Libya daily security analysis report

May 13, 2023

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Latest Developments

Political Developments

- US Special Envoy Ambassador Richard Norland stated: "We fully support SRSG Bathily's call for the 6+6 committee to reach agreement on a legal framework for elections and urge all of Libya's political leadership to bring their influence to bear without delay."
- The advisor of the Chinese permanent mission to the UN, Sun Chiang, warned against foreign interference in Libya stating: "Adherence to the principle of Libyan ownership and leadership is the only way to achieve the country's peace and stability."
- Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar visited Marj to view maintenance work at the Grand Marj Mosque and offer his advice on May 12.

Security Developments

- Libyana has denied claims its data was exposed in a hacking attack. This comes after the Libyan Post Telecommunications & Information Technology Company (LPTIC) stated that Libyana had been subjected to a cyber-attack.
- Tensions remain in Zawiyah following recent clashes. The Zawiyah Movement released a statement on May 12 regarding the situation in the city, focusing on the "crime and corruption," instability and "low levels of service." The group has held the GNU responsible, calling for them to stand down, claiming they have ignored the city's needs.
- The Benghazi Traffic and Licensing Department published data on road traffic accidents for April, revealing that 125 traffic accidents had occurred.

Travel Developments

- The Minister of Transport (GNU), Mohamed Al-Shahoubi, met with the International Civil Aviation Organization in Montreal, Canada where he signed a cooperation and support agreement. Shahoubi stated the visit was in order to contribute to the development of the Libyan civil aviation sector and to address requirements of lifting the air embargo imposed on Libyan airlines.
- The Italian Ambassador to Libya, Giuseppe Buccino, commended "encouraging progress" on the reconstruction of Tripoli International Airport. The ambassador visited the site on May 11 where an Italian consortium is undertaking the reconstruction of the airport.

Sudan Crisis

- Following a week of talks, the Rapid Support Force (RSF) and the Sudan Armed Force (SAF) have signed a deal to help alleviate the suffering of the civilian population. There has however been no progress towards a peace deal and concerns are mounting over conflagration.
- An Afriqiyah Airways flight flew from Tripoli to Port Sudan on May 13 to evacuate 106 Libyans stranded in the Sudanese city.

Assessment

Political Developments

LNA: Haftar visits Marj

Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar visited Marj to view the maintenance works of the Grand Marj Mosque and offer his advice on the works on May 12. The mosque is one of the oldest and largest mosques in North Africa.

COMMENT: 'The visit comes after Saddam and Khalid Haftar dissolved 115 Battalion on May 04 and incorporated its assets into 106 Brigade. The battalion was based in Marj and was under the command of Abdul Fattah Nadouri, son of the Chief of Staff (LNA) Abdulrazek Nadouri. The move came after a period of escalating tensions between the

Image: Haftar tours the Grand Marj Mosque

next generation of senior LNA officers with the Haftar family moving to contain the Nadouri's whose power base is in Marj.' **COMMENT ENDS**.

Security Developments

Cyber-attack claims hit Libyana

The LPTIC stated that Libyana had been subjected to a cyber-attack which had targeted employee information. The attack had not, however, exposed subscriber's data. LPTIC denied recent claims on social media that call records or social media accounts of subscribers had been compromised and stated that several international companies and banks had been subjected to the same cyber-attack. Libyana refuted the claim however, stating its systems were operating normally. The director of the company's media office, Abdel Moneim Bouchakwa, stated in a televised address that there had been no breach of the company's data but confirmed that there had been an attempted cyber-attack.

COMMENT: 'The attack was a ransomware attack carried out using ALPHV, distributed by the BlackCat group. ALPHV is ransomware written in the Rust programming language. It encrypts its targets data, which is then held for ransom by the group and can also lead to DDoS attacks which would prevent users from accessing services by overloading them with multiple requests. It is distributed by infected email attachments, torrent websites (with infected links or files) or malicious advertising. The ransomware is distributed by the Russian ransomware gang, BlackCat, with reports in March 2022 suggesting at least 60 organizations and businesses worldwide were infected.

