

Update on Tripoli Operations provided to Cheryl Mills on 9/14:

Operations/Logistics/Services:

- 24hr electricity and running water at Tripoli Team's current location.
- More shops are open and FSNs are reporting that life is getting back to normal.
- Gasoline is plentiful; however, diesel still remains an issue.
- The team currently has four Fully Armored Vehicles for transport around town; nine more will arrive via ferry with a supply shipment due to arrive on Thursday 9/15.
- NEA is using an air bridge (provided by INL's air wing) from Malta to Tripoli on an as-needed basis to move people and supplies.

Facilities update:

- OBO staffer in Tripoli is continuing an assessment of the former chancery compound and the residential facilities.
- Embassy staff currently staying in existing Embassy-leased apartment building and a nearby former residence while OBO, DS, and NEA work on a more permanent interim solution
- Ambassador's Residence, which had been completely looted is being spruced up for use as office space; should be ready around the time of the Ambassador's arrival.
- For the intermediate term, OBO is using a two-track approach, evaluating what it will take to renovate the former chancery compound and reviewing leasing various compounds that will meet our office and residential needs.
- For the long-term solution, a request for an embassy site is included in talking points for all senior Department travelers to Tripoli.

Security update:

- Delegation reports the security situation in Tripoli is tenuous. Tripoli is awash in guns and militias. Although the TNC is making efforts to bring the militias under its control, it lacks any real capacity to do so.
 - o According to TNC contacts, most Qadhafi-era police and security officials are afraid to come back to work. This is posing real challenges for our mission's security, as it is unlikely that we will get armed, uniformed TNC security officials for some time.
- TNC provided 10 militia static security officers this morning to control the avenues of approach to temporary Tripoli team residences.
 - o The Senior DS Officer in Tripoli intends to leverage the arrival of these security officers to erect appropriate physical security barriers and other guard structures to reinforce and support the TNC security officer posts.
- The Senior Diplomatic Security (DS) Agent in Tripoli coordinated with the TNC Ministry of Interior for the visit of A/S Feltman. The TNC provided excellent security on all venues as well as a TNC lead vehicle, with TNC security personnel, to escort A/S Feltman's motorcade during all movements.
- DS Agents report few checkpoints observed with general freedom of movement.
 - o Number of checkpoints decreasing over the past several days.
 - o Checkpoints are typically manned by pro-TNC elements.
- RSO is working to have all Embassy local guards accounted for in order to have full security coverage for the CMR, Warehouse, and residential neighborhood by 9/18.

Assumptions for Benghazi:

- Gradual winding down of operations over the next six months; transition to Tripoli operations only by January 2012
- No Consulate

Plans for activities in Benghazi through January 2012 (from Chris Stevens email 9/6/2011):
Political/economic/public diplomacy:

- Continue contacts with TNC leadership. We don't know how the TNC's transition to Tripoli will play out. Early signs are that the TNC will soon move to the capital, but there will likely be a lot of back-and-forth travel by TNC members from the east, in particular chairman Abd al-Jalil. It is also possible that the transition could fail or stall.
- Engage new GOL entities. TNC officials have said that some government agencies may have their headquarters in Benghazi (such as the National Oil Company). Other government agencies/corporations already have their HQ's here (parastatal oil company AGOCO, and the Libyan Pension Fund).
- Monitor political trends (Islamists, tribes, political parties, "federalists", militias) and public sentiment regarding the "new Libya". The revolution began in eastern Libya and the views of these 2 million inhabitants will certainly influence events going forward.
- Monitor the resumption of oil production in the east, where most of Libya's oil reserves are located. Engage with US petroleum companies in the east.
- Engage Eastern elites and key groups as necessary to help ensure smooth transition to a united, democratic Libya.
- Demonstrate US interest in the eastern part of Libya. Many Libyans have said that the US presence in Benghazi has a salutary, "calming" effect on easterners who are fearful that the new focus on Tripoli could once again lead to their neglect and exclusion from reconstruction and wealth distribution. They feel the US will help ensure they are dealt with fairly.

Programmatic:

- Continue projects begun by USAID/OTI relating to strengthening civil society groups, media training, and capacity building in municipal councils.
- Continue activities begun by PM/WRA in securing and destroying conventional weapons, particularly MANPADS.
- Commence other engagement activities, particularly in education. There is a large population of Libyan youth with high expectations for the post-revolution period. They are an important and receptive audience for US engagement (such engagement would help counter Islamist efforts in this area).
- Serve as a platform for TDY visits/events from Embassy Tripoli and Washington.

Who else will be in Benghazi?

- Italy, Turkey, Egypt, Sweden, Sudan, and Syria have consulates in Benghazi. In informal conversations with the UK and French, they have said their gov'ts would be unlikely to maintain offices here for budget reasons. It is unclear if any UN offices will remain in Benghazi. The EU rep has reportedly advocated keeping an outpost in Benghazi but it is unclear what Brussels will decide.

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USG Personnel on the Ground in Tripoli:

- 9/14/2011: total 28
 - o 24 State (19 Diplomatic Security)
 - o 4 DoD personnel
- 9/15/2011: total 32
 - o 28 State(20 Diplomatic Security)
 - o 4 DoD personnel
- 9/18/2011: total 45
 - o 29 DOS personnel (20 Diplomatic Security)
 - o 16 DoD personnel
- 9/21/2011: total 47 or 48
 - o Ambassador Cretz arrives and the U.S. flag is raised
 - o 31 DOS (21 Diplomatic Security)
 - o 16 DoD personnel on the ground (12 security, 4 EOD)
 - o 1 USAID/OTI (if approved)
- 151 Embassy Tripoli LE Staff
 - o LES have until 9/18 to report or be put on LWOP
 - o 82 have reported for duty
 - o 29 Local Guards are assisting with securing the residential properties where staff are currently staying

Planning and Coordination Cell

NEA-SCA/EX has changed the format of its daily Tripoli Return Planning Meeting to focus more closely on the cross-cutting planning and coordination requirements for the establishment of an interim diplomatic platform. The Planning and Coordination Cell will identify the critical path for the establishment of a larger presence and prioritize tasks in each line of effort (security, movement, facilities, living conditions, office space, etc) in order to ensure that the expansion occurs efficiently with the appropriate support platform. It will work in tandem with the policy staff to ensure that Department priorities in Libya are accomplished in a secure and effective manner as rapidly as conditions on the ground and resources available allow.

The team will be led by NEA-SCA/EX Deputy Executive Director Kathleen Hanson and will include core representatives of the following offices and organizations: NEA/EX, NEA/MAG, DS, OBO, IRM, A/LM, DOD, M, S/CRS, and RM. Other offices (CA, PD, AID, Ops, etc) will be briefed regularly and are welcome to attend.