



## Weekly Libya .Xplored report preview

21 July, 2017

Prepared by Risk Analysis Team, Libya

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**ACTIVITY MAP**



ISO 9001:2015  
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## OUTLOOK

### Short term outlook

- Remnants of opposition elements in Sabri, Benghazi have regrouped this week resulting in intensive fighting. Although the fighting has calmed, the threat from opposition remnants and IEDs remain in the area, and further incidents are expected as the LNA continues clearance operations.
- There is an increased risk of civil unrest over the provision of basic services and deteriorating living conditions in the west and south while 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 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. As a result, the pro-GNA Tripoli Revolutionaries Brigade has expanded its control eastwards. 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 has tried to progress past Libya's political deadlock with the announcement of a new roadmap in support of the LPA and GNA. While some have expressed various levels of support, many others have responded negatively. Serraj and LNA commander Khalifa Haftar remain central to attempts to unify east and west with continuing attempts by the international community as well as Libyan stakeholders, to see the two come to a deal.
- 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

- GNA President Serraj has issued a new roadmap to move the country beyond the current political impasse. The roadmap includes the announcement of a ceasefire countrywide with the exception of the fight against terrorism, the unification of the military under civilian rule, the demobilization of armed groups and elections in March 2018.
- Reporting this week has indicated that Sarraj and LNA Commander Khalifa Haftar could be close to holding another meeting. Initial reports suggested the UAE was looking to facilitate a meeting in Cyrenaica while later reports suggested the two men will meet in Paris on 25 July.
- The Chairman of the High Council of State (HCS) Abdulrahman Sewehli met with the Turkish President this week. Sewehli asked the President to support the HCS and other institutions established under the Libyan Political Agreement (LPA) as well as encouraging him to take a more active role in the Libyan crisis. Turkey and Qatar are seen to have mutual interests in Libya, and Sewehli's attempt to reach out to Ankara could be as a result of reducing Qatari support.

### Security

- Negotiations are ongoing between the LNA, the MSCD and the High Council of National Reconciliation (HCNR) over the fate of Derna. Some reporting has suggested Haftar is looking to delay an offensive against

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the city while an MP from Derna has suggested the MSCD has offered to disband and become part of the armed forces.

- Fighting resumed in Sabri, Benghazi through the week as remnants of RSBC regrouped. The LNA sustained further casualties as it sought to bring the situation under control while trying to capture a senior commander it believed was involved in the fighting. IEDs and booby traps have also claimed further casualties this week including soldiers and civilians.
- GNA plans for the Presidential Guard (PG) appear to be taking some shape with reports training is underway in three camps in Gharyan, Tripoli, and Misrata. 600 soldiers and officers are reported to be in training and are due to join the 500 strong force. The PG, a UN backed initiative, will be tasked with securing state institutions, critical national infrastructure and borders under the control of the UN backed GNA.
- A territorial dispute between two militias under the command of Ghnewia resulted in the intervention of high ranking militia members, averting armed clashes in Abu Saleem, Tripoli.
- The BDB has again tried to disassociate itself from the recent fighting in Garabuli, suggesting that it fears a backlash from the areas which have allowed them and their families to settle. If so, this could indicate a new set of operating restrictions for the group.

**Migrant Crisis**

- The Belgian migration minister branded Operation Sophia as “lunacy” and claimed it brings “shame” on Europe. The remarks came days after a UK parliamentary report labeled the operation a failure and stated it should not be renewed.
- The EU has agreed to extend the EU Border Assistance Mission in Libya until the end of 2018 and stressed the importance of Operation Sophia despite opposition from the UK.
- The EU has agreed to impose restrictions on the export and supply of inflatable boats and outboard motors to Libya in an effort to stop human trafficking.

**Travel**

- Benghazi’s International Airport officially reopened for commercial flights on 15 July after being closed for three years. The first outbound flights from Benina Airport headed to Tripoli, Kufra and Amman, the Jordanian capital. Flights are operated by Libyan Airlines and Afriqiyah Airways. The reopening means Benghazi residents can now avoid a 250km trip to Labraq Airport near Bayda.
- An Egyptian team conducted an assessment of Benina Airport on 19 July. If satisfied, the team is expected to recommend flights resume between all Egyptian airports and Benina after a three-year closure.
- The head of the Libyan Civil Aviation Authority, Nasreddin Al-Ain, has stated that three foreign airliners were making plans to begin flights to Matiga including an Italian and a Turkish airliner.