The Libyana attackers have allegedly encrypted financial and accounting documents, personal information including passport details, strategic information and marking data as well as contracts, correspondence history and conversations with company management, They have allegedly demanded a ransom by May 15. The attackers have also allegedly published copies of some of the data they have allegedly taken control of. A number of attacks using the ransomware are currently ongoing against international companies.

Cyber-attacks are rare occurrences in Libya with the last reported incident being on October 20, 2018 when a Libyan news outlet, Almotawset was hacked. The attack was however assessed as personal with

offensive content and criticism of the outlet's owner, a politician, published on their website.' **COMMENT ENDS.**
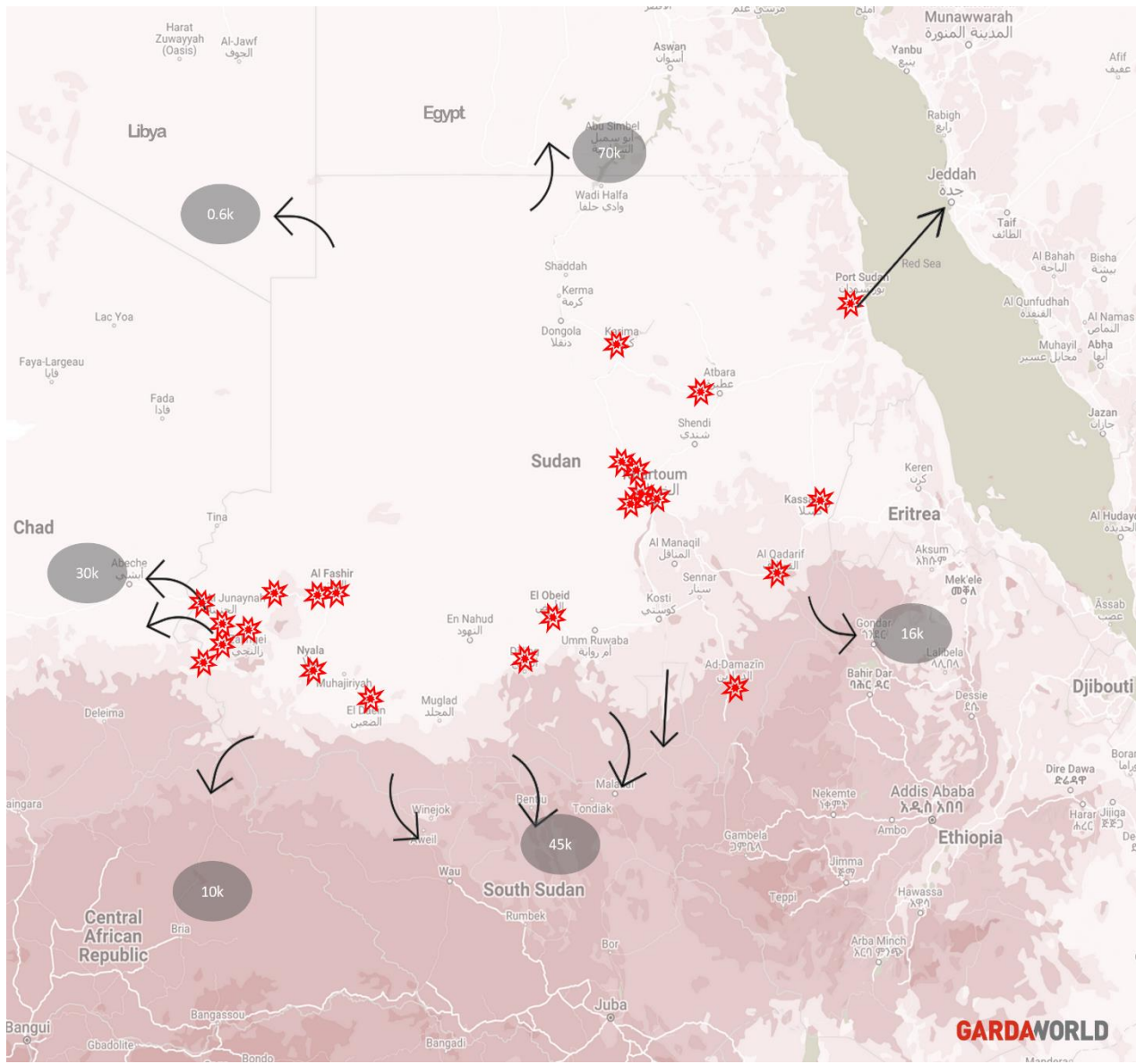
Benghazi publishes road traffic accident figures for April
The Benghazi Traffic and Licensing Department published data on road traffic accidents for April, revealing that 125 traffic accidents had occurred. Accidents inside Benghazi accounted for the deaths of 22 people in 17 incidents while outside the city, seven incidents accounted for the deaths of eight people. A further 31 people sustained severe injuries in 26 accidents while 25 people sustained injuries in 13 minor accidents. A total of 220 cars were damaged and 53 were write-offs at a cost of 220,000 LYD.

