The GCHQ Response: Significant Developments

Libya

- The dedicated Libya team effort will end its 7 x 16 hours 3 watch system working at the end of this week, enabling all resources to be concentrated on days, with a roster providing a presence at weekends and call-in out of office hours (OOH) The team will reduce from 54 people to around 35. This matches a drop in the tempo of Whitehall and military requirements, and will enable a more concentrated effort against political thematic or topical requirements of high HMG interest. Plans are already in place to move the effort to a steady state of 20 people via transitional reductions.
- GSOC are covering the OOH periods, and have call-in arrangements to use as required. Digby remains on 7 x 24 working, focused on the analysis and reporting of the military conflict. This may move up a target echelon to focus more on command and control and intent.
- The EM team is working Monday to Friday with attendance at weekends and outside of office hours as required. The intelligence co-ordination presence has also changed its posture in line with a revised National Security Council briefing cycle of four meetings a week.
- GCHQ continues to co-ordinate its response through the EM process. There are currently 3 meetings in the course of a normal working week, but this will be reviewed, as will the Period of Special Interest for IT and system health that ends on 13 May.

Look ahead

Libya

- Further change in resources takes place as the Libya Team in GCHQ moves to an office-hours posture, in line with customer requirements and operational tempo. Analysts, linguists and others will attend as required at weekends. GSOC will lead OOH, with the support of an additional intelligence officer 5 nights a week to assist in reporting and issue of summaries/briefs. Other areas, such as Geocell in Central SD, will continue to provide support as required.
- The Libya Team will be c.35 strong from 13 May. Plans for further incremental reductions to a core effort of 20 have been formed, and will be implemented in line with customer requirements and mission tempo.
- Digby remains on 7 x 24 SSMO tasking. This will be kept under constant review as part of UKUSA resourcing considerations.

The GCHQ Response

Libya

- The dedicated Libya team is now operating Monday to Friday, with a small number of staff attending at weekends, and others on-call at all times. The team numbers 35 people, with a focus on political and military thematic or topical requirements of high HMG interest. Plans are in place to move to a steady state of 20 people via transitional reductions as and when appropriate.
- GSOC are covering the OOH periods, and have call-in arrangements to use as required. Digby remains on 7 x 24 working, focused on the analysis and reporting of the military conflict. Digby's primary target is now Libyan regime command and control use of mobile satellite phones.
- The EM team of three people is working Monday to Friday with attendance at weekends and outside of office hours as required. The intelligence co-ordination team of two people presence matches the National Security Council briefing cycle of four meetings a week.
- GCHQ continues to co-ordinate its response through the EM process. There are currently 3 meetings in the course of a normal working week.

Partnerships

Libya

- Close co-operation continues across the wider UK Sigint enterprise and between the UK, US and Canadian Sigint communities. GCHQ, Digby and NSA(G) have establishing a new DOE against Libyan regime military Thuraya handsets and HF/VHF targets.
- The Libya Team is partnering closely with SIS and others in Benghazi to develop TD and SD opportunities. Operational collaboration with SIS has strengthened further, both in generating leads that can be exploited for either Humint or Sigint purposes and providing intelligence that can be used to achieve effects such as enforcement of sanctions on the Libyan regime, and isolation/removal of Qadhafi. A particular emphasis is being placed on oil supplies to the regime.
- NSA, CSEC and GCHQ TD/SD teams have followed up on tri-agency Event Management intent to enhance the level of co-operation on Libya and other Middle Eastern/North African targets of interest. MyNoc workshops attended by analysts from each of the agencies will take place in June to improve Sigint capabilities. Libyan Opposition is likely to feature.
- A Third Party partnership with LUSTRE continues to provide complementary intelligence and leads of operational value.

Look ahead

Libya

- The Libya Team will fill all of its staffing gaps as it continues to settle into its office-hours posture, in line with customer requirements and operational tempo. The partnership and hinge with GSOC will be ratified as the additional intelligence officer in GSOC stands down.
- The Libya Team will reach out its primary partners following its organisation into analytical and reporting teams focusing on the major target themes and topics.
- The posture will be agreed for the long end of May holiday weekend. It is likely to be essential staffing only on Saturday through Tuesday.
- Digby moves to 7 x 16 SSMO tasking in line with its new focus on military command and control targets.

The GCHQ Response

Libya

- The Libya team continues to operate Monday to Friday office hours, with a small number of staff attending at weekends in accordance with priorities and focus, and others on-call via GSOC at all times. Their focus is firmly on supporting campaign outcomes by providing intelligence on regime and Opposition intent and military posture and other key requirements, as well as support to targeting and delivering Effects as required. The team totals 35 people, with plans to move to a steady state of 20 via transitional reductions, although there is no immediate prospect of customer interest slackening.
- GSOC are covering the OOH periods, and have call-in arrangements to use as required. Digby is working 7 x 16 shifts, focused on the analysis and reporting of Libyan regime command and control use of mobile satellite phones.
- The EM team of three people is working Monday to Friday with attendance at weekends and outside of office hours as required. The Intelligence co-ordination team presence matches the weekly National Security Council briefing cycle.
- GCHQ continues to co-ordinate its response through the EM process, with Event meetings on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Partnerships

Libya

- Close co-operation continues across the wider UK Sigint enterprise and between the UK, US and Canadian Sigint communities. GCHQ, Digby and NSA(G) are now operating a DOE against Libyan regime military Thuraya handsets and HF/VHF targets. GCHQ are leading on analysis of Libyan Police and Security forces communications as required.

Look ahead

Libya

- The Libya Team will continue to increase its effort against Opposition and regime change/transition intelligence requirements without compromising its ability to provide an insight into the military conflict and regime intent. The analytical and reporting focus on specific topics and themes continues in conjunction with Second Party agreements.
- Weekend postures are reviewed each Thursday and Friday in line with customer priorities and focus. This week the focus is on the military conflict and efforts to better understand the situation in Tripoli
- Digby continues to develop the 7 x 16 SSMO mission against military command and control targets.