

**MINISTRY OF DEFENSE**

**THE GENERAL STAFF OF THE LIBYAN ARMY**

**Libyan-Italian 1st meeting of the Military Cooperation Committee 2023**

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**Tripoli, 7 – 8 June 2023**

**1st Meeting of the Libyan-Italian Joint Cooperation Committee of 2023**

**Minutes of the Meeting**

The Libyan – Italian Joint Cooperation Committee convened in Tripoli on June, 7-8, 2023, for its first meeting of 2023, co-chaired, for the Libyan side, by Major General Abdulbaset JAREID, Chief of Libyan Delegation, and for the Italian side, by Brigadier General Alessandro GRASSANO, Deputy Chief of Military Policy Division of the Italian Defense General Staff.

The list of the Libyan and Italian delegations are attached as per **Annex 1** and **Annex 2**.

In his opening remarks, the Libyan co-chair, MG JAREID, welcomed the Italian delegation in Tripoli expressing the best wished for the recently occurred Italian National Day. Moreover, MG JAREID pronounced words of sincere appreciation for the support provided by the Italian Defense to the Libyan Defense in terms of cooperation and education opportunities. In particular, he thanked the support activities of the Italian Military Engineers, he expressed his appreciation for the technical assistance provided by the Italian Air Force technicians to Libyan Air Force in the field of maintenance of Libyan FS-260, the excellent support of the Italian Navy to the Libyan Officers on board of Italian Ships and the recent start of the Special Forces activities in Italy. He wished, as a result of these Joint Military Committee, a common and shared Cooperation Plan.

In his opening remarks, the Italian co-chair, BG GRASSANO, deeply thanked the Libyan Defense for the outstanding hospitality, underlining the effort provided by both sides to conduct the event in difficult international times. Considering the multiple meetings attended with most of the Libyan representatives and the subsequent built-up friendship, BG GRASSANO expressed frankly his views by highlighting the necessity to exploit any possible opportunity to grant the complete development of the Cooperation and Education Plan. Furthermore, he underlined, after the recent meetings between Italian and Libyan CHODs, the importance to open the cooperation to all Libyan Armed Forces, he highlighted the high value of the JCC as a tool of cooperation. Furthermore, the BG GRASSANO confirmed the wish of both CHODs to hold the Supreme Commission Meeting by the end of 2023.

After the Chief of Delegations opening remarks, Gen. SHANOUK the Director of the Training Department took the floor with a warm welcome to the Italian Delegation. Travelling to Italy with the Libyan Chief of Defense, he observed and appreciated the effort expressed and the high level of the Education Plan activities realized during the first four months of the 2023. He underlined that it is important to open the bilateral cooperation to the entire Libyan Armed Forces (including East and South sides).

The Joint Cooperation Committee unfolded in:

1. a plenary session, to discuss general issues and to give the co-chairs the opportunity to provide directions and guidance;
2. five technical tables, to address and discuss specific issues, notably: Chief of Delegations (included Head of Military Coordination Office), Military Health and Legal, Land (Army, Engineer and Special Forces), Maritime (Navy), Air (Air Force and Air Defense), Carabinieri and Border Guard (including Military Intelligence).

The works of the Joint Cooperation Committee followed the ensuing agenda:

1. Integration of Cooperation Plan 2023 with the activities of the ITA Navy Task Unit;
2. Drafting of the Cooperation Plan 2024 and the Education Plan 2024-2025;
3. Integration of the Education Plans 2022-2023 and 2023-2024;
4. Chiefs of Delegations discussion;
5. Discussion within the technical tables;
6. Education;
7. Miscellaneous.
8. **Integration of Plan of Cooperation 2023 with the activities of the ITA Navy Task Unit**

As decided during the Joint Cooperation Committee in December 2022, the Cooperation Plan 2023 (**Annex 3**) has been integrated with the activities of the ITA Navy Task Unit in Abu Sitta.

