



Weekly Libya .Xplored report preview

07 July, 2017

Prepared by Risk Analysis Team, Libya

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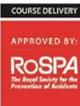
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ACTIVITY MAP



MSS GLOBAL		ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management GMS/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

- Reports of GNC affiliated armed groups returning to the southeast of Tripoli have increased tensions and concerns of another offensive into the city.
- Clashes at Matiga airport appear to have been resolved. However, further incidents cannot be ruled out at this time.
- Tensions are currently high around Sirte following a clash between LNA and BAM forces. More incidents in the area are possible.
- Threat levels in Zawiyah are high. In addition to militia competing for dominance over the city, criminal networks involved in human trafficking and smuggling threaten operations.
- The LNA is likely to continue IED clearance operations in Benghazi. Small clashes are possible with remnants of RSCB forces, but operations are now expected to reduce in the city.
- Further protests and civil unrest are possible in Tripoli over deteriorating living conditions.
- The ongoing liquidity crisis has increased the potential for flashpoints and civil unrest at, or near, to banks/financial institutions throughout Libya.

Medium to long term outlook

- The plans for Zintani militia and IDPs to return to Tripoli could increase tensions within the city in the coming weeks. Tripoli-based militias have already issued warnings against armed groups returning to the area.
- The political outlook remains unclear in the long term. A series of meetings in early May led to hopes that political breakthroughs might be possible. However, minimal progress has followed, and attempts by Zintani politicians to broker a new meeting appears to have been unsuccessful.
- The LNA now controls much of the east, south and central region. The addition of Jufra Airbase to the LNA's growing list of assets provides a significant increase in reach for the group. The LNA now appears likely to move further north in pursuit of BDB forces near Bani Walid.
- IS fighters are regrouping in Libya. Possible activity has been reported in Sabratha, Abu Grain and the area of Bani Walid. Cells are also thought to be established in Tripoli but are likely to be maintaining a low profile at this time.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

Governance

- Power cuts and water shortages caused disruption in Tripoli this week. Although the situation has improved, the provision of basic services remains problematic and further disruption in the coming weeks is likely.

Security

- Tensions are once again rising in Tripoli after pro-GNC al-Marsa Brigade moved a military convoy to the suburbs. Pro-GNA forces are reported to be readying for a potential military operation and have erected sand barriers in the east to stop an approach while the GNA President has authorized the use of air assets to protect civilians.
- The LNA has declared victory in Benghazi, however, remnants of RSCB are reported to have retreated into a small number of buildings and therefore fighting is expected to continue on a lesser scale.
- Internal tensions within Al Buni Brigade escalated to clashes this week causing disruption to flights at Matiga Airport, Tripoli and the deaths of a significant number of civilians after a shell detonated on the beach nearby. The brigade has been removed from the airport, and a series of arrests have helped to calm the situation at present however further problems may occur as members are released.
- IS has claimed they are present in Sabratha. Other reporting has corroborated the potential for elements to be in the area however local security forces claim they have found no evidence after conducting a sweep.

Oil and gas

- Daily production levels have hit between 950,000 and one million barrels, a month earlier than hoped.

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-Extreme	High	High

Threat Scale

Minimal

Low

Moderate

High

Extreme

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Governance

Tripoli: Power cuts and water shortages cause disruption in the city

Power cuts have again plagued western coastal areas of Libya this week and led to a number of attacks against power stations. Power cuts have caused significant disruptions to business and civilians and resulted in long delays at the Ras Ajdir border crossing with Tunisia as authorities were unable to use the passport control database. The situation slowly improved as the week progressed however the provision of basic services, in general, remains fragile and will continue to be under pressure as the summer continues. Combined with the ongoing liquidity crisis, these issues have the potential to lead to protests and civil unrest.

Security

Tripoli: Tensions increase as Al Marsa Brigade convoy heads to the capital

On 05 July, Al Marsa Brigade deployed a convoy from Misrata towards the capital. Al Marsa, a pro-GNC Misratan militia, stated the convoy included approximately 320 vehicles and would be heading to “military camps in the capital” under the command of the “Operations Room for Securing the Capital.” Subsequent unconfirmed reports placed the vehicles in the south and east of the city where tensions were reported to be the highest on the morning of 07 July. The convoy is expected to be joined by allies prior to any attempted military incursions into the city with a National Salvation Government spokesman stating their forces are preparing for “zero hour.”

The GNC has become increasingly politically isolated in recent months while some of the armed groups which support it have also seen an erosion in territory at the hands of both pro-GNA militias and the LNA. Their attempt to establish a national force, despite an impressive number of pledges, has also failed to make much difference on the ground and has not allowed the GNC to project its influence in an effective way. The GNC and its supporters are however not yet a done force and can still threaten the GNA and the capital’s stability in a bid to

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regain influence and political power. Any advance by Al Marsa and its allies is likely to focus on areas lost to the GNA and could include Tripoli International Airport.

Tripoli: Clashes near Matiga Airport disrupt flights

An internal disagreement between two prominent members of Al Buni Brigade escalated into armed clashes this week around Matiga Airport. Fighting was largely restricted to the brigade until the evening of 04 July when a shell detonated on the nearby beach, killing five civilians including women and children and injuring a further 32. Those killed were largely from the same Zintani family which is connected to a respected Zintani militia, prompting concerns of retaliation in the area. As a result, pressure grew on Rada Deterrence Forces (RDF) to take action. On 05 July, they carried out a series of raids against the homes of Al Buni members, arresting 68 and recovering weaponry. The brigade was then ousted from its positions at the airport with RDF taking over.