**Health**

- The Libyan health care system is in an “acute crisis” according to a WHO report which follows a nine-month long survey. Malaria is reported to be back in the country after a ten-year absence while polio is at “serious risk” of returning.
- A number of arrests have been made at the Benghazi Medical Centre after a series of scandals including a recent report that maggots were found in the mouth of a comatose patient.

**Oil & Gas**

- The NOC hopes to have increased production to 1.25 million barrels per day by the end of the year and 1.5 million barrels by the end of 2018.



## 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

#### GNA: Roadmap announced to move country past political impasse

At 2330hrs on 15 July, President Serraj made a live television appearance announcing a new “road map to solve the current crisis.” The broadcast started around half an hour later than expected and lasted around five minutes before being apparently ended abruptly. Serraj focused on responsibility, stating that all Libyans are responsible for the current situation and that “many mistakes have been made over the last six years.” He went on to say now is the time to unite and “save the homeland.”

Serraj acknowledged the range of issues facing the country and his government, and looked to disassociate the Presidential Council (PC) from current political disputes while stating that the PC had “extended its hands to all.” He blamed financial issues on the drop in oil prices and the refusal of the Central Bank of Libya to adopt “effective and immediate” monetary policies to save the LYD from collapsing. He also indicated he was looking at taking action against the embezzlement of public funds.

He then blamed previous governments for not tackling the numerous armed groups around the country, stating that the PC had been “decisive against all those who attempted to threaten the security of Tripoli” in a likely reference to recent attempts by the GNC to launch offensives against the capital. He also paid tribute to BAM and the “military in Benghazi” and elsewhere for their fight against terrorism.

### Security

#### LNA: Fighting in Benghazi resumes in Sabri, Benghazi

Fighting resumed in Sabri this week after RSCB remnants regrouped and took an area near the Jreed Market. Believing a senior commander was with them, the LNA began a tentative assault in an attempt to take the man alive which resulted in intensive fighting. The LNA strategy has resulted in further attrition of their forces. At least

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78 LNA soldiers have lost their lives in Sabri since the start of the month despite Haftar declaring victory on 05 July. While the LNA can technically claim victory, remnants of the RSCB as well as defensive IEDs and booby traps continue to cause them problems and casualties. The LNA has also reported finding multiple VBIEDs and thermal missiles during clearance operations.

**LNA: Negotiations continue in Derna alongside sporadic airstrikes and ground clashes**

Reporting has indicated this week that the LNA may be looking to delay current negotiations with Derna. Haftar has demanded the establishment of three committees representing the LNA, the MSCD and the High Council of National Reconciliation (HCNR). He has also reportedly asked the council to delay their arrival to August.

Despite ongoing negotiations, clashes were reported this week on a number of occasions between the LNA and the MSCD in the Fatayih area. Airstrikes and arrests were also reported.

**Migration Crisis**

The migration crisis has hit the headlines this week with negativity from the UK and a Belgium minister. A UK Parliamentary report branded the operation a “failure” and pointed out the unintended consequences that the operation has had. The burning of boats used to transport people out to sea has resulted in smugglers using less sea worthy boats, leading to more deaths. Rescues are also taking place closer to the Libyan coastline in a bid to counter the trend.

The EU is also now looking to stop the supply of dinghies and outboard motors being sold to Libya. While this may cause some disruption, it is likely that the smugglers will mitigate and find a way around. China is one of the main suppliers of dinghies, with a major Chinese retail website even referring to dinghies as ‘migrant boats’ in some instances. Although the new rule will mean any supplies being routed through Europe can now be seized, it will not affect supplies coming through places like Turkey.

As the situation continues to deteriorate, the EU is reportedly looking at restricting the activities of NGOs operating in the Mediterranean. This is said to possibly include stopping transfers at sea, forcing boats back to shore after a rescue and taking them out of the operating environment for long periods. Boats may also be stopped from shining lights to attract boats to their location and be forced to have a policeman onboard. NGOs have widely rejected the new ‘code of conduct’ which could see them forced from Italian ports if Italy goes ahead with implementation.