1. **Drafting of the Cooperation Plan 2024 and the Education Plan 2024-2025;**

The Cooperation Plan for the 2024 has been drafted, as per **Annex 4**. At the moment it consists in 100 activities, of which 32 in Italy and 68 in Libya. Further adjustments will be defined in the next months through direct contacts between the Representatives of each Delegation and the Military Coordination Office. The Education Plan 2024-25 has been drafted and will represent the starting point in the next JCC (**Annex 5**).

1. **Integration of the Education Plans 2022-2023 and 2023-2024.**

Both plans have been updated with the latest requests and evaluations as per para 6 (**Annexes 6 and 7**).

1. **Chiefs of Delegations discussion**

The co-chairs addressed this matter directly. They identified the most relevant issues as:

1. Military Police Chief, MG SHABOUNA, requested to establish a specific cooperation with Carabinieri. BG GRASSANO agreed with the LYB proposal, adding that the cooperation will be implemented through MIASIT.
2. ITA and LYB CHODs agreed upon enhancing the cooperation with personnel of Libyan Army. BG GRASSANO recalled the abovementioned discussion and promoted the development of the plan. MG JAREID indicated that the implementation of this project will need an increase of activities;
3. BG GRASSANO remarked the importance to organize the High Joint Commission between the 2 Ministers of Defense;
4. BG GRASSANO and COMMIASIT proposed upon anticipating the next JCC around the end of October (date to be determined).
5. ITA Military Attaché expressed his appreciation on faster procedure implemented by Libyan Authorities to release LYB border visas and remarked the necessity to carry on in this way.
6. **Discussion within the technical tables**
7. Special Forces

The signature of the agreement concerning the cooperation in the Special Forces field and the concurrent departure to Italy of the first group of trainees from Libyan Special Forces SAIQA represents the first step in a long-standing partnership in this sector of cooperation.

Regarding 2023, in the short-term the second group of 30 soldiers is about to begin the assessment and selection phase. This phase will be conducted by Italian Special Forces advisors in close coordination with SAIQA staff, in order to identify those that will begin the training in Italy in 2024 (as per the attached timeline **Annex 8**).

Furthermore, a more advanced phase of specialist training is planned for 2024 in Libya to trainees that already finished the training phase in Italy during 2023, according to the topics agreed by both parties.

Moreover, regarding the third group, the Italian Special Forces could be ready to anticipate the training planned in Libya but apposite requirements/conditions must be set (including legal aspects).

The request of support in terms of infrastructure and equipment needs additional evaluation.

Further training requests by Libyan delegation, as follow, will be considered and in case included in the Cooperation and Education Plan 2024 during the 2^ JCC in Rome:

- Company commanders' course for three Officers each;

- free-fall parachuting course for limited groups of SAIQA personnel;

- training in counterterrorism activities in the maritime domain (Visit Board Search Seize - VBSS) and Hostage Release Operations (HRO) on aircraft.

1. Military Health

The Cooperation Plan and Education Plan 2023 activities have been confirmed. In particular:

* The expert meeting in the field of military health (IT/JOINT/05) will be focused to define the activities for the Cooperation and the Education Plan 2024 pending the Libyan requests;
* A Tactical Combat Casualty Care training (IT/JOINT/06), planned in May 2023, has been postponed in the 2nd semester;
* The experience sharing on specialist area (IT/JOINT/07-08) should be oriented in Emergency and Orthopedic area and will be conducted in October;
* Military First Aid Course (SME 72) has been conducted while Immediate Rescue and First Aid in Hostile Environment (SME 73) has been postponed in 2nd semester.

On the sidelines of the meeting:

* the training for the Libyan cardiologic surgery personnel (CATLAB)[[1]](#footnote-1), eased by the Italian Defense, has been postponed on Libyan request;
* the Libyan request to treat critical cases at the Italian military hospital (Celio), could be considered and granted on a case-by-case basis.
1. Intelligence

The Libyan side stressed on the importance to have Cyber Security Course and Information Security Course because it helps to protect organization from cyber-attacks; the Italian side agreed about the opportunity to deliver the aforementioned *ad hoc* courses at basic level, with the perspective to increase gradually.

