



NATO and Libya



Operational Media Update for 18 MAY

19 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 **7262** sorties, including **2808** strike sorties* have been conducted.

Sorties conducted 18 May: **159**

Strike sorties conducted 18 May: **53**

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

Key Targets Hit

18 May: In the vicinity of **Tripoli**: **1** Military Training Facility. In the vicinity of **Zuwarah**: **3** Command & Control Nodes. In the vicinity of **Misrata**: **2** Tanks, **1** Self-Propelled Artillery Piece. In the vicinity of **Mizdah**: **1** Ammunition Storage Facility.

Arms Embargo Activities

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

14 Vessels were hailed on 18 May to determine destination and cargo. **2** boardings (**no** diversion) were conducted.

A total of **968** vessels have been hailed, **43** 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***: **227** (air, ground, maritime)

Ships delivering Humanitarian Assistance 18 May: **4**

Aircraft delivering Humanitarian Assistance 18 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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