



Weekly Libya .Xplored report preview

October 27, 2017

Prepared by Risk Analysis Team, Libya

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Quality Management
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Environmental Management
EMS/112016/001

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Occupational Health & Safety Management
HSM/112016/001

ISO 18788:2015
Security Operations Management
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ANSI/ASIS PSC.1-2012
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QAMS/072014/001



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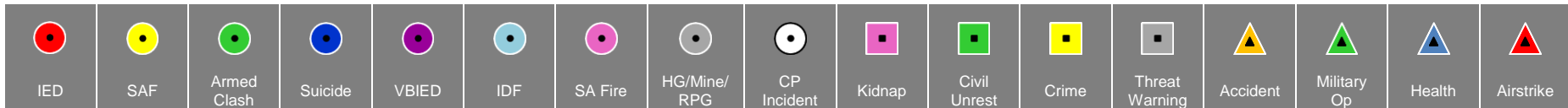
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ACTIVITY MAP



TRIPOLI ACTIVITY MAP



| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|-------------|---------|-------|-----|---------|-------------|-------------|--------|--------------|-------|----------------|----------|-------------|--------|-----------|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| IED | SAF | Armed Clash | Suicide | VBIED | IDF | SA Fire | HG/Mine/RPG | CP Incident | Kidnap | Civil Unrest | Crime | Threat Warning | Accident | Military Op | Health | Airstrike |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management QMS/112016/001 | ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Management EMS/112016/001 | BS OHSAS 18001:2007 Occupational Health & Safety Management HSMS/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

- Clashes have broken out in Zawiyah after negotiations broke down on October 25. The city destabilized as LNA and GNA began to assert control over Sabratah and surrounding areas at the beginning of October. The LNA has stated its intent to control Zawiyah and is allied to one of the militias involved in the clashes. The situation has the potential to escalate and further clashes are expected.
- GNA/ LNA forces around Sabratah and Surman continue to consolidate on recent gains. Existing militias are being subsumed or forced out. Further localized clashes are possible.
- LNA has stepped up operations around Ajdabiya following an attack against one of their checkpoints on October 25. Arrests and clashes are possible as they seek to disrupt opposition forces in the area.
- Smaller militias and criminal gangs may be targeted in Tripoli as the more dominant militias look to consolidate and strengthen their positions. As such, sporadic, localized clashes are possible.

Medium to long term outlook

- There are indications that some elements of the GNA are beginning to cooperate with the LNA and Field Marshal Haftar. This is most notable in the north-western coastal area where the two have been cooperating to dislodge pro-GNC militias from towns and cities. This could indicate a warming of relations amongst senior and middle management with a long-term aim of uniting the military.
- While there is a growing cooperation amongst the security forces, the political situation remains divided. Talks in Tunis have not yielded any major progress and have prompted the LNA to reissue its threat to 'liberate Tripoli' should dialogue fail. Issues like Article 8 remain significant hurdles; however, events on the ground may well overtake political decision making over the next six months.
- Although the influence wielded by the GNC has reduced over the last six months as militia groups aligned to them have lost ground, other political factions are emerging including the Green Movement and the Monarchists, which could complicate the political situation further.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

Governance

- Tunis talks have ended with no significant progress. Although some agreements have been reached, significant hurdles remain. The UN envoy to Libya headed to Tripoli in the days after in an attempt to maintain momentum. The HoR and HCS did agree to establish sub-committees to work on the main areas of contention in a bid to move the LPA renegotiations forward.
- The Netherlands has announced it will open an office in Tripoli, but denied that it would fully reopen its embassy. The majority of staff will continue to operate out of Tunis. The Ambassador did state that the move would mean they had a permanent diplomatic presence in Libya.
- Spain's Ambassador Francisco de Miguel arrived in Tripoli this week to present his credentials.
- A conference is to be held in Gharyan by Monarchists on October 31. One of their intentions is to pressure the UN into accepting a return to the monarchy as a viable solution to Libya's current crisis.
- Tripoli suffered water shortages throughout the week due to maintenance work and interference by 219 Brigade who are looking to pressure RDF into releasing their commander. The brigade turned off valves on the GMMR twice with some also holding them responsible for a nearby fire at one of the GMMR operations rooms.
- Foreigners in Benghazi who have not completed the 'necessary legal procedures' will be categorised as 'illegal migrants.' This includes having a valid Libyan stamp and a medical.
- A prominent MP from Benghazi, serving with the HoR, Amal Bayu, died on October 24 after a battle with cancer. She had gained the highest number of votes in the city in 2014 and remained a popular MP.