As far as the Visits in Italy are concerned, the Libyan side requested to receive in advance the related program in order to ease the administrative procedure and get the final authorization for travel more easily.

The Italian side accepted the Libyan request to postpone the *Open Source Analysis* (LY/CC/06) course to October 2023 and repeat it in 2024 too; the LY/CC/08 scheduled in 2023 will be postponed to 2024.

1. Border Guard

In order to improve the capabilities of the newly created Border Guard Training Centre, the Libyan side proposed the idea to strengthen the relationship with COESPU. This will help to improve its capabilities and create a basis for future and more structured cooperation activities.

The Libyan side proposed to expand the training program of 2024 in order to create a capacity building path aimed at training the operational assets (at Regimental level) deployed Zone close to Libyan border. The activity requires further evaluation from Italian side.

1. Land Table

The Libyan side stressed the importance to have leadership, tactics and procedures courses for the Commanders at all levels (from Company to Battalion). For this reason, it has been requested to the Italian counterpart to reiterate the “Infantry Battalion Commander Embedded in Unit Command Post, Planning and Conducting Tactical Activities” in 2024. The course should be, at least, one-month long. The Libyan Army represented the need of Information Technology courses/training. The request will be evaluated by the Italian part in order to confirm its feasibility in the next Joint Cooperation Committee.

The Engineer Department Representative requested to organize a Combat Eng. Train the Trainers Course next year in Italy, as they previously did in 2022. This request will be confirmed by the Italian part in the next Joint Cooperation Committee. The Engineer Department Representative encouraged the Italian Engineer Command to visit the Libyan Engineer School and Engineer Directorate (**LY/ARMY/06** of year **2023**) in order to present the functions and the further development of their infrastructure.

On the sideline of the meeting, the Engineer Directorate representative remarked the lack of demining and EOD equipment for Combat engineer operators, with particular regard to the Munition Disposal Removal.

Furthermore, the Libyan Army representative has requested to evaluate the divestment of fire control systems for artillery.

The Libyan Air Defense Representative remarked that the invitation letter and the verbal notes for the activities **ITA/ARMY/04** and **ITA/ARMY/05,** of year **2023,** have to be addressed to the Libyan Air Defense Command (through the Libyan Defense Attaché) instead of to the Libyan Army.

1. Maritime Table

Both parties agreed to carry out all the remaining activities of the Cooperation Plan 2023 by the end of the year. Moreover, both parties agreed on the need of the Libyan side to receive the invitation with a minimum of 3 months in advance, due to internal procedures. Moreover, both parties decided to strengthen the cooperation in the field of integrated logistics and technical support in accordance with LY/NAVY/17.

1. Air Force and Air Defense Table

Both parties established to continue with coordination of the activities related to the development of the Cooperation Plan 2024 that will be further analyzed during the next meeting of the Committee. The above-mentioned Cooperation Plan could be integrated with more activities during next Joint Cooperation Committee meeting, in accordance with the results of the Plan for 2023.

Furthermore, the Parties decided to proceed with the analysis of the Italian Air Force training programs for pilots and technicians in the view of the possible development of a dedicated Technical Arrangement.

The Libyan Air Force requested assistance from the Italian General Defense Staff in order to receive the support from Leonardo Company with regards to the maintenance of Libyan AW109 helicopter.

1. Legal

The Italian and Libyan Legal representatives discussed various issues and namely:

* Technical Arrangement between the Ministry of Defense of the Italian Republic and the Ministry of Defense of the Libyan Government of National Unity on the training of the Libyan “Special Operations Forces” personnel in the framework of special forces cooperation activities:

upon request of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Italian and the Libyan Legad agreed to exchange two notes, which will be signed by the two Heads of the JCC, under delegation of the respective Italian and Libyan Ministries of Defense, by which it is declared that the aforementioned Technical Arrangement is not intended to constitute a treaty as defined by the 1969 Vienna Convention on the law of the Treaties, nor create rights and obligations under international law.