The situation has now calmed, and flights have resumed although RDF retains a larger than normal armed presence in the area. The future of Al Buni Brigade and those under arrest is unclear at the moment and further disruption cannot be ruled out at this time.

Benghazi: LNA claim the city is now liberated as troops celebrate in the streets

On 05 July, Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar, commander of the LNA stated that Benghazi had been "liberated." The LNA has been fighting opposition elements in the city for around three years after it largely fell under the control of Islamist militia groups. The final assault against the Revolutionary Shura Council of Benghazi (RSCB) held areas of Sabri, and Suq al-Hout began in May. Despite claiming the area could be taken in a few days, the LNA came up against fierce resistance. This included defensive IED emplacements which ensured the operation took weeks rather than days as the LNA tried to minimize casualties.

Some remaining opposition elements are reported to have fallen back to a small number of buildings in Sidi Akribesh. Depending on numbers and resources, this could ensure fighting continues for some time yet. It will largely remain contained however and allow LNA engineers to begin work on clearing the rest of the areas, allowing civilians to eventually return. Although the remaining resistance is likely to remain contained, there is potential for an attempted breakout and continued IDF attacks which may effect civilian areas.

WEEKLY OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT

Tripolitania

Significant activity

- Armed Attack - 28 Jun 17, 4.00 pm, Az Zawiyah Province, Zawiyah: Members of the Awlad Saqer tribe attacked a UNSMIL convoy as it traveled through their territory in Zawiyah.
- Armed Clashes - 29 Jun 17, Al-Jabal Al-Gharbi Province, Shakshuk: Armed militia attacked the Ruwais and Shakshuk power stations to prevent load shedding power cuts.
- Crime - 01 Jul 17, 2.10 am, Al-Murqub Province, Khoms: Media Office of the General Electricity Co. have reported that an armed group has stormed and assaulted employees at the power station. This attack is being reported as retaliation to the prolonged electricity cuts. The attack resulted in two injuries one of which is categorized as serious.
- Shooting - 02 Jul 17, 08.15 am, Tripoli Province, Matiga Airport: Reports indicate that gunshots were heard in the vicinity of Matiga Airport. The reason behind this is not yet clear, but initial reports indicate that differences between al-Buni Bde, the group securing the airport and owners of leisure activities sites on the beach. This resulted in temporary closure of the coastal road around the airport. By 0915 reports indicated that the roads were re-opened. No injuries were reported.
- Shooting - 04 Jul 17, 7.00 am, Tripoli Province, Matiga Airport: Members of armed groups located within Matiga Airport compound have clashed briefly. Shooting could be heard around the vicinity of the airport. It is currently not clear why the clashes occurred nor if any injuries had happened.
- Crime - 04 Jul 17, Nuqat Al-Khams Province, Al-Ajaylat: The General Electricity Company has announced that an armed group has stormed al-Ajaylat power station and detained the employees there.
- IDF - 04 Jul 17 176.00 pm, Tripoli Province, Matiga Airport: Following break out of armed clashes at Matiga Airport, a shell fired from an unknown location strayed from its intended target and struck a packed beach resort located opposite the airport. The shell resulted in 9 deaths and 25 injuries to civilians at the beach. The death count included women and children.

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- Armed Clashes - 04 Jul 17, Afternoon, Tripoli Province, Matiga Airport: Armed clashes were reported between members of Al-Buni Bde at Matiga airport. These clashes caused all flights to and from Matiga Airport to be canceled.
- Armed Clashes - 05 Jul 17, 7.00 am, Tripoli Province, Matiga Airport: Renewed clashes between warring factions of al-Buni Bde in the vicinity of Matiga Airport. The clashes caused a stoppage in all flights from and to Matiga Airport.
- Armed Clashes - 05 Jul 17, 2.00PM, Sirte Province, Sirte: Armed clashes have been reported between LNA and BAM forces in al-Hady area south-east of Sirte.

Cyrenaica

Significant activity

- Armed Clashes - 28 Jun 17, Benghazi Province, Sabri: LNA stepped up the pace of its operations in Sabri. Renewed clashes with RSCB members have resulted in three casualties, one of which was due to sniper fire in Sabri. LNA have also reported recovery of three bodies of LNA members who were MIA during operations in the area.
- IED - 01 Jul 17, Benghazi Province, Sabri: IED explosion results in the death of two LNA members.
- Arrest - 02 Jul 17, Al-Wahat Province, Ajdabiya: Members of the CID have arrested three Chadian nationals accused of witchcraft.
- Kidnap - 04 Jul 17, Afternoon, Derna Province, Derna: Masked individuals thought to belong to MSCD have reportedly kidnapped a civilian after beating him unconscious.
- Weapons find - 05 Jul 17, Benghazi Province, Sabri: Media Office of the LNA Special Forces have reported finding an undisclosed number of VBIEDs and explosive belts in areas where RSCB members were stationed.

Fezzan

Significant activity

- Crime - 01 Jul 17, Ghat Province, Ghat: Reports indicate that vandals have defaced a historic site in the Acacus mountains that had cave paintings.
- Security Announcement - 02 Jul 17, Al-Jufra Province, Al-Jufra: Commander of the Central Military District of the LNA has called upon all residents of Al-Jufra region to urgently hand over any military, police or government owned vehicles to the LNA HQ in Hun. The announcement also required residents hand over any weapons and ammunitions they may have.
- Shooting - 03 Jul 17, Sabha Province, Sabha: GNA Minister for Education, Othman Abduljalil and his accompanying convoy were targeted by small arms fire and briefly detained at the 17 checkpoint south of Sabha. Through efforts of local intermediates, the Minister and his accompanying delegation were released shortly after. No injuries were reported.

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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