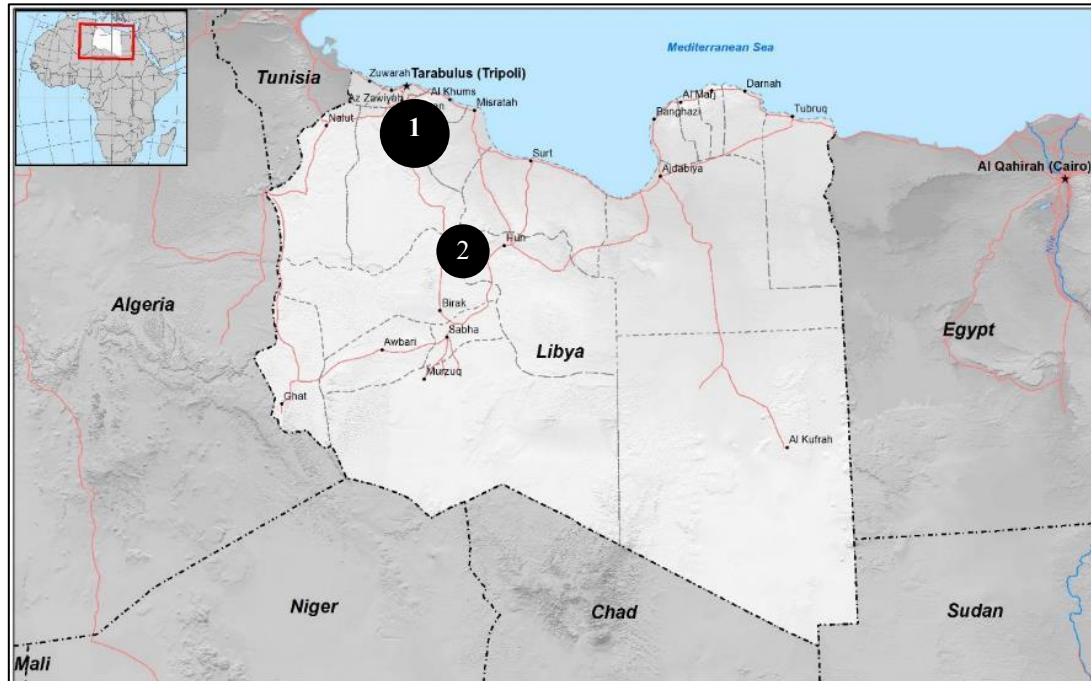


EU LIAISON AND PLANNING CELL LIBYA

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SUMMARY

In the midst of a political and economic crisis, both Libyan pro-East and West armed actors have announced a general mobilisation while developing allegiances related to the expiration of the LPDF mandate. At this stage, outbreaks of violence could take place, albeit assessed limited in time and place, as a constant possibility of any handover of institutional responsibility within the Greater Tripoli Area.

The terrorist threat remains a constant concern because of the porous borders and the unsafe and unsecure environment. Collaboration in this area of intervention between the GNU and GNS is not ruled out, also because of the external international attention that likely explains why the terrorist actions remain successfully contained.

Apart the 5+5 JMC commitment to unifying the military establishment, expelling mercenaries and integrating the armed groups, a consistent internal political solution and a sound international commitment remain the precondition to proceed. That, while the presence of Turkish forces has been extended for 18 more months and the oil-for-budget negotiation by the GNS risk to bring the current confrontation on a more complex international perspective.

1. TENSIONS IN THE GTA

The last week pictured a line of events related to the expiration of the LPDF (Libyan Political Dialogue Forum). The political effort into the talks in Cairo even seems to be extended, as proposed by the UN Special Advisor. That, also in order to possibly justify the commitment for a compromised peaceful solution well beyond the June 21 term, and ease the security situation on the ground.

In fact, movement and deployment of armed forces and militia have constantly taken place, resulting in a general increasing armed actors mobilisation into the wider Tripoli area, and beyond.

Between the most significant deployments:

- on 17 June, a notable increase in military mobilisations started of forces aligned with MG Osama Juweli, Cdr of the Western Coastal Military Region;
- on the same day, the Stability Support Agency (SSA) Western Region Branch announced the launch of a ground and naval security operation in areas ranging from the Tripoli border in the East along the Western Coastal Region via Zuwara to the Libya-Tunisia border in the West. The stated intent of the security response was to combat smuggling, trafficking, and illegal immigration activities;
- on 18 June, the Counter-Terrorism Force (CTF) conducted a counterterrorism-military exercise, including use of artillery, in Al-Numah, west of Abugrein. This drill was conducted with the presence of the Cdr's deployed in the area together with representatives of the Turkish training mission;
- on 19 June:
 - two armed groups stated their support to Zintani, while the Ministry of Interior forces based in Zahra declared their support for the GNS;
 - a National Mobile Force convoy mobilised from CP 17 to 7 April Camp. This convoy included heavy military equipment and artillery;
- on 20 Jun:
 - Zintani forces mobilized from the mountains to 4th Bde Camp in Aziziyah and later units from the Joint Operations Room under Juweili's command mobilised from 4 Bde camp in Aziziyah towards Tripoli, arriving to 7 April Camp. The forces included also self-propelled Howitzers;
 - PM Dbeibah, in his role as the GNU Ministry of Defense, declared a state of alert status in Tripoli. The source added that units belonging to the SSA, the Constitution and Election Support Forces deployed in several areas of the city and around governmental buildings;
- on 21 June, sources reported:
 - mobilisation of further Joint Operations Room of the Western Region from the 4th Bde Military Camp in Aziziyah towards Tripoli;
 - mobilisation of a Joint Operations Force (JOF) armed vehicle convoy (assessed as pro-GNU) from Misrata to Tripoli;
 - that the Joint Operations Room of the Western Region has set up two field hospitals located in its area of operation.

