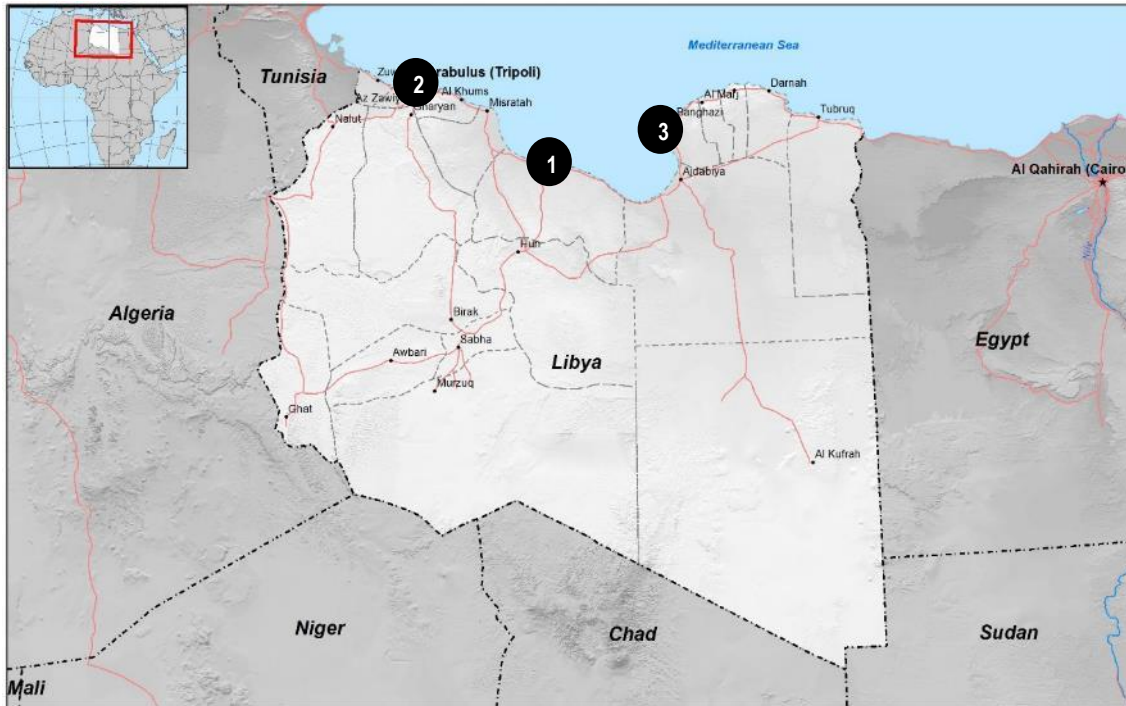


EU LIAISON AND PLANNING CELL LIBYA

Weekly Report 04-11AUG21

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1	08AUG	(Baseless information stated) LNA-affiliated forces harassed GNU Interior Ministry security forces along the coastal road
2	09-10AUG	Libyan military institutions celebrate the 81 st anniversary of the Libyan Army
3	09AUG	Haftar assigns new military positions within the LNA

SUMMARY: The reunification of the Libyan military institutions will take some time due to the increasing tensions between both rival institutions after 10 years of confrontation. Both rival camps remain reluctant to make concessions which facilitate reconciliation and a smooth transition on the security track. It is still to be confirmed the willingness of the main Libyan actors to put an end to the current stalemate and create conditions towards the, increasingly close, elections. The continuity of the militia clashes across the Western Coastal Region shows the unwillingness or inability of certain (political) authorities to enforce the law and get rid of these criminal groups. This region witnesses increasing tensions for territorial control with the higher risk of an armed escalation.

1 CURRENT SITUATION

1.1 Baseless information stated LNA-affiliated forces harassed GNU Interior Ministry security forces along the coastal road.

