Significant Events

**Governance**
US will not seek death penalty against Benghazi suspect Ahmed Abu Khattala

Ahmed Abu Khattala
GNA may boost urgent repair funds to €60 million
The US placed the speaker of Libya’s HoR, Aguila Saleh, on its blacklist

**Trade and Development**
Forces loyal to General Haftar take control of 14 x oil fields

**Security — General**
Nepali peacekeepers to replace Italians in Libya

**Islamic State (IS)**
IS Executes over a dozen Ethiopian Christians in Libya
IS horror in Sirte, dozens killed and beheaded

**Trade and Development**
Libya’s oil production drops to 212,000bpd
General Haftar secures occupancy of 14 x oil fields from IS

**Flashpoint & Outlook Summaries**

3 x military operation rooms each loyal to the 3 x political groups competing for national authority have been created, in order to coordinate assaults against IS in Sirte and subsequently Misrata. The only legitimate group is that which is loyal to the GNA, but the potential for inter-tribal clashes is clear.
The risk of political violence is elevated over the short term as a result of the transition of governance to the GNA. The issues of integrating General Khalifa Haftar and the Libyan National Army (LNA) into the new government are likely to polarize militias regardless of the outcome. Ongoing fighting with IS threatens to further destabilize the political situation, as eastern and western military/political rivalries materialize in coordination issues and competition on the battlefield.
The international community are overwhelmingly in favor of relaxing UN sanctions against Libya in order to provide the GNA and ‘vetted militias’ with arms to effectively combat IS. 222 x soldiers from the Nepalese Army are preparing to deploy to Libya as part of a UN military mission, with other nations in the later stages of negotiations with GNA regarding the deployment of support and mentoring forces.

**Key dates**
-May 01 — Labor Day
-June 06 – July 05 — Ramadan
-July 07 – 09 — Eid al-Fitr
International sanctions to be relaxed in order to supply arms to Libya’s GNA

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*Reviewed and re-graded accordingly as of May 21, 2016*
Summary
General Khalifa Haftar confirmed that he has no plan to recognise the GNA and will not 'waste his time' interacting with representatives of the UN. Haftar refuses to meet with UNSMIL Chief Martin Kobler to discuss political resolution, and is conducting regional security operations independent of central government. Italian Foreign Minister Paolo Gentiloni has proven to be somewhat supportive of Haftar's position, stating that his inclusion within Libya's unified government is essential to forward progression. The Deputy Presidents of the HoR, Emhemed Shouaib and Ehmeed Homa, led a delegation to Tripoli for a meeting with Faiez Serraj and the GNA, in an attempt to establish forward momentum regarding the HoR's ratification of the GNA. Although reported as being relatively extensive, details with regards to any agreement reached at the meeting were not forthcoming.

Italian foreign minister Paolo Gentiloni and US secretary of state John Kerry hosted a Libyan summit in Vienna to discuss the easing of sanctions in order to supply the GNA and Libyan security forces with arms. The international community united in the call for UN sanctions on Libya to be eased so that the GNA could effectively counter IS militants. Russia however, has tempered expectations by suggesting that that the supply of weapons to Libyan 'vetted forces' is not guaranteed.

Significant Activity
US will not seek death penalty against Benghazi suspect Ahmed Abu Khattala
The justice department will not seek the death penalty against Ahmed Abu Khattala, the suspected Libyan militant charged in the Benghazi attacks that killed a US ambassador and three other Americans, federal officials announced during the period. The US Justice Department released a statement in which they said the department remained “committed to ensuring that the defendant is held accountable” for the 2012 attacks. Khattala's attorneys had been imploring the justice department to remove the death penalty as a possibility should he ultimately be convicted of any capital crimes in a trial. With the death penalty now off the table, he would face a maximum sentence of life in prison if convicted.

GNA may boost urgent repair funds to €60 million
The Government of National Accord (GNA) has said it may match the €30 million pledged by the international community for the urgent repair of critical infrastructure and the restoration of basic services. The GNA's Stabilisation Facility for Libya, set up by prime minister-designate Faiez Serraj, is out to score some early public wins to demonstrate it competence. The Facility's first meeting, held in Tunis, agreed to focus on three locations, one each in the south, east and west of the country.

Washington puts Libyan Speaker on sanctions blacklist
The US placed the speaker of Libya's HoR, Aguila Saleh, on its sanctions blacklist during the period, saying he has blocked attempts to strengthen the new UN-backed unity government. "Today's action emphasizes the US government’s commitment to the Libyan Political Agreement, which created the GNA on Dec. 17, 2015, and demonstrates that the US government will not tolerate actions by individuals who undermine the political transition in Libya," the US Treasury said. The move comes after the European Union designated Saleh for sanctions on April 01. The US action means that any of the politician’s property and interests in the United States are blocked, and prohibits Americans from doing business with him.
Summary
Senior EU Representative, Federica Mogherini, announced that at the request of the GNA, the EUNAVFOR mission has been extended for a year and the mission’s mandate widened to include the training of the Libyan Navy and Coast Guard. In order to become more self-efficient and less beholden to Tripoli’s supportive militias, Faiez Serraj and the Presidency Council (PC) have also established a Presidential Guard to ensure its safety, and to act as an elite military force to protect sovereign institutions such as the Central Bank of Libya. The new Presidency Guard will be drawn from members of the LNA, the police and various militias and will also have a remit to secure public institutions such as airports, ports and electricity lines.