Sudan Crisis

Step forward for humanitarian relief, but peace no closer
Following a week of talks, the Rapid Support Force (RSF) and the Sudan Armed Force (SAF) have signed a deal to help alleviate the suffering of the civilian population. This includes the creation of safe passage for people to leave battle zones, the movement of humanitarian aid, the protection of relief workers and an agreement not to use human shields. The deal was mediated by the US and Saudi Arabia.

Graphic: Showing key areas of fighting which have taken place so far over the course of the conflict along with numbers of people displaced over Sudan's borders. This does not include those displaced internally.

COMMENT: 'While the deal is a much-needed step forward in efforts to alleviate some of the suffering of the Sudanese people, there has been no progress towards a peace deal. The death toll currently stands at 600 according to the World Health Organisation with thousands of people being displaced after fighting erupted on April 15. The capital, Khartoum, saw further airstrikes and shelling on May 12 while concerns remain about the potential for regional conflagration with some indications this may already be starting.
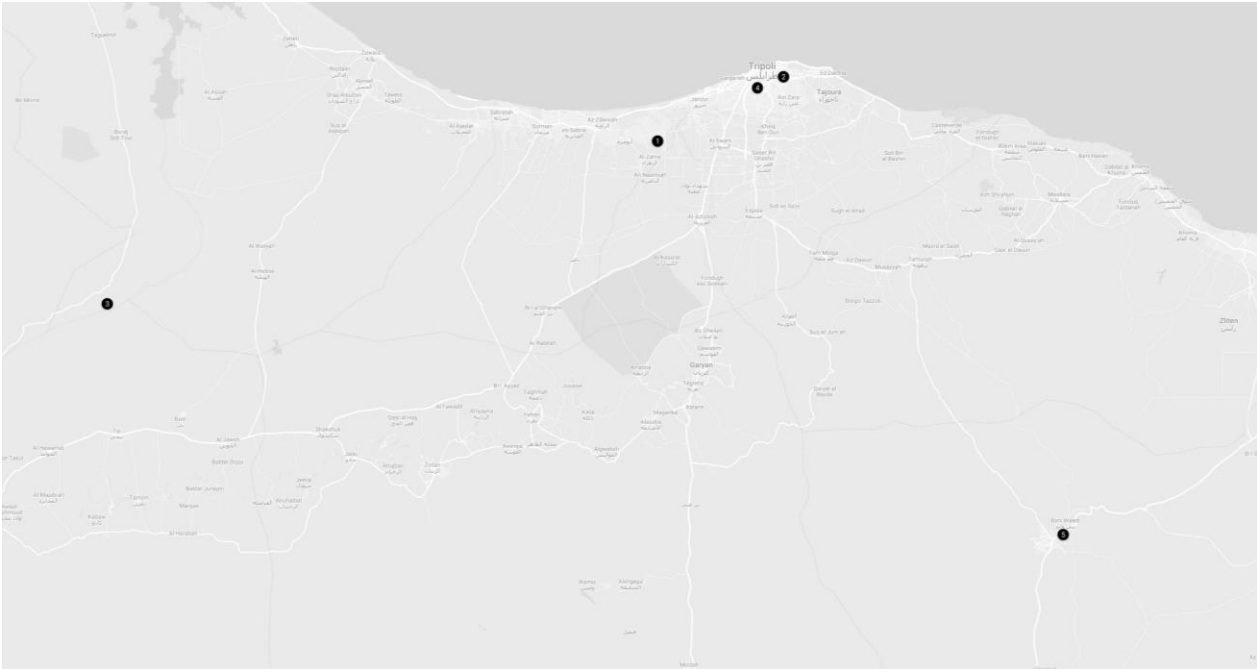
Dozens of civilians have been killed in fighting between two militias in North Kordofan, in the far south of Sudan, while Darfur has seen communal violence. The incidents raise the potential that communities across the country's frontiers are being drawn into the fight between the RSF and SAF.

