



Weekly Libya .Xplored report preview

04 August, 2017

Prepared by Risk Analysis Team, Libya

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QMS/112016/001

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Environmental Management
EMS/112016/001

BS OHSAS 18001:2007
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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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MSS GLOBAL		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/022016/001	ANSI/ASIS PSC.1-2012 Quality Assurance Management SMS/072014/001					
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OUTLOOK

Short term outlook

- BAM has warned of increasing IS activity south of Sirte. The warnings come as the LNA threatens BAM's control over the city. All three forces are present in the area making it a dynamic and complex environment at the current time. Both BAM and LNA have stepped up their activity, increasing the potential for another confrontation.
- Tensions have increased around Derna following the downing of an LNA jet by the MSCD. Reports suggest the pilot may have been executed by MSCD leading to the LNA increasing the siege around the city.
- Tensions are currently elevated along the Zuwara, Sabratah and Zawiyah coastal areas due to a number of issues including the murder of a key commander in Sabratah, against the backdrop of ongoing smuggling and people trafficking operations. Additional troops are reportedly being deployed into Sabratah to combat the threat of IS, however, this has caused tensions with Ahmed Dabbashi's Amu Militia.
- 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.
- There is an increase in anti-Italian sentiment following the deployment of an Italian naval asset into Libyan waters.

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 look to shape 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 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 failed when their fighters were forced from Garabuli on 11 July, 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.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

Governance

- Italy has deployed a naval asset into Libyan waters in a bid to help curb illegal migration. The issue has caused tensions with the east with Haftar threatening to take military action. The move has also resulted in an increase in anti-Italian sentiment.
- The push for reconciliation between Misrata and the east has continued this week with another meeting in Cairo. The handing over of a senior commander, wanted by the LNA for commanding opposition forces in Sabri, by security forces in Khoms with the support of Misrata, may be a manifestation of this process.
- Prime Minister of the Interim Government, Abdullah Thinni, was in court this week over defamation claims from his previous interior minister. Thinni is also considering taking legal action against an activist who claimed in a TV interview that Thinni was embezzling funds from the health sector.

Security

- Tensions escalated in Derna this week after the MSCD shot down a MiG-21 and executed its pilot. The siege around the city has been tightened, and ground clashes have taken place. LNA Special Forces in Benghazi are preparing to deploy to the city, which may back up reports that the LNA is planning a large ground operation.

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- The LNA has moved into siege mode in Sabri, Benghazi against the last remaining RSCB positions. Fighting will continue until the LNA has full control. Civilians continue to fall victim to IEDs and UXO.
- An IS checkpoint was reported late at night on 29 July, south of Sirte. The fighters were looking for BAM members. The LNA also established a checkpoint 50km to the east of the city.
- An attempt to dislodge al-Kani Brigade from the Tarhunah Cement Works, a source of revenue, has failed.
- A soldier from 301 Brigade was shot dead at a checkpoint in Serraj, Tripoli in a revenge attack for the arrest of a drugs lord in al-Swani area.
- Tensions are high along the Coastal Road between Warshefana and Zawiyah after two incidents involving militants from Zawiyah and Warshefana.

Migrant Crisis

- The Italian coastguard begins to take action against NGOs operating in the Mediterranean, seizing a German vessel they claim is in collusion with people smugglers in Libya.

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



LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Security

Derna: Tensions escalate after LNA pilot is executed by MSCD

Tensions around Derna escalated this week after the MSCD shot down a MiG-21 fighter jet using a SAM-18 missile on 29 July after it had carried out an airstrike. The pilot was then reported to have been captured by the MSCD and quickly executed for carrying out airstrikes which had “killed women and children.” The LNA responded by announcing it was tightening the siege around the city. The incident comes after indicators suggested the negotiations over the city are beginning to stumble.

At dawn on 30 July, MSCD ‘Special Forces’ launched an offensive against three LNA locations at al-Kasarat, al-Ardam School, and Hajjaj al-Heelah. Five LNA soldiers were killed, and four wounded while MSCD stated they

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had taken a number of vehicles and ammunition as well as burning three tanks in Hajjaj al-Heelah. MSCD lost one fighter. Later that day, the LNA launched a counterattack, taking Kasarat.