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Security

- Tensions were high in the Ghararat area of Souq Al-Jum'aa, Tripoli after a 100-year-old Sufi shrine suffered significant damage after it was targeted with an IED at the start of the week. RDF was forced to deny claims on social media that it was behind the attack.
- An incident at a checkpoint escalated into armed clashes and an attack against the family home of two of those involved in Ain Zara, Tripoli. The home was burned down, and two people were killed, including the deputy commander of 42 Brigade which manned the checkpoint.
- AIOR and the GNA have continued to consolidate their position in and around Sabratah this week. One militia handed over its weapons and vehicles during a public ceremony with AIOR while another was attacked by GNA. AIOR has also requested that all equipment and weapons belonging to the Libyan military are handed over.
- Omar Tantoush of Warshefana is trying to bolster the number of men under his command. Tantoush was associated with Haftar until towards the end of 2016. He is now believed to be associated with the green Movement. The commander of 219 Brigade, also associated with the movement, was recently arrested in Warshefana and accused of trying to secure routes into Tripoli by RDF.
- The UAE has claimed that Qatar has facilitated the transfer of hundreds of IS fighters from Syria and Iraq to southern Libya in an effort to 'turn the south into a hotbed of extremists after IS took severe blows in Syria and Iraq.' Libyan 'military officials' have claimed that fighters have moved through Turkey to Libya.
- IS attacked a LNA checkpoint south of Ajdabiya, killing at least two soldiers and wounding three. The LNA is now carrying out clearance operations in the general area.
- An RPG attack has been carried out against the Municipal Council in Sirte. The attack resulted in damage to the building but no casualties.
- Egypt has carried out an airstrike against a convoy entering its territory from Libya. The convoy included eight four-wheel drive vehicles which the Egyptians claim were carrying arms and ammunition.

Medical

- A vaccination campaign will be launched in Tripoli on October 28. The campaign will vaccinate against polio, measles, mumps, and rubella and is being run by the World Health Organisation and the National Centre for Disease Control.

Migration Crisis

- The Tripoli Illegal Immigration Agency repatriated 163 Malians via Matiga airport on October 20.
- Save the Children has suspended its operations in the Mediterranean. The decision came as migrant departures apparently slowed and the security situation 'deteriorated.'
- 420 Nigerians were repatriated to Lagos on October 24 with a further 160 repatriated on October 26.
- Ninety-three migrants have been arrested after a raid on a property in Sabratah this week. Thousands of migrants have been found following the collapse of various militia groups in the area after three weeks of fighting at the end of September/ beginning of October.

KEY DATES

| Date | Occasion | Comment |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| October 28 | Libya v Tunisia World Cup Qualifier | Possibility for celebrations should Libya win which may involve celebratory gunfire in some areas. |
| November 25 | Tripoli Marathon | Possible disruptions to movements through the city |
| December 01 | The Prophet's Birthday | Public Holiday |
| December 24 | Independence Day | Public Holiday |
| February 17 | Libyan Revolution Day | Public Holiday |
| May 01 | May Day | Public 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

Security

North West: Consolidation and destabilization

The Anti-IS Operations Room (AIOR) has been consolidating its position further this week and contributing to its image of being the 'legitimate force' in the area. On October 21, the Arouba Brigade handed over its weapons and vehicles during a public ceremony. Some members have been incorporated into the AIOR, while others have been demobilized. Five days later, the AIOR issued a statement thanking the local population for their support, and asking that all equipment and weapons belonging to the Libyan army, be handed over to them.

Security Forces in the area have also carried out a number of raids against locations where illegal immigrants have been held. They have invited the press to see the conditions they had been kept in, adding to the negative reputation of the militias who were previously dominant in the area. Although the situation has calmed significantly in Sabratah and the surrounding area after intense fighting at the end of September/ start of October, and there is a certain degree of optimism which has come with the recent change in security forces, there are also concerns. While the AIOR is keen to build a reputation as being part of the legitimate national security forces, the inclusion of the Salafi Wadi Brigade is being viewed with caution by some.