Comment

Recently, the GNU had directed a readjustment of the deployed forces out of the Greater Tripoli Area (GTA) into areas between Misrata in the North, Sirte in the East, As Shwayrif in the South, and Gharyan in the West (Weekly Report 19MAY-02JUN22) operating in the vicinity of the LNA-controlled territory.

SSA represents an umbrella organization in the Tripoli area, including Warshefana and Zawiyah-based groups created to provide security to Tripoli main institutions; that has recently also split over political allegiances.

Al-Alam militia is the militia from Zawiyah commanded by Muhammad Al-Bahron (aka al-Far). This militia (also known as al-Far militia) is associated with the Libyan Intelligence Service (LIS).

Assessment

As usual, the current events were driven by the failure to reach a political agreement between the opposing

institutions and parties, so that the loyal units have deployed to secure critical areas and deter contrasting positions.

However, the possibility of a new GNS's attempt to entry in Tripoli remain low, although still plausible because of the pressure of the HoR to set a unique effective governmental institution after the LPDF expiration.

It is very likely that the deployment of GNU loyal forces responds to the need to interdict the penetration axes of the Zintan forces and the entry from the East of any LNA effort.

It is also very likely that units aligned with the GNU, specifically the al-Alam militia, will get prepare to clash with the SSA pro-GNS actors that have just launched a security operation along the Western Coast.

The probability of escalation is very high; however, the contacts of the GNS leaders with the military commanders and militia chiefs aligned with the GNU allow to assume that the potential escalation of violence within the GTA will be limited in intensity and time. The contrast will be likely continued to be indirectly managed through the limitation of the oil output with its consequences.

2. SECURITY EVENTS OUTSIDE OF THE GTA

- On 16 June, 12th Bde (LNA) based at Brak al-Shati conducted a security operations in the area of al Jufra in support of the PFG to secure oil infrastructure.
- On 18 June, Daesh Cdr Mustafa Abdel Hamid Bin Dallah was arrested in Bani Walid by a 444th Bde Unit. Dallah has been wanted since 2016 with several previous arrest attempts, two of which coordinated by AFRICOM in 2016 and 2017.
- The CT operation lead to the arrest of four Tunisian nationals, member of the terrorist organization in Sabratah.
- On 19 June, reports indicated a farther increase presence of the 444th Bde in Bani Walid, including of the arrival and settlement of armed personnel at Bani Walid Airport. 444th Bde would allegedly maintain a permanent presence at the airport and conduct mobile patrols while operating fixed checkpoints across the city.
- On the same day, local source reported about the mobilisation of alleged Russian Private Military Contractor (PMC) Wagner Group, and unidentified Syrian mercenary forces (estimated number of 250), including unspecified military equipment in the Checkpoint (CP) 50 area, in the West of Sirte.
- On 19 June, 12th Bde (LNA) declared an increased alert state and a general mobilisation in the area of Maradah.

Comment

As already stated in previous reports, the presence of IS/Daesh militants in Libya is confirmed, so that LNA and GNU keep on maintaining a constant operational focus on their area of responsibility aiming to highlight their capability to effectively counter the terrorist threat in Libya.

Along the years IS/ Daesh has grown strongly in Libya with its strongest peak in 2016 in the area of Sabrath and Fezzan.

Dallah, reportedly responsible for securing IS leaders as well as supplies, has been described as a prominent leader.

Assessment

It is likely that there is collaboration between the Libyan security actors to progress in the CT efforts to disrupt an important link in place between Daesh/IS cells in Tunisia and Libya, as well as with the cells in the South and the coastline. It is also likely that Dallah's arrest will likely cause further disruption to Daesh operations. Therefore, it is confirmed the assessments already expressed in previous reports that actions remain successfully contained (31MAR-11APR22 and 12-27 APR22 Weekly Reports).

3. OTHER INTERNATIONAL SECURITY RELATED EVENTS

The International Community (IC) maintains its commitment to the stability of the country by supporting consensual political and financial solutions that would enable the roadmap towards the elections, notwithstanding that all stakeholders got the evidence that the LPDF mandate finished on the 21st of June.

Following, some of the main security events of international relevance:

- on 17 June, the 5+5 Joint Military Commission (JMC) held a meeting in Cairo with the attendance of GNU Army COS, LTG Muhammad Al-Haddad and LNA GNS Army COS, LTG Abdel Razek Al-Nadori, together with UNSG Special Adviser on Libya Stephanie Williams. LNA GNS Army COS stressed the importance and the need to unify the military institution, expelling mercenaries, and integrating the armed groups. For his part, GNU Army COS praised the work of the JMC in achieving stability, calling on all parties to protect Libya's security, borders, land, and sovereignty. The meeting's participants affirmed the need to prevent any fights, to avoid the politicisation of the military institution, and to build a stronger army through the creation of joint committees;
- on the same day, the Russian Foreign Minister, Sergey Lavrov stated that the presence of the Wagner Group in Libya is based on commercial interests and that the private security company was invited by the HoR;
- on 21 June, the Turkish parliament approved a presidential request to extend for another 18 months the mandate that allows the deployment of Turkish troops into Libya. The new mandate will start from the 2nd of July. The Turkish president cited the ongoing "political uncertainty" in Libya, "risks, and threats" that could threaten Turkey's interests in the Mediterranean and North Africa. Turkey has recently, also pushed into the international community for a Libyan inclusive solution.

Sign-off for release: Brig. Gen. STELLA, V.

Disclaimer: This report is based on security events and reports from multiple open sources, whose accuracy may not always be verified. Therefore, the information and conclusions expressed are subject to change without notice.