Significant Events
Nepali peacekeepers to replace Italians in Libya
19May - After the Italian government declined to send troops to war-torn Libya to support operations against IS activities, the Nepali Army (NA) is preparing to deploy its personnel there as per the request of the UN. “A guard unit comprising of 222 x NA personal will be sent to Libya as a first batch within a few months if things go as per plan,” said NA spokesperson, Brigadier General Tara Bahadur Karki. Preparations to send the troops to Libya are already ongoing, and we are awaiting final instructions from the UN, which are likely to arrive soon, he said.
Summary
Three different military operation rooms have been created during the period by rival Libyan political groups (2 of which are in Tripoli) in order to coordinate COIN operations against IS in Sirte, and prevent militants expanding further west and seizing any more towns in the area. The only legitimate and legally recognized operation room was created by the Presidency Council/GNA, and has the specific directive of only taking orders from the Commander in Chief of the LNA, which is the Presidency Council (PC) according to the Skhirat agreement. It also banned any force from launching an attack on Sirte without prior permission from the PC.

On the same day, the Salvation Government formed a 10-member military operation room under the name of Sirte Liberation Operation Room, and is located in Abugrein. Not to be outdone, in the eastern region General Haftar also created a military room to coordinate Sirte’s liberation. Backed with Sudanese and Chadian rebel groups, Haftar’s militias are positioned in Maradah, south of Ras Lanuf and have recently taken control of multiple oil fields previously occupied/threatened by IS.

In a worrying sign of increased cooperation between regional militants, Nigeria’s Boko Haram jihadists are reported to be sending fighters to join IS in Libya. Nigeria has asked the US to sell it aircraft to fight Boko Haram, which has been waging a seven-year insurgency in the north and pledged loyalty to IS in 2015. Concerns were also raised that IS militants may have gained access to a large amount of Sarin gas after gaining control of an LNA arms cache.

Significant Events

IS Executes over a dozen Ethiopian Christians in Libya
Murder – 12May: The IS Takfiri terrorist group released a video purportedly showing the execution of at least 16 Ethiopian Christians in Libya. The 29-minute video comprised scenes from two different locations, one shot under some trees and the other one along a nearby seashore

IS launches another attack on eastern Misrata checkpoint
VBIED - 12May, Misrata, Sadada Gate: A VBIED detonated against Misrata’s eastern Sadada gate, 90km south of Misrata. Follow on armed clashes ensued; 1 x KIA and 8 x WIA

6 x Libyan police officers kidnapped by IS in Misrata
Abduction - 13May, Misrata: IS abducted 6 x police officers in Misrata and executed retired army officer, Saad Mohammed Abdullah Al-Warfali, who was from the same city.

IS horror in Sirte, dozens killed and beheaded
18May - IS extremists have publicly executed at least 49 people since February 2015, some by beheading, in their Libyan fortress in Sirte, according to Human Rights Watch (HRW). Victims included political opposition leaders and people accused of "spying" and "insulting God". Witnesses spoke of "scenes of horror". The report, titled "We Feel Like Victims of a Curse: Life under ISIS in Sirte, Libya", highlighted that the executions took place at the end of secret trials that denied victims "the most basic standards of equality".
Summary
Despite the arrest of an IS terrorist cell in Tripoli by security forces (the cell was led by Tunisian nationals) activity within Tripolitania remains primarily confined to the outer extremities of the city, with armed groups converging IVO Sirte and Misrata in preparation for large scale COIN operations against IS fighters. Hijackings, SAF and violent crime remain the primary threat to commercial operations within Tripoli, although reports that IS are relocating to Sabrathah, to the west of the Capital, may see stability on MSRs running toward the Tunisian border deteriorate.

General Paolo Serra, the Italian General who is UNSMIL Special Envoy Martin Kobler’s military adviser, was denied access to Zintan town after landing at the airstrip during the period. A relatively small, but determined group of protestors threatened violence if Serra attempted to leave the airport, and drew references between Serra and Italian fascist military commanders who occupied Libya during the 2nd World War. Serra has been coordinating UNSMIL and Presidency Council efforts to ensure security in Tripoli so that the Presidency can operate in peace and Zintan’s support is critical. However, Zintan feels excluded from the Libyan Political Agreement (LPA) and now firmly supports the eastern alliance of General Haftar and the LNA.