The fighting in North Kordofan took place between local militia loyal to both belligerents and has focused on the strategically important state capital, El-Obeid, a city which sits on communication links between Khartoum and Darfur, the home of the leader of the RSF, Mohamed Hamdan Daglo. Further fighting has taken place in a village to the south of the state capital suggesting the RSF is looking to secure approaches to El-Obeid before launching an assault.

In Darfur, the rivalry between the RSF and SAF which continue to fight for control of Khartoum, is aligning with deep social, economic, and ethnic divides. Recent communal fighting has taken place in El Geneina, the capital of West Darfur with most of the fighting being between the Janjaweed and Masalit fighters. In addition, there has been a number of attacks against IDP camps, home to people displaced by previous violence in the country.' **COMMENT ENDS.**

Significant Incidents

Tripolitania Region

1. Security Operation - May 10, Al-Jafara Province, Warshefana: The Department of Anti-Smuggling and Drugs Al Aziziyah and Al-Zahra Investigating Unit and 55 Battalion carried out joint mobile and static security operations to combat drugs trafficking.
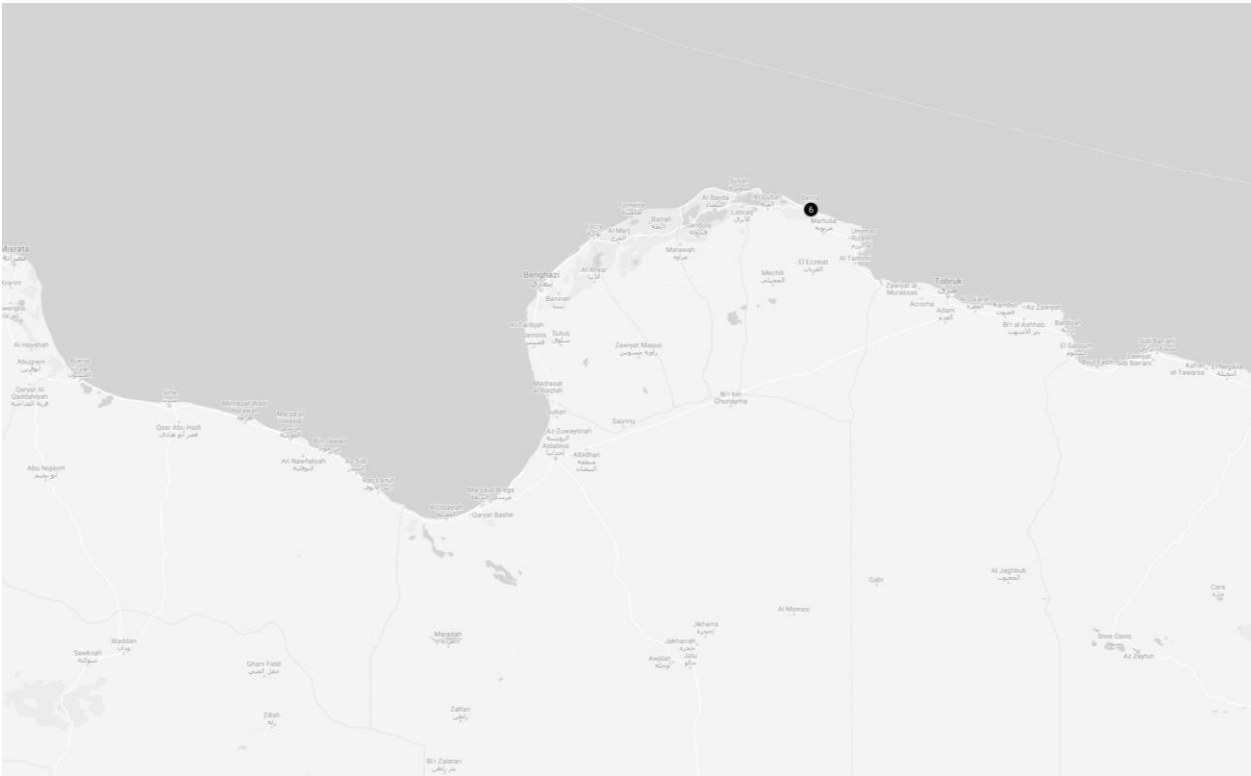**2. Cyber Attack - May 11, Tripoli Province, Tripoli**: An attempted cyber-attack targeted Libyana. While Libyana claimed there had been no breach of data, LPTIC claimed that employee data had been accessed.