Benghazi: LNA fall into siege mode against remaining RSCB positions

Fighting continued in Benghazi at the start of the week as the LNA attempted to clear the last remaining RSCB positions. Towards the end of the week, the fighting calmed as the LNA moved into siege mode around the positions. Further fighting is expected as LNA fight for complete control. Defensive IEDs, planted by RSCB in an effort to maintain control over territory, continue to claim civilian victims. The city continues its march back towards normalcy with teams of civilians beginning to tidy areas with LNA elements supporting by clearing UXO and IEDs. The scale of fighting and amount of ordnance used and emplaced are placing pressure on available LNA assets and efforts to make the area safe are expected to take months or longer.

Tarhunah: Attempt to dislodge al-Khani Brigade fails

This week, youths from Suq al-Khamis, located between Tarhunah and Gasr Ben Gashir, forced the resident al-Kani Brigade from the Tarhunah cement works on 28 July. Al-Kani, an Islamist militia associated with LIFG, had protected the site for two years and reportedly pocketed the profits of 100,000 LYD a month. Al-Kani returned that evening with tanks and heavy weaponry. Fighting continued overnight with four youths reported to have been killed and six taken hostage. The brigade retook control of the cement works, however, reports suggested that unidentified aircraft had bombed an al-Kani ammunition dump, killing two members of the security forces.

Migrant Crisis

Deployment of Italian naval asset raises tensions with the east

On 23 July, Sarraj reportedly sent a letter to the Italian Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni. The letter asked for technical support from Italy, in the form of Italian naval vessels being sent into Libyan territorial waters, to help curb the flow of migrants heading across the Mediterranean. A plan was approved by the Italian government on 28 July and was expected to see a deployment within a week. The same day, however, Sarraj denied he had given permission for a foreign navy to cross in territorial waters in an attempt to distance himself personally from the issue. Contradictory messages were pushed out in the days which followed, suggesting indecision and a lack of consensus amongst the PC and Sarraj.

On 02 August, reports indicated that an Italian naval boat had docked at Abu Sitta Naval Base in Tripoli, the home of the GNA. In response, Haftar threatened to take military action against any foreign "non-commercial" vessels entering Libyan waters while the HoR sent strong objections to Sarraj and Rome.

WEEKLY OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT

Tripolitania

Significant activity

- Armed Attack - 27 Jul 17, Tripoli Province, Tripoli: The Qimam Al-Andalus Radio for Quran was attacked by unknown armed men in Tripoli who ransacked the offices. Staff at the station, which broadcasts recitations of the Quran, were handcuffed, assaulted and threatened with murder
- Armed Clashes - 27 Jul 17, Tripoli Province, Suq Khamis: Armed clashes took place in Tarhunah near the cement factory. Road closures were reported in the area as a result.
- Airstrike - 27 Jul 17, Al-Murqub Province, Tarhunah: Reports indicate that an airstrike targeted an arms and ammunition depot in Tarhunah, adjacent to the Joint Security Room. Two members of the security forces were killed in the attack. It is as yet unclear who carried out the alleged attack.
- Security Announcement - 28 Jul 17, Tripoli Province, Tripoli: The Tripoli Security Directorate has ordered the city prosecutor to take action against vehicles without registration plates or tinted windows.
- Arrest - 28 Jul 17, Al-Murqub Province, Khoms: LNA arrested Ibrahim Abu Nowara, a senior member of the Ajdabiya Shura Council and AAS who is reported to have been a top commander in Sidi Akribesh. Nowara was arrested while hiding at a relative's home in al Khoms
- Threat Warning - 29 Jul 17, Sirte Province, Sirte: Locals reported an IS checkpoint south of Sirte along the Agrarian Road late at night. Reports indicate they were stopping vehicles looking for members of the security forces. BAM patrol units are now in the Alloud Agricultural project, and along Jufra Road, south of Sabiaan Airport searching for IS members. The Air Force is also reported to be in support

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- Crime - 30 Jul 17, Tripoli Province, Fallah: Reports indicate that an unknown vehicle has opened fire at a checkpoint manned by members of the 301 Brigade. The attack resulted in the death of a soldier and the wounding of two others. Unconfirmed reports state that this attack is in retaliation for the arrest of a local 'drugs lord' operating in the Swani suburb of the capital, by 301 Battalion who was then handed over to the Special Deterrence Force (Rada).
- Crime - 01 Aug 17, Az Zawiyah Province, Zawiyah: A known militant from Zawiyah stopped and robbed the vehicle of a civilian residing in Warshefana.
- CP/ Road Block - 01 Aug 17, Al-Jafara Province, Warshefana: In response to the above incident, militants from Warshefana stopped an undisclosed number of civilians residing in Zawiyah using the coastal road
- Kidnap - 01 Aug 17, Tripoli Province, Tripoli: Reports indicate that Mustafa Gadara, Secretary General of the Arab Youth Union was kidnapped while returning to the hotel he was staying at in downtown Tripoli
- CP/ Road Block - 02 Aug 17, Nalut Province, Wazin: Local sources close to Wazin border crossing between Libya and Tunis have reported that the border crossing will be closed for three days beginning from 3 August due to maintenance demands

