



NATO and Libya



Operational Media Update for 15 MAY

16 May. JFC Naples, SHAPE, NATO HQ

Mission

NATO took control of all military operations for Libya under United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1970 & 1973 on 31 March 2011. The aim of Operation UNIFIED PROTECTOR is to protect civilians and civilian-populated areas under attack or threat of attack.

The mission consists of three elements: an arms embargo, a no-fly-zone and actions to protect civilians from attack or the threat of attack.

Over the past 24 hours, NATO has conducted the following activities associated with Operation UNIFIED PROTECTOR:

Air Operations

Since the beginning of the NATO operation (31 March 2011, 08.00GMT) a total of **6808** sorties, including **2656** strike sorties* have been conducted.

Sorties conducted 15 May: **147**

Strike sorties conducted 15 May: **48**

**Strike sorties are intended to identify and engage appropriate targets, but do not necessarily deploy munitions each time.*

Key Targets Hit

15 May: In the vicinity of **Az Zawiyah**: **1** Command and Control Node. In the vicinity of **Tripoli**: **4** Surface to Air Missile Launchers. In the vicinity of **Misratah**: **1** Self Propelled Artillery Piece. In the vicinity of **Hun**: **2** Ammunition Storage Facilities. In the vicinity of **Sirte**: **2** Surface to Surface Missile Launchers , **1** Self Propelled Artillery Piece, **1** Armoured Personnel Carrier.

Arms Embargo Activities

A total of **21** ships under NATO command are actively patrolling the Central Mediterranean.

8 Vessels were hailed on 15 May to determine destination and cargo. **1** boarding (**no** diversions) was conducted.

A total of **936** vessels have been hailed, **40** boardings and **5** diversions have been conducted since the beginning of arms embargo operations.

International Humanitarian Assistance Movements as recorded by NATO

Total of Humanitarian Movements***: **212** (air, ground, maritime)

Ships delivering Humanitarian Assistance 15 May: **4**

Aircraft delivering Humanitarian Assistance 15 May: **6**

****Some humanitarian movements cover several days.*

Command and Control

NATO's operational commander for Operation Unified Protector is **Lieutenant-General Charles Bouchard** of the Canadian Air Force. His office and staff is located at the Allied Joint Force Command in Naples.

More information on Operation Unified Protector

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