



NATO and Libya



Operational Media Update for 17 MAY

18 May. Allied Joint Force Command NAPLES, SHAPE, NATO HQ
(more information: www.jfcnaples.nato.int)

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 **7103** sorties, including **2755** strike sorties* have been conducted.

Sorties conducted 17 May: **159**

Strike sorties conducted 17 May: **53**

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

Key Targets Hit

17 May: In the **vicinity of Tripoli**: **2** Tanks, **2** Armoured Personnel Carriers, **2** Surface-To-Air Missile Launchers, **1** Fire Control Radar, **1** Target Acquisition Radar. In the vicinity of **Misrata**: **1** Command & Control Bunker, **1** Rocket Launcher, **6** Truck-Mounted Guns.

Arms Embargo Activities

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

13 Vessels were hailed on 17 May to determine destination and cargo. **1** boarding (**no** diversion) was conducted.

A total of **954** vessels have been hailed, **41** 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***: **222** (air, ground, maritime)

Ships delivering Humanitarian Assistance 17 May: **2**

Aircraft delivering Humanitarian Assistance 17 May: **2**

****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 Naples.

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