On 8 August, the Operation Volcano of Anger's media office informed that the LNA 604th battalion had positioned themselves at the Gate 30 checkpoint, west of Sirte, expelling GNU Interior Ministry-affiliated forces.

The GNU Interior Minister, Khaled Mazen, has denied this information and assured the patrols are fully operational.



Location of the allegedly incident at Gate 30, 30 km west of Sirte.

COMMENT: During the 11 August Security Sector Working Group, UNSMIL corroborated Mazen's statement.

On 11 August, Khaled Mazen informed the GNU that security along the coastal road between Misrata and Sirte was under the protection of the 5+5 Joint Military Commission (JMC) security arrangements.

ASSESSMENT: The dissemination of fake information will likely continue with the main goal of derailing or postponing the current reconciliation process, and highlighting the feeble progression of the implementation of the CFA.

1.2 Both military institutions have celebrated the 81st anniversary of the Libyan Army.

Both the Government of National Unity (GNU) and the Libyan National army (LNA) commemorated the foundation of the Libyan Army in the Egyptian city of Abu Rawash, on 9 August 1940.

During his speech, Khalifa Haftar reiterated that the Libyan army will not be subject to any authority that has not been elected by the Libyans. For his part, Abdulhamid Dabaiba stressed that the military institution cannot be affiliated with a particular person, and its main mission is to protect Libya and preserve its sovereignty.



The LNA military parade at Benina airbase on 9 August.



The western-affiliated forces parade at Mitiga airport on 10 August.

COMMENT: The exchange of reproaches between the LNA and the Government of National Unity (GNU) is a constant, particularly during this period towards the electoral process, in which each party is trying to consolidate their sphere of influence and protect their powerbase.

On the LNA side, on 9 August, BGen Mabrouk al Sawsaa, member of the eastern 5+5 Joint Military Commission (JMC), called the GNU to revoke all agreements with any foreign party in order to contribute to the current reconciliation process.

ASSESSMENT: Haftar's statement was highly likely a reference to the Presidential Council (PC)'s complaints with regard to Fawsi al Mansouri's appointment as the new Sebha Military Region commander and the temporariness status of the current political authorities.

Both camps are unlikely to change their respective rhetoric in regard to the foreseen electoral process.

1.3 Haftar assigns new positions within the LNA.

On the occasion of the 81st anniversary of the Libyan army, Khalifa Haftar has assigned and promoted some military officers, affecting a number of military positions within the LNA structure. Haftar has appointed Abdullah al Thinni, the former Prime Minister of the parallel government in Eastern Libya, as LNA political administration head.

These assignments follow the replacement of the Sebha Military Region commander on 3 August¹.

¹ For further details, see the EULPC Weekly Report 29JUL-04AUG issued on 05AUG21.



Emraja'a al Ammami



Nouredine Hamali

LtGen **Emraja'a al Ammami** has been appointed as **Chief of Staff of the Land Forces**, replacing MGen Abdullah Nouredine al Hamali.

Previously, Ammami was the director of the LNA military college.



Muftah Shagluf



Ramadan Attiyallah

MGen **Muftah Shagluf** has been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant General and posted as **Chief of Staff of the Border Guards**, replacing MGen Ramadan Attiyallah.

Ramadan Attiyallah has been assigned commander of the al **Bayda Military Region**.



Mohammed Manfour



Saqr al Jeroushi

MGen **Mohammed al Manfour** has been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant General and appointed **Chief of Staff of the Air Force**, replacing Saqr al Jeroushi.

Formerly, Manfour was the Dignity Operations Room commander.



Hashim Bourga'a



Salim al Rafidi

MGen **Hashim Bourga'a** (also spelled Abu Rugaa) will replace MGen Salim al Rafidi as the **Tobruk Military Region** new commander.

Rafidi took over the Tobruk Militar Region from Bourga'a, when the latter was re-assigned to the Benghazi Military Zone in April 2020. Now, Bourga'a retakes his duties in Tobruk.