**WEEKLY OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT**

**Tripolitania**

**Significant activity**

- Prisoner Release - 15 Jul 17, Misrata Province, Misrata: Media sources indicate that Brigadier Husni Mohamed al-Habib has been released from a prison in Misrata alongside an undisclosed number of other prisoners. They have been detained for approximately six and a half years.
- Armed Clashes - 15 Jul 17, Az Zawiyah Province, Sabratah: Reports indicate that armed clashes broke out between members of the Kreir family and the Akrik family in Sabratah.
- Kidnap - 12 Jul 17, Tripoli Province, Tripoli: Hisham al-Saudi, General Manager of Afriqiyah Airlines has been reported as kidnapped. NFDK.
- Murder/ Execution - 18 Jul 17, Az Zawiyah Province, Sabratah: Sami al-Gharably, the Commander of the Central Unit Force of Sabratah, was shot dead outside the civil registry office by unknown assailants. Another man was also shot dead, and another was injured in the attack.
- Airstrike - 14 Jul 17, Nuqat Al-Khams Province, Zuwara: The Libyan Airforce has targeted a tanker that entered Libyan territorial waters. The tanker is thought to have been attempting to smuggle fuel.
- Other - 14 Jul 17, Tripoli Province, Tripoli: The FGCC assisted by the Rada Deterrence Force has conducted raids of cooking gas distribution locations within Tripoli. The distributors are accused of selling their share of cooking gas canisters to black market sources that in return resell them to customers at inflated prices. An undisclosed number of vehicles and cooking gas canisters were confiscated.
- Crime - 16 Jul 17, Misrata Province, Misrata: Members of the automated inspection unit at Misrata port have intercepted two 20m containers that were loaded with cannabis



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- Crime - 15 Jul 17, Misrata Province, Misrata: A disgruntled student detonated a hand grenade in a teachers lounge at the Faculty of Engineering in Misrata. The attack caused three injuries to the teaching staff and one student.
- Arrest - 16 Jul 17, Tripoli Province, Tripoli: The Rada Deterrence Force with assistance from Halbous (301) Battalion have reportedly arrested two 30-year-old cousins who confessed to kidnapping for ransom, torture, and carjackings.
- Shooting - 18 Jul 17, Nuqat Al-Khams Province, Libya - Tunis Border: The Tunisian Army has reported clashing with a group of criminals thought to be smugglers operating along the Libya Tunis border region. The clashes resulted in the arrest of 11 Tunisian nationals and confiscation of 35 transport vehicles.
- Kidnap - 18 Jul 17, Tripoli Province, Al-Shat Road: Unconfirmed reports state that a female Libyan national, Sarah al-Himaly, was kidnaped by unknown assailants. Al-Himaly was kidnaped from around Al-Sindibad beach.
- Prisoner Release - 18 Jul 17, Misrata Province, Misrata: An undisclosed number of prisoners (four confirmed) have been released from Al-Sakit military prison in Misrata. These included some high ranking Gaddafi-era military officials
- CP/ Road Block - 19 Jul 17 12.30 pm, Tripoli Province, Gargaresh: Residents of Gargaresh blocked the Gargaresh road at the Gargaresh bridge with burning tyres. Traffic congestion was reported in the wider area as a result.
- Kidnap - 18 Jul 17, Tripoli Province, Abu Saleem: Unconfirmed reports state that an unnamed female Libyan university student was kidnapped while leaving her university by unknown assailants. NFDK
- Shooting - 18 Jul 17 evening, Tripoli Province, Gargaresh: Security forces conducted a raid on a suspected drug dealer. The raid resulted in one person being killed.
- Crime - 19 Jul 17 2.30pm, Tripoli Province, Hay Andalous: Al-Nawasy Bde has taken control of the General Administration for the Coast Security located in downtown Tripoli. NFDK.
- Assault - 19 Jul 17, Al-Murqub Province, Msallata: Three senior members of the Medical Technology faculty were attacked. The faculty is part of the Al Mergib University in Khoms.