3. Arrest - May 12, Nuqat Al-Khams Province, Libya - Tunisia Border: The Desert Patrols and Board Guards Service (BGS) detained 62 illegal migrants at the Tunisian border. The migrants were found in separate groups stranded in the desert. The BGS is a Zintani-led armed group established under the Minister of Interior, Emad Trabslei in June 2022.

4. Accident - May 12 17:41, Tripoli Province, Abu Saleem: Prisoners were evacuated from the Al-Magdoh Militia Headquarters (a deputy of Ghneiwa) in Abu Saleem after a fire started inside.

5. Kidnap - May 12 19:30, Misrata Province, Bani Walid: Three people were arrested by 444 Brigade for kidnapping a man, torturing him, and sending footage to his family to elicit a ransom.

Cyrenaica Region

6. Murder/ Execution - May 12 16:40, Derna Province, Derna: A civilian, Fouad Al-Hasadi, died inside ISA headquarters two days after his arrest. His body was buried in the Al-Fatayh area without any forensic investigation being carried out.

Fezzan Region

7. Murder/ Execution - May 12 17:34, Wadi Al-Hayaa Province, Obari: A young man, Ambarak Tedukt, was found dead near his home after sustaining seven gunshot wounds.

Offshore

NSTR

Outlook

Short Term Outlook

- Election momentum is failing to gain traction in Libya at present. The 6+6 Committee from the House of Representatives (HoR) and the High Council of State (HCS) remains the focal point of the political process for now but has failed to make any progress towards its goals. SRSG Abdoulaye Bathily is progressing his High-Level Panel for Elections (HLPE) concept with June given as a deadline for the 6+6 Committee to come to an agreement. Meanwhile, heads of both the HoR and HCS continue to meet in Cairo, however, political elites remain subject to accusations that they are employing stalling tactics to avoid elections. At the same time, some international stakeholders are becoming more wary of elections, suggesting they could bring about more instability and may not be the answer to solving Libya's complex issues.

- The security situation in and around Tripoli remains fundamentally unstable. After significant changes to the capital's security makeup in August and September 2022, tensions are once again increasing as mistrust and competition grow. This is leading to increased concerns of a further outbreak of violence in or around Tripoli with tensions mainly building to the west of the capital at present.

- The outbreak of violence in Sudan has the potential to cause conflagration across the region and potentially destabilise the southern border areas with Libya. There has been speculation that the Libyan National Army (LNA) and even the National Oil Corporation (NOC) have been providing support to the Rapid Support Force (RSF), one of the belligerents of the Sudanese conflict, however there has been no evidence to support this. While the border has allegedly been closed

on both sides, local reports suggest traffic is moving normally at this time. Efforts are underway in Kufra to establish mechanisms to support any refugees coming across the border, however, for now, reports suggest most Sudanese refugees moving over land borders are heading to other countries including Chad and Egypt.

