuwara have arrested a resident of Sabratah over allegations relating to extortion of migrants. This in turn caused the detention of approximately 70 residents of Sabratah as they passed through Zuwara.
- Crime - 20 Jul 17, Az Zawiyah Province, Sabratah: Security forces in Sabratah have arrested Wisam al-Saweyi over suspicions of being involved in the murder of Sami al-Gharably, the Commander of the Central Unit Force of Sabratah on 18th July 2017. The suspect died during interrogation.
- Armed Clashes - 21 Jul 17, Az Zawiyah Province, Sabratah: Armed Clashes occurred in Sabratah following the death of a suspect who was in custody of security forces over his alleged involvement in the murder of Sami al-Gharably, the Commander of the Central Unit Force of Sabratah on 18 July 2017. Family members of al-Saweyi attacked the compound where al-Saweyi was being held.
- Airstrike - 25 Jul 17, Sirte Province, Sirte: Unknown aircraft have conducted two airstrikes on IS forces located to the south of Sirte. One strike reportedly hit a gathering at Sabaian airport south of Sirte while another hit further IS elements 9km south of the city.
- Arrest - 25 Jul 17, Tripoli Province, Matiga Airport: Reports indicate that Brigadier Idris Abukhamada, commander of the Oil Installation Guard has been arrested at Matiga Airport
- Non-violent transfer of territory - 26 Jul 17, Tripoli Province, Tripoli: Deputy Commander of the Presidential Guard Colonel Mohamed al-Akry has reported that the Presidential Guard has received the 77 camp and the 7th April camp from members of the Central Security Unit branch of Abusaleem (Ghnewia).

Cyrenaica

Significant activity

- Armed Attack - 19 Jul 17, Al-Jabal Al-Akhdar Province, Bayda: A civilian militia loyal to the LNA called the Brigades of Blood Revenge expelled the HCNR from its HQ in Bayda after storming a meeting which included members of the HoR.
- Armed Clashes - 21 Jul 17, Benghazi Province, Sabri: LNA forces attempted to storm the Municipal Hotel in Sabri. This location is occupied by remnants of RSCB fighters, possibly including senior members. Five LNA soldiers died during this operation, and ten more were injured.
- Demonstration - 22 Jul 17, Benghazi Province, Benghazi: A group of LNA fighters, officers, and civilians, have demonstrated against the lack of care for those injured during clashes with extremist groups in Benghazi. The demonstrators called for dismissal of the head of the office that handles external treatment



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requests due to the delay in handling their cases for treatment abroad. The demonstrators gave LNA Command a one-week ultimatum to sort out their situation and threatened with more protests if their demands are not met.

- Non-violent transfer of territory - 22 Jul 17, Benghazi Province, Al-Majori: Members of Al-Majori Protection Force had announced that they are disbanding and handing over their headquarters to the LNA. Al-Majori Protection Force was established late 2013 following a wave of assassinations and terrorist attacks in the city. The force was tasked with securing Al-Majori area. The Force was made up of residents of the area and were one of the main supporting forces for the LNA.
- Arrest - 25 Jul 17 Morning, Kufra Province, Kufra: Members of Subul al-Salam Battalion have reported the arrest of approx. 42 migrants of Sudanese nationality.
- BBIED - 26 Jul 17, Al-Jabal Al-Akhdar Province, Al-Bayda: Security sources from the city of Al-Bayda have reported finding an explosive belt on the city. Bomb disposal experts were called in and defused the belt.
- Arrest - 26 Jul 17, Al-Butnan Province, Libya - Egypt Border: Members of the 108th Infantry Battalion have reported the arrest of several smugglers along the Libya - Egypt Border near Al-Jaghbug. Approximately five million tramadol pills and an undisclosed amount of cannabis was seized.

Fezzan

Significant activity

- Arrest - 24 Jul 17, Ghat Province, Libya - Algeria Border: Algerian Army Forces have reported the arrest of 16 Moroccan nationals attempting to sneak into Libya along the Libya - Algeria border.
- Kidnap - 25 Jul 17, Sabha Province, Sabha: A security source from Sabha has reported that Saqer Abdullah, a correspondent for Panorama news station, was kidnaped. He was released the following day, and according to a family member, he is in good health and uninjured.
- Crime - 25 Jul 17 3.30AM, Sabha Province, Sabha: A family was subjected to a home invasion. Criminals held up the family in their home at gunpoint and proceeded to steal anything of value. A vehicle, some cash, and jewellery were stolen from the home.
- Arrest - 26 Jul 17, Al-Jufra Province, Al-Jufra: Members of the Anti-immigration force in Al-Jufra have arrested 46 illegal immigrants in Jufra. The migrants are all from Nigeria.
- Crime - 26 Jul 17, Sabha Province, Sabha: Sabha Security Directorate has reported that the compound of the Faculty of Islamic Studies was robbed by unknown assailants who stole items that included A/C units, electric cables, blackboards, water heaters and lamp posts.



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
- 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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