While both forces consolidate their positions around Sabratah, the city of Zawiyah has destabilized further this week. Negotiations broke down on October 25, leading to clashes which begin overnight on 26/27 October. The clashes so far remain internal, between the al-Hanish and Khadrawi. Both these militias are associated with the Abu Hamira and the Awlad Suqr tribes respectively. Tensions between the Abu Hamira and Awlad Suqr tribes are deep and long-standing and have led to clashes on a sporadic but regular basis in the past. Over recent weeks, however, the tensions have taken on a new angle with reports indicating the Awlad Suqr has given its support to the LNA. As such, further clashes are likely as the LNA furthers its intent to gain control of the city through the Awlad Suqr. The situation also has the potential to draw other factions in and/ or destabilise surrounding areas.

IS: UAE warns of an influx into southern Libya

The UAE has claimed that Qatar is behind the transfer of 'hundreds' of IS fighters from Iraq and Syria to southern Libya. The fighters are allegedly being transported through Turkey which despite the efforts of security forces, still has a porous border with its southern neighbours and an IS support network inside the country. As the 'caliphate' collapses in Syria and Iraq, there has been much speculation about where remaining fighters, many of them who are foreigners, will go. While some appear to be staying, others have been reported to be heading home as well as to various other countries where the group has a presence like Yemen. Although IS suffered a significant defeat in Libya at the end of 2016 when they were ousted from Sirte, their last remaining stronghold, the group has maintained a presence in the country. Local reports do not yet support an influx of fighters into the south, however the region remains largely uninhabited, and it is possible that IS, amongst others, have some freedom of movement in the area. They are also less likely to want to draw attention to themselves as the area supports logistics, training, and areas where they can rest and recuperate.

WEEKLY OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT

Tripolitania

Significant activity

- Demonstration - Oct 19, Tripoli Province, Garabuli: A joint statement from residents and civil society institutions announced an open-ended sit-in and civil disobedience until all armed groups left the town. All shops and public departments would be closed according to the statement. The statement called for security to be handed over to the Ras Ghazal Security Directorate and 143 Infantry Battalion.
- IED - Oct 20, Tripoli Province, Ghararat: A 100-year-old Sufi shrine was targeted by an IED, causing serious damage. RDF has denied responsibility after claims were made online that it was behind the attack. The militia has begun an investigation into the incident.
- Murder/ Execution - Oct 20, Az Zawiyah Province, Zawiyah: A man from the al-Gadi family of the Jarbuah tribe was killed in Zawiyah. The man's father warned against his son's death being exploited to start a war in the city where tensions are high.
- Security Announcement - Oct 21, Az Zawiyah Province, Sabratah: The Arouba Brigade handed over weapons and vehicles to the Anti-IS Operations Room during a public ceremony in Sabratah. The move was hailed as a positive step by the AIOR commander Colonel Omar Abduljalil as further consolidation of security in the town.
- Armed Clash - Oct 21, Tripoli Province, Ain Zara: Armed clashes took place in Ain Zara after two brothers, members of the Presidential Guard, were stopped at a checkpoint manned by 42 Brigade. An argument ensued which devolved to a fist fight before weapons were used. Two people were killed including Ezzidin Kerwae, the deputy commander of 42 Brigade. Three others were wounded. In retaliation, 42 Brigade then attacked the home of the two brothers, whose family fought back. The house was burned down. RDF intervened and restored control however tensions remain in the area. 42 Brigade is nominally aligned with the Mol but remains largely autonomous.
- Threat Warning - Oct 21, Sirte Province, Sultan: A small group of IS fighters has entered the town of Sultan, 50km east of Sirte over the past two days. The group consists of about five members and were travelling in two cars which 'roamed' the city for a few minutes. After visiting the port, they then left.
- Armed Attack - Oct 21, Tripoli Province, Janzour: Omar Tantoush and his militia are reported to have stormed a Tawerghan IDP camp at the Naval Academy in Janzour and demanded that at least 100 young men join his militia or leave the camp. When asked which government he was affiliated with, Tantoush stated he was not affiliated with anyone. Tantoush gave the camp 24 hours to comply.
- Demonstration - Oct 22, Al-Jabal Al-Gharbi Province, Ash Shwayrif: 219 Brigade has closed off the water valves for the Great Man-Made River in Ash Shwayrif. They have stated they do not intend to reopen the valve until their commander, Mabrouk Hanish, is released.
- Demonstration - Oct 22, Sirte Province, Sirte: A protest has taken place by residents demanding compensation for homes which were destroyed during the clearance of Sirte. Residents of Manara and Giza neighbourhoods claim 1600 homes were destroyed as BAM battled IS for control of the city.
- RPG - Oct 23, Sirte Province, Sirte: Unidentified men attacked the Municipal Council HQ in Sirte with an RPG. The attack caused material damage but no casualties. The mayor of Sirte, Mukhtar al-Madani stated that the attack was aimed at disrupting the work of the council.
- Armed Clash - Oct 23 08:00, Az Zawiyah Province, Surman: At Approximately 0800hrs on October 23, the GNA Western Command lead by Osama al-Jwaili, launched an attack against the Kwedierrri militia compound in Surman. The camp was put under siege before it fell to Western Command at approximately midday. The militia's leader, Abdul Salam Kwedierrri is reported to be a wanted criminal, alleged to be heavily involved in smuggling in the area. The militia has now moved to Zawiyah and joined with Al Nasr Company. Western Command took control of a number of vehicles and weapons including rockets and launchers after the attack in Surman.
- Arrest - Oct 23, Tripoli Province, Tripoli: RDF arrested two members of MSCD, Adel al-Kargli and Khalid al-Hasadi at the Diar Hotel in Tripoli. The men were coordinating the medical treatment of MSCD fighters wounded in Derna.
- Blockade - Oct 23, Al-Jabal Al-Gharbi Province, Ash Shwayrif: 219 Brigade erected a roadblock along the Sabah to Tripoli road, south of Ash Shwayrif. The brigade instructed those using the road to travel the longer route via Sukna and Waddan. The roadblock was later removed.