Medium to Long Term Outlook

- The solution to Libya's political impasse remains elections for many stakeholders with UNSMIL attempting to develop a new pathway. Realistically, the path to elections in 2023 will be fraught with difficulties however, there is a real chance that much-needed groundwork could be achieved whether elections are held or not. While UNSMIL heads efforts towards elections, other international stakeholders are prioritising more short-term objectives as they look to shape not just Libya, but regional and global issues.

- The resurgence of Jihadist Salafism in Tripolitania remains a potential source of destabilisation with indications of renewed tensions between adherents and those of Madkhali Salafism. This competition between the opposing ideologies seeps into the political as well as the military spaces and is expected to slowly intensify as the Jihadist Salafi adherents gain strength in the region. This could increasingly become a defining factor for various groups involved in the political and military spaces.

- While the political process continues to falter, armed groups are exploiting the situation to increase their strength, influence and power across Libya which will likely have a longer-term negative impact on the political situation.

- Terrorist groups remain active but contained in Libya. Islamic State (IS) will continue to present a threat to security forces, primarily in the south, and may re-establish the capability to mount sporadic attacks along the coastline in the future. The group continues to suffer from years of attrition and is more likely focused on providing support for more active IS theatres in sub-Saharan Africa. Al-Qaeda-aligned groups remain active in the country with their integration into societies in the south and some armed groups in the Tripoli area potentially posing a longer-term issue for Libya.

Key Dates

Date	Occasion	Comment
June 27, 2023	Arafat Day	
June 28 – 30, 2023	Eid Al-Adha	Public Holiday
July 19, 2023	Islamic New Year	Public Holiday
September 16, 2023	Martyrs' Day	Public Holiday
September 27, 2023	The Prophet's Birthday	Public Holiday
October 23, 2023	Liberation Day	Public Holiday
December 24, 2023	Independence Day	Public Holiday

Acronym List

AQ - Al-Qaeda
BDB – Benghazi Defense Brigade (Al Qaeda-aligned – AAS and RSCB associated/umbrella group)
CBL – Central Bank of Libya
CESF - Constitution and Election Support Force
CNI – Critical National Infrastructure
DACOCT - Deterrence Apparatus for Combating Organized Crime and Terrorism (SDF)
DDR - Disarmament, demobilising and reintegration
GASO – General Administration of Security Operations
GACS – General Administration of Central Support
GECOL – General Electricity Company of Libya
GMMR – Great Man-made River
GNA – Government of National Accord (2016)
GNC – General National Congress (2012)
GNS – Government of National Stability (2021)
GNU – Government of National Unity (2021)
GTUC - Greater Tripoli Union Council (Tripoli militias and others, established in June 2020)
HCS – High Council of State (Tripoli-based)
HNEC – High National Elections Commission
HoR – House of Representatives (Tobruk-based)
IDF – Indirect Fire (mortars/rockets)
IDP - Internally Displaced Persons
IED - Improvised Explosive Device
IOC - International Oil Company
IS - Islamic State
ISA – Internal Security Agency
JMC – Joint Military Commission
LIFG – Libyan Islamic Fighting Group
LNA – Libyan National Army
LPA – Libyan Political Agreement (2015)
LPDF - Libyan Political Dialogue Forum (2020)
LROR - Libyan Revolutionary Operations Room
MoD - Ministry of Defense
MoF - Ministry of Finance
MoFA - Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MoI - Ministry of Interior
MoJ - Ministry of Justice
MoO - Ministry of Oil
MoT - Ministry of Transportation
NFDK - No Further Details Known
NGO - Non-Governmental Organisation (aid/charity)
NOC – National Oil Company
NSTR - Nothing Significant To Report
P3+2 – France, Germany, Italy – UK, US
PC – Presidency Council
PG – Presidential Guard
PFG - Petroleum Facilities Guard
RPG - Rocket Propelled Grenade
RTA - Road Traffic Accident
TIP – Tripoli International Airport
SSA – Stability Support Authority
SAF - Small Arms Fire
SDF – Rada Deterrence Force/ Special Deterrence Force/ Rada
UXO - Unexploded Ordnance

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SECURE EVERY DAY

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