



NATO and Libya



Operational Media Update for 23 MAY

24 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 **8019** sorties, including **3077** strike sorties*, have been conducted.

Sorties conducted 23 May: **149**

Strike sorties conducted 23 May: **52**

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

Key Hits

23 May: In **Tripoli:** **1** Armoured Vehicle Storage Facility. In the vicinity of **Sirte:** **1** Ammunition Storage Facility, **1** Command & Control Node. In the vicinity of **Sebha:** **1** Military Equipment Maintenance & Storage Facility. In the vicinity of **Misratah:** **2** Truck-Mounted Guns.

Arms Embargo Activities

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

7 Vessels were hailed on 23 May to determine destination and cargo. **2** boardings (**no** diversion) were conducted.

A total of **1025** vessels have been hailed. **50** boardings and **7** diversions have been conducted since the beginning of arms embargo operations.

International Humanitarian Assistance Movements as recorded by NATO

Total of Humanitarian Movements***: **253** (air, ground, maritime)

Ships delivering Humanitarian Assistance 23 May: **2**

Aircraft delivering Humanitarian Assistance 23 May: **3**

****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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