Militias affiliated with General Haftar seized control of 14 x oil fields in the Marada and Zilla basins during the reporting period. Emails between Haftar’s fighters were leaked to the general public, and suggested that Haftar did not intend to advance westward in order to directly assault Sirte, but planned to occupy drilling stations and Al-Jufra military base in order to consolidate before mounting an assault on Misrata. Attacks in Misrata have escalated over recent weeks with up to 32 x members of the Misratan-led ‘Al-Bunyan - Al-Marous’ group, created by the PC to combat IS in the area, killed in a series of armed clashes. In excess of 50 x fighters loyal to Libya’s central government were also reported as being wounded.

Armed clashes to the south of Misrata and the east of Tripoli are increasing as IS fighters exfiltrate from Misrata and Sirte ahead of the much publicised GNA COIN operations. With the creation of 3 x rival military operation rooms aimed at organising COIN operations to ‘free Sirte’ and to a lesser extent Misrata, all loyal to 3 x political groups all competing for national leadership, the potential for regional clashes that may escalate into a wider regional conflict is clear.

Significant Activity
Suicide VBIED – 12May, Al-Saddadah District: Misratan artillery forces struck a suspected IS suicide vehicle bomber before the device could detonate at the Al-Saddadah CP

16May - University teacher and policeman murdered in Tripoli
SAF – 16May, Tripoli: A university lecturer and a policeman were murdered in two separate attacks in Tripoli. Dr. Omar Al-Rabthi, who taught at Tripoli University’s media and arts faculty, was found dead this evening at his home near the Airport Road. Police have given no details of the killing though sources at the university claimed that he had been tortured. The second killing related to police Sergeant Gomaa Abdel Hafiz Sabir, who was gunned down in a drive-by shooting outside Hay Andalous police station.
South-Western Region (Fezzan)

Summary
The south-west of the country saw limited reporting during the period, with activity remaining primarily focused around tribal conflict between the 2 dominant ethnic powers in the region, the Tuareg and the Tebu. With large expanses of desert land adjoining volatile regional borders with countries such as Sudan, Chad and Niger, Fezzan is a transit point for a wide range of smugglers to include people traffickers and arms.

Reports emerged that fighters from Nigeria's Boko Haram (BH) are relocating to Libya to support Libyan IS in the resistance of COIN operations. Although the level of cooperation between the 2 groups is not fully known, movement through Fezzan in order to reach northern strongholds on the Mediterranean coast may result in regional destabilization over the coming months. BH declared loyalty to IS in December 2015.

Eastern Region (Cyrenaica)

Summary
Despite Derna Revolutionary Shura Council (DRSC) fighters having announced on April 20 the liberation of the city from IS, forces loyal to General Haftar continue to assault fighters in Derna as part of an ongoing operation code-named ‘Al-Burkan’ (the volcano). However, a spokesman stated that Haftar’s forces have no plan to enter the area, only to isolate it and control access in something akin to a siege.

On May 15, the DRSC declared a state of emergency and full mobilization to prevent Haftar's militia from advancing towards the city. DRSC also warned neighbouring towns that harbour Haftar militias of repercussions over their anti-Derna actions in a sign of looming civil war. Haftar's move against Derna is seen to be an exploitation of the 8 month-long military operations between DRSC and IS militants in Al-Fatayah, which ended up with IS defeat. DRSC fighters are reported to be exhausted and their ammunition low following months of confrontations with IS fighters.
Summary
Libya's crude oil output fell to a trickle during the reporting period after a standoff over export rights prevented trading giant Glencore from loading a tanker in the east of the country. Libya's production dropped to 212,000 barrels after the largest National Oil Corp (NOC) subsidiary, AGOCO, was forced to slash output by one-third from south-eastern fields. The NOC warned that storage tanks at the eastern port of Hariga would fill up in less than three weeks if no oil is exported and that output would fall further. The dispute over exports involves the internationally backed NOC in Tripoli and a parallel version of the NOC created by the HoR in the east of the country. The eastern NOC made an unsuccessful bid to export oil last month and has since prevented a tanker from loading at Marsa el-Hariga port for the Tripoli NOC.

At a subsequent Libya summit held in Vienna, the country's opposing factions agreed in principle to have one oil organisation centrally based out of Tripoli. Following on from agreements made at the summit, on May 19 the tanker that had been blocked for three weeks at the port of Marsa al-Hariga was allowed to enter and began loading. The 'Seachance' loaded 600,000 barrels which are destined for shipment to Britain.

Significant Activity
On May 20, forces loyal to General Haftar are reported to have ousted IS militants in the south-central region of Libya and secured occupancy of 14 x oil fields, including:

- Alrqhobah field, operated by Sirte
- Altahadi field, operated by Sirte
- Zelten oil field, operated by Sirte
- Albaytha field, operated by Gulf
- Alsamah field, operated by Alwaha
- Tibesti field, operated by Harouj
- Alwaha Field, operated by Alwaha
- Al Ghani field, operated by Harouj
- Zallah field, operated by Azwaitnah
- Alsabah field, operated by Azwaitnah
- Dahra field, operated by Alwaha
- Alnaga field, operated by Harouj
- Bahi Field, operated by Oasis
- Mabrouk Field, operated by Total
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