Cyrenaica

Significant activity

- IED - 27 Jul 17, Benghazi Province, Suq Al-Hout: A civilian was killed when an IED detonated on Omar al-Mukhtar Street in Suq Al-Hout. The incident brings the total number of civilian deaths in the area to 31. The LNA continues to warn civilians to stay away from the area where clearance operations continue along with sporadic fighting
- IED - 28 Jul 17, Benghazi Province, Bunasib: An IED detonated injuring three civilians A mother and her two daughters suffered injuries to their body, face and eyes during the explosion. One daughter is in intensive care in a stable condition and is reported to have retained her sight
- Arrest - 29 Jul 17, Al-Jabal Al-Akhdar Province, Bayda: Sheikh Khalid Othman Seheib was taken by gunmen as he left Jabal al-Rahma mosque following prayers. The gunmen have been reported as LNA and fired celebratory shots after they gained control of Seheib. The sheikh was reported to have been involved in a similar but unsuccessful incident at the same mosque in November 2014
- SAFire - 29 Jul 17 Afternoon, Derna Province, Derna: An LNA MIG 23 jet was shot down over Derna's Daher al-Hamer area. Initial reports stated that the pilot had died due to the initial explosion, but other reports state that the pilot was executed after being arrested by MSCD fighters
- Armed Clashes - 29 Jul 17, Derna Province, Daher al-Hamer: Reports indicate that armed clashes between LNA members and MSCD fighters occurred in Daher al-Hamer resulting in five deaths and four injuries in the LNA ranks.
- Demonstration - 29 Jul 17, Al-Jabal Al-Akhdar Province, Bayda: A protest with around 30 people was staged outside the Constitution Drafting Assembly where a vote on a draft constitution was taking place. Some reports embellished the incident suggesting the protestors were armed and took hostages.
- Armed Clashes - 29 Jul 17, Benghazi Province, Sidi Akribesh: Clashes took place between LNA and remnants of RSCB which remain in the area. Two LNA were reported to have been killed and 11 others wounded.
- Armed Clashes - 30 Jul 17, Derna Province, Derna: The MSCD Special Forces launched an offensive against three LNA positions at al-Kasarat, al-Ardam School, and Hajjaj al-Heelah. Five LNA were killed and four wounded. MSCD claimed they lost one man, took a number of vehicles and burned three tanks
- Armed Clashes - 30 Jul 17 Evening, Derna Province, Derna: The LNA launched a counter-attack following an MSCD dawn offensive. Reporting indicates they have taken Karsarat.
- Demonstration - 30 Jul 17, Al-Butnan Province, Hariga Port: Employees at Hariga Port have extended the closure of Hariga Port for the next ten days. The closure is to protest against the water shortages in the city following problems with the local desalination plant.
- Accident - 30 Jul 17, Al-Jabal Al-Akhdar Province, Bayda: The commander of LNA's Omar al-Mukhtar operations room was injured along with two body guards following a car accident on his way back to Al-Bayda.
- Armed Clashes - 01 Aug 17, Derna Province, Derna: Members of the LNA naval forces have targeted two boats that were attempting to get close to the shores of Derna. One boat was destroyed while the other fled the area.



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- Arrest - 02 Aug 17, Derna Province, Kirissah: Members of LNA's 212th Battalion currently located around Derna has conducted a "Special Mission" near Kirissah that resulted in five arrests for individuals thought to be members of MSCD

Fezzan

Significant activity

- Armed Attack - 27 Jul 17, Wadi Al-Shatii Province, Jabal Hasawinah: Armed men broke into the No. 2 Power Station of the GMMR at Jabal Hasawinah and stole equipment while holding staff hostage. GECOL has evacuated its staff from the station, which could result in water supply interruption.
- Crime - 01 Aug 17, Sabha Province, Sabha: A civilian from Sabha was car jacked by unknown assailants while driving down Al-Mahdia Road. The civilian was shot in the leg with an AK47 at close proximity and dumped near the landfill. He was taken to hospital by another civilian and had his leg amputated.
- UXO - 02 Aug 17, Wadi Al-Shatii Province, Jabal Hasawinah: An employee of the Great Man Made River Project has reported finding a hand grenade near the western water wells of Jabal Hasawinah.



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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