## Cyrenaica

### Significant activity

- IED - 15 Jul 17, Benghazi Province, Sabri: A GECOL technician conducting maintenance in Sabri was killed after triggering an IED.
- Airstrike - 14 Jul 17, Derna Province, Derna: LNA jets launched an airstrike in the west of Derna, destroying a tank, four vehicles, and three technicals belonging to MSCD. An MSCD position was also destroyed. Other sources reported three terrorists had been killed along with 11 others, most of whom were foreigners.
- IED - 14 Jul 17, Benghazi Province, Sabri: Two LNA members were killed during clearance operations and seven others were wounded in Sidi Akribesh
- IED - 15 Jul 17, Benghazi Province, Suq Al-Hout: A civilian has died after triggering an IED planted at his home.
- Weapons find - 15 Jul 17, Benghazi Province, Sabri: LNA's Tariq Ben Ziyad Battalion has confirmed a weapons find in the home of a known RSCB member in Sabri. The weapons included thermal missiles. LNA also found a number of laptops and documents.
- Demonstration - 15 Jul 17, Benghazi Province, Qubah: Civilians have demonstrated in Qubah demanding the dissolution of the Local Council and replacing it with a military commander due to the worsening situation in the city. Protests were held in front of the Local Council HQ and around the home of Head of the HoR Aguila Saleh.
- Airstrike - 16 Jul 17, Al-Butnan Province, Libya-Egypt Border: The Egyptian Air Force has conducted airstrikes against 15 vehicles along the Libyan-Egyptian border in an intelligence led operation. The vehicles were reported to be loaded with weapons, ammunition and explosive materials and all were destroyed.
- Airstrike - 17 Jul 17, Derna Province, Daher Al-Hamer: LNA jets have targeted MSCD positions south of Derna.
- IED - 17 Jul 17 Evening, Benghazi Province, Sabri: LNA's Engineering Corps have reported the death of two civilians after triggering an IED. The deceased were a Libyan and a Sudanese national.



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- Arrest - 15 Jul 17, Al-Butnan Province, Libya-Egypt Border: The spokesman of the Egyptian Armed Forces has reported that over the period from 01 July to 15 July the Egyptian Border Force has arrested 28 Egyptian nationals accused of smuggling operations between Libya and Egypt. The spokesperson also reported the confiscation of 22 4x4 vehicles used in smuggling.
- Armed Clashes - 18 Jul 17, Benghazi Province, Suq Al-Hout: LNA sources have reported the death of two members of RSCB who were hiding in Suq Al-Hout area. The pair attempted to flee the area but were discovered, and a brief clash occurred with LNA members resulting in their death.
- IED - 18 Jul 17, Benghazi Province, Sabri: Two civilians were killed when they triggered an IED after returning to their homes in Sabri.
- IED - 18 Jul 17, Benghazi Province, Sabri: Two employees of the Public Services Company of Benghazi have died after triggering an IED. The pair were recovering company vehicles from the company's Sabri branch
- Weapons find - 19 Jul 17, Benghazi Province, Sabri: The LNA found an undisclosed number of VBIED's in Sabri during sweeps conducted around the Municipal Hotel area
- Armed Clashes - 18 Jul 17, Benghazi Province, Sabri: LNA Special forces have clashed with remnants of RSCB fighters. One death occurred in LNA ranks.
- Armed Clashes - 19 Jul 17, Derna Province, Fatayih: LNA forces and MSCD fighters have clashed around Al-Fatayih area east of Derna.
- IED - 18 Jul 17, Benghazi Province, Sabri: Three LNA soldiers were killed and two injured following an IED explosion in Sabri. The soldiers were conducting sweeps of the area
- Armed Clashes - 18 Jul 17, Derna Province, Derna: Clashes broke out between two groups of drug dealers in the city of Derna. NFDK
- Airstrike - 20 Jul 17, Derna Province, Fatayih: The LNA launched airstrikes against MSCD positions in Fatayih.
- 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.

**Fezzan**

**Significant activity**

- Demonstration - 15 Jul 17, Ghat Province, Ghat: A protest has taken place as women in Ghat are forced to travel to Obari to give birth after the local maternity ward shut. A lack of doctors and power have forced the unit to close. The Ghat General Hospital released a statement saying that it would no longer be able to receive patients at the maternity ward.
- Armed Clashes - 19 Jul 17 Evening, Sabha Province, Sabha: The Gaddafa and Awlad Sulieman tribes clashed in the Manshia area of Sabha. Explosions were heard throughout the city which were believed to be artillery fire.

Demonstration - 19 Jul 17 Morning, Sabha Province, Sabha: Faculty members, employees and students of Sabha University (approximately 40 individuals) have organised a demonstration to express their outrage over the murder of the Dean of the Faculty of Law on 12 July 2017



**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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