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- Arrest - Oct 23, Az Zawiyah Province, Sabratah: Security forces and the Illegal Immigration Office carried out a raid south of Sabratah which resulted in the detention of 93 migrants.
- Arrest - Oct 23, Nuqat Al-Khams Province, Ajaylat: Security forces and the Illegal Immigration Office carried out a raid in Ajaylat which resulted in the detention of 187 migrants.
- Crime - Oct 24, Az Zawiyah Province, Sabratah: The Anti-Immigration Department raided a shop used by human smugglers in Tunaibat in Sabratah. 93 immigrants were arrested during the raid.
- Armed Clash - Oct 24, Az Zawiyah Province, Surman: Armed clashes broke out after the General Investigations Agency arrested individuals wanted by the security forces. The agency also raided a number of locations connected to armed groups involved in smuggling and kidnapping.
- Arrest - Oct 25, Tripoli Province, Tripoli: RDF has arrested two further members of MSCD in Tripoli. Khaled Saad Ali-Kilani is a senior MSCD commander who has been living in Tripoli for a year. His 23-year-old son, Saad has also been arrested. Fifty-year-old Kilani is from Bab Tobruk area of Derna and spent time in prison under Gadhafi. He was released in 2011 and reportedly joined Ansar al-Sharia. He fought in Benghazi through 2014 and 15, losing a leg. He was wounded again in Derna and sent to Tripoli for treatment. Two of his daughters have also married prominent AAS members.