* Benefits and Jurisdiction of the Italian military personnel in Libya and of the Libyan military personnel in Italy:

in response to the Italian proposal for exchange of verbal notes, submitted in 2020 by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Libyan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Libyan Legad represented that Libyan Ministry of Defense is to prepare a counter-proposal with which the following benefits are proposed upon condition of reciprocity:

* the Italian and Libyan military personnel, when on duty respectively in Libya and Italy, can receive medical-surgical treatments at national health facilities of the host Country, recognized for this purpose;
* the Authorities of the Italian Republic and of the Authorities Libyan Government of National Unity have the right to exercise their jurisdiction over their personnel employed in the Italian and Libyan territories only for the offenses resulting from any act or omission - committed intentionally or negligently - in the performance or in connection with the service. For all other crimes, however, the jurisdiction remains with the host country. In this regard, the Italian Legad agrees with the Libyan proposal about the offences committed in the performance or in connection with the services, but he also proposes that, for all crimes committed for reasons other than service, Italian and Libyan personnel shall be judged by the Authorities of the host countries, but that the final sentence shell be carried out in the offender's Country of origin, with the assurance that the death penalty will never be carried out. The Libyan Legad has reserved to evaluate the request of the Italian Legad in view of the fact that it involves the competences of the Libyan Ministry of Justice.
* Finally the Italian Legad requested that in the proposal of exchange of verbal notes has to be provided that Italian personnel of the Italian bilateral mission in Libya shell be granted the possibility, for the entire duration of the mission, to bring their own means and equipment (including weapons and ammunitions) for self-defense, for search, detection and destruction of explosive devices and the possibility to use civil and military vehicles.

The Libyan side asked for the availability of some courses with the aim of increasing the knowledge and skills of the Libyan Armed Forces in the fields of protection of the civil human rights and the International Humanitarian Law during the conflicts (including ISSMI). All the requests will be included in the Education Plan after further evaluations.

1. **Education**
2. **A.Y. 2022-23:**
* Air Force Cadet Officer Abdulaum Mohamed Khalid Mustapha OSMAN (Air Force): both sides agreed that abovementioned cadet will repeat the 1st Year at the Air Force Academy (SMA 16) in Pozzuoli.
* SMA 59C: Italian Delegation will explore the possibility to grant 8 additional positions to a SMA 59C dedicated to the officers who attended SMA 59 and SMA 59B in the A.Y. 2022-2023.
1. **A.Y. 2023-24:**
* *Ad hoc* course on leadership Technical-Tactical Procedures (TTPs) for infantry Coy Commanders, Plt and Sqd leaders: the Italian side will explore the possibility to add 3 more positions dedicated to the 3 Bn Commander who will act as tutors for the Coy/Platoon Commanders within the course.
1. **A.Y. 2024-25 (the whole plan feasibly will be advised during the next CMC in December 204):**
* SME 27: the Italian side will explore the possibility to grant a MFF course (former SME 27 course) dedicated to 2 Al-Saiqa operators;
* Operational Planning Course: the Italian side will explore the possibility to organize an operational planning course in Italy in favor of Libyan Operational Command.

**Signed in Tripoli on June, 8th, 2023**

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| **The Libyan Co-Chair**(Chief of the Delegation)*-----------------------------------------------------------* **Major General****Abdulbaset JAREID** |  | **The Italian Co-Chair**(Deputy Chief of Military Policy Division of the Italian Defense General Staff) *---------------------------------------------------------* **Brigadier General** **Alessandro GRASSANO** |