Bourga'a was also the LNA Training Department director.



Ahmed Salim Dersi

MGen **Ahmed Salim al Dersi** has been appointed commander of the **Sirte Operations Room**. Nonetheless, there is consistent information indicating that Dersi took over this position some months ago.

COMMENT: The previous 3 August appointment provoked the reaction from the Presidential Council (PC), saying that the PC members are the only responsible for these kind of military nominations.

With these last appointments, Khalifa Haftar has challenged the Presidency Council's authority as the Supreme Commander of the Libyan armed Forces, sending a message about whom is retaining the authority over the military institution during this transitional period.

In early August, Haftar proposed even to promote the members of the western JMC delegation. This promotion was rejected by them.

ASSESSMENT: Khalifa Haftar will highly likely continue to show his determination to be recognised as the Libya's military commander and unique responsible of taking decisions pertaining to its organization.

2 OTHER SECURITY RELATED FACTS/EVENTS

- a. On 5 August, the Misrata military prosecutor issued a warrant arrest against Khalifa Haftar, Khairy al Tamimi, Haftar's cabinet director, and three other people, including one of his sons. Ahmed al Mismari, the LNA spokesperson, has stated that this "a maliciously provocative method" and it pursues to weaken the 5+5 Military Committee achievements.
- b. On 5 August, Prime Minister Abdulhamid Dabaiba has inspected the headquarters of the Tripoli Military Region, led by Abdulbasit Marwan. Dabaiba was accompanied by the Interior Minister, Khaled Mazen, and the GSLA Chief of Staff Mohammed al Haddad.



- c. On 7 August, the Arab Cooperative Society for the Transport of Fuels and Derivatives announced the suspension of the fuel distribution to Southern Libya due to the constant armed attacks.
- d. On 7 August, the Turkish Minister of Defence, Hulusi Akar, reiterated Turkish intentions of remaining in Libya, based on the agreements signed with the Government of National Accord (GNA). As sample, on 9 August, Turkey keeps on training western-affiliated Libyan military personnel in Turkey's military facilities.



- e. On 10 August, Khalifa Haftar and the president of the House of Representatives (HoR) met the US ambassador, Richard Norland in Cairo, to discuss the next electoral period, as a

recognition of his unneglectable role in the Libyan unification process, notwithstanding the GNU different lineage.

- f. Despite Dabaiba's involvement to mitigate the clashes across the western coastal region, on 10 August, clashes started again between Mohammed Salem Bahroun's Al Far militia and the Stability and Support Apparatus (SSA) around Zawiya. An SSA attack on a militiaman close to Al Far, allegedly triggered the confrontation. Unconfirmed information about additional forces coming beyond this region in support for these groups increases the risk of an armed escalation.
- g. On 11 August, a LNA General Command delegation, headed by Abdelrrazaq al Nazouri, the Chief of the LNA Staff, and along with Saddam Haftar has arrived in Ubari. Saddam Haftar is increasingly engaged in these kind of meetings with LNA-affiliated actors, especially in the south.



- h. On 11 August, the LNA spokesperson, Ahmed al Mismari, informed that the LNA 128th Brigade clashed with Daesh elements in the vicinity of al Wigh, and mentioned the arrest of a Sudanese Daesh member.

3 CONCLUSIONS

LNA and western-GNU security forces continue to operate independently with the aim to consolidate their role within the conditions offered by the Cease Fire Agreement (CFA) and with the apparent commitment to support in the short-term the celebration of the 24 December elections.

A part the positive confidence building measure related to the opening of the coastal road and always possible reconciliation measures, further signs of progress are needed as foreseen in the CFA, while current armed militias' competition and tensions continue along the Western Coastal Region.

However, the consolidating progress on the implementation of the CFA remain in the capability of the international / regional actors to more directly influence the Libyan process, keeping into consideration the latent instability in the region and the fact that the timing for their solution is not compatible with the short-term 24 December commitment.

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