Cyrenaica

Significant activity

- Airstrike - Oct 20, Derna Province, Derna: The LNA carried out an airstrike in the south of Derna.
- Armed Clash - Oct 20, Derna Province, Daher al-Hamer: Two MSCD fighters named as Salim Al-Qarbadi and Abdullah Al-Qaba'ili, were killed in clashes with the LNA in Daher Al-Hamer, southwest of Derna. The MSCD stated that both men had fought IS for control of Derna.
- Mine Strike - Oct 22, Benghazi Province, Benghazi: A 22-year-old, Farraj al-Farajani was killed when a landmine detonated in the center of Benghazi.
- Mine Strike - Oct 22, Benghazi Province, Sabri: A 24 year old Egyptian named al-Badri Gharib Faraj was killed when a landmine detonated in Sabri.
- Mine Strike - Oct 22, Benghazi Province, Sabri: Ali Ramadan al-Jordi, a 23-year-old, was wounded when a landmine detonated as he inspected his home in Sabri. Jordi sustained shrapnel wounds in the head and eye.
- Shooting - Oct 22, Benghazi Province, Qawarishah: Omar al-Sahli, an 18-year-old, was shot in the east of Qawarishah. He is reported to be in a stable condition.
- Demonstration - Oct 22, Benghazi Province, Qar Yunis: A demonstration was held in Benghazi to protest against the ongoing apparent indiscriminate shootings in the city's streets. The protestors marched from al-Ahli Football Club in Qar Yunis to Kish Square. A recent supporter of the football club, Maher al-Qatani was a recent victim.
- Mine Strike - Oct 22, Benghazi Province, Suq al-Hout: Faraj Mohammed al-Majbari, an 18-year-old, was hospitalized with shrapnel wounds after a landmine detonated in Suq al-Hout.
- Arrest - Oct 23, Al-Butnan Province, Tobruk: The LNA found 200 explosive bags being smuggled in a truck carrying livestock in Tobruk. The truck was heading from the area of Emsa'ed on the Libyan-Egyptian border to Ajdabiya.
- Arrest - Oct 23, Benghazi Province, Benghazi: A man was arrested in Benghazi after his home was raided and he was found to have been making wine.
- Armed Clash - Oct 23, Benghazi Province, Benghazi: Armed clashes are occurring intermittently near the Municipal Hotel in Benghazi between the LNA and remnants of the RSCB. The LNA stated that members of the RSCB are taking fortified positions in a 'very small area.' They are using the lower floors to live in and store weapons and ammunition while snipers are on the rooftops. Landmines in the area are also slowing LNA operations to retake control.
- Murder/ Execution - Oct 23, Benghazi Province, Benghazi: The body of Abdul-Fittah Al-Mugharabi was found on al-Zayat Street in Benghazi. He had been shot in the head, and his body showed signs of torture including burns. Mugharabi was a member of the PFG under Ibrahim Jodhran and was allegedly 'abducted' by pro-LNA forces in Arabiya over three months ago. LNA sources are claiming he was a 'terrorist.'
- Mine Strike - Oct 24, Benghazi Province, Sabri: A 29-year-old man was wounded when a landmine detonated in Sabri. The man had gone to check his home when the incident occurred.

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- Armed Clash - Oct 24, Benghazi Province, Benghazi: An arrest operation descended into clashes in al-Wahishi. A police officer was shot and wounded, one suspect was arrested and one weapon was recovered.
- Armed Attack - Oct 25, Al-Wahat Province, Ajdabiya: Armed men launched an attack against an LNA checkpoint manned by 152 Infantry Brigade, 60km south of Ajdabiya. At least one soldier is reported to have been beheaded, and the checkpoint was burned down.
- Military Operation - Oct 25, Al-Wahat Province, Ajdabiya: The LNA began search operations around Ajdabiya in response to the IS attack on one of their checkpoints in which two soldiers were killed.

Fezzan

Significant activity

- Crime - Oct 20, Sabha Province, Sabha: The Civil Safety Authority building in Sabha was robbed by six armed men. They injured three guards and stole mobile phones and vehicles.
- Demonstration - Oct 22, Ghat Province, Ghat: Residents in Ghat have protested at the Tinalcom border crossing with Algeria to demand that Algeria allows patients seeking medical treatment to pass through. The demonstration has come as health services in Ghat continue to decline. The crossing has been closed for some time by Algeria.
- Shooting - Oct 23, Sabha Province, Sabha: Ahmad Omar Abdulaziz al-Warfali was shot and wounded in the Aqaïd area of Sabha.
- Shooting - Oct 24, Murzuq Province, Murzuq: A 34 year old female named Halima Al-Leithi Yahya was wounded by indiscriminate gunfire in Murzuq. She was transported to Benghazi for medical treatment.
- Shooting - Oct 24, Wadi Al-Hayaa Province, Obari: A 24-year-old man named Abdul Mohsen Mohammed Ali was wounded in indiscriminate gunfire in Obari. He was transported to Benghazi for treatment.
- Armed Attack - Oct 24, Wadi Al-Hayaa Province, Obari: Armed men in eight vehicles attacked 456 Brigade stationed at Obari hospital. A shootout ensued before the attackers were forced to flee. No casualties were reported. 456 Brigade has stated that the attacks were looking to carry out 'vandalism' aimed at 'destabilizing the city.' 456 Brigade has been in situ since February 2016.



ACRONYM LIST

AIOR – Anti-IS Operations Room (Sabratah)
 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
 MoI - 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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