**ANNEX 1**

**LIBYAN DELEGATION**

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| **LIBYAN DELEGATION**  |
|  | **NAME** | **POSITION** |
| 1 | Major General Abdulbast Abdusalam JAREID | Chief of the Libyan Delegation |
| 2 | Major General Nuri SHANOUK | Director of Training Department |
| 3 | Major General Mohammed SHABOUN | Chief of Military Police |
| 4 | General Abdulmenam Abdulbaset ESSABRI | Army Representative |
| 5 | General Fouad HANISH | Director of the International Cooperation Department |
| 6 | General Alhadi Mohamed DAKHEEL | Border Guard Representative |
| 7 | Commodore Abdurhman Mohamed ELBAROUNI | Navy Representative |
| 8 | General Alhashmi Albahloul BELHAJ | Military Coordination Office – Air Defense Representative |
| 9 | General Mustafa Bashir BEN RASHED | Training Department Representative |
| 10 | General Abuirazag IDRISS | Military Engineering Department Representative |
| 11 | General Eng. Abdulbaset ZENDAH | International Cooperation Department Representative |
| 12 | General Amr Emhamed MUSSA | Ministry of Defense Representative |
| 13 | General DR Hussin ALLEBAD | Military Intelligence Representative |
| 14 | Colonel Abdulhammed ALSAEDAWI | Special Forces Representative |
| 15 | Colonel Pilot Mohsen Mahfoud KHALIL | Air Force Representative |
| 16 | Lieutenant Colonel Aimen SALMAN | Military Health Department Representative |
| 17 | Mr. Fathi DARHOBI | Legal Advisor |

**ANNEX 2**

**ITALIAN DELEGATION**

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| **ITALIAN DELEGATION**  |
|  | **NAME** | **POSITION** |
| 1 | Brigadier General Alessandro GRASSANO | Deputy Chief of Military Policy Division of Italian Defense General StaffChief of Italian Delegation |
| 2 | Brigadier General Michele FRATERRIGO | COM MIASIT |
| 3 | Captain (Navy) Francesco MARINO | Military Attaché in Tripoli |
| 4 | Commander Mauro MIRETTI | Branch for the Balkans - Mediterranean Area of the International Relations Office |
| 5 | Commander Andrea BARBERA | Joint Operation Head Quarter |
| 6 | Lieutenant Colonel Antonella MERLO | Branch for the Balkans - Mediterranean Area of the International Relations Office |
| 7 | Lieutenant Colonel Alessandro PASSASEO | MIASIT J7 |
| 8 | Major Alfredo CARBONI | Branch for Technical Military Cooperation of the International Relations Office |
| 9 | Lieutenant Colonel Felice COCCO | Legal Advisor |
| 10 | Lieutenant Colonel Piergiorgio GALLI | Special OPS Representative |
| 11 | Captain Stefano CROCCOLO | MIASIT Special OPS Representative |
| 12 | Major Simone REDAELLI | Army Representative |
| 13 | Lieutenant Colonel Salvatore COPPOLA  | MIASIT CURRENT OPS |
| 14 | Lieutenant Colonel Riccardo PONZONE | MIASIT Carabinieri Representative |
| 15 | Lieutenant Colonel Christian BERBEGLIA | Air Force Representative |
| 16 | Commander Domenico BELLINA | MIASIT Navy Representative |
| 17 | Commander Vincenzo MORETTI | IT Navy Task Unit Commander  |
| 18 | Major Marcello BIAVA | MIASIT Commander Military Assistant |
| 19  | Dr. Ahmed BATRUNA | Italian Defence Attachè Interpreter |
| 20 | Dr. Aimen BATRUNA | MIASIT Commander’s Interpreter |

1. [Catheterization laboratory.](https://www.bing.com/ck/a?!&&p=86068f588a7902244d77d69527d0850e514b68f8410f5f290c184bff77328cebJmltdHM9MTY1NDQyMjYyOCZpZ3VpZD02M2FkYTMxZi0yZmYyLTQyYjYtOGNkNS1jOGI1ODYyNmU4ZDMmaW5zaWQ9NTIyMw&ptn=3&fclid=ede3949e-e4b4-11ec-8038-547d37a2297d&u=a1aHR0cHM6Ly9lbi53aWtpcGVkaWEub3JnL3dpa2kvQ2F0aGV0ZXJpemF0aW9uX2xhYm9yYXRvcnk&ntb=1)  [↑](#footnote-ref-1)