

The Daily Mail is [reporting](#) that Italy has called for a cease fire with Libya.

Italy broke ranks with Nato yesterday and demanded an urgent halt to hostilities in Libya. Franco Frattini, the foreign minister in Rome, called for an 'immediate suspension' of military operations to allow humanitarian aid to be brought to the wartorn country. He also said military leaders should provide more details about Nato bombing raids following mistakes which led to civilians being killed. His demand for a ceasefire echoed comments by Arab League Chairman Amr Moussa on Tuesday. However, British Prime Minister David Cameron played down calls to stop the mission and said it would eventually reach a 'satisfactory conclusion'.

Please read the entire article for more important information.

Analysis. NATO is civilian casualty averse. The major combatants may also be running out of ammunition.

Admiral Sir Mark Stanhope, the head of the Royal Navy, and Air Chief Marshal Sir Simon Bryant, the RAF's second-in-command, have both warned that their services would struggle to fight beyond six months because of defence cuts. It led Mr Cameron to slap down top brass by warning: 'You do the fighting and I'll do the talking.' He told MPs: 'I have sought assurances, and received them, from the Chief of the Defence Staff General Sir David Richards, that we are capable of keeping up this operation for as long as it takes.'

This is not an unusual circumstance. Prior to the fall of the Soviet Union, the other major NATO players were even then drawing down their forces. The British Navy scrapped their only fixed-wing capable carrier the Ark Royal. They regretted this two years later when Argentina invaded the Falkland Islands. Her Majesty's Navy does not now have even one carrier and that one was Harrier capable only. If Italy suspends the use of their airfields, what remains of the RAF will have to fly from Akrotiri on Crete and be aerial refueled probably twice in and at least once out. For this they are almost totally dependent on USAF tanker assets. NATO has almost zero organic refueling assets.

Struggling to fight beyond six months is an indication that they have already broken into their War Reserve Spare Kits (WRSK). Cut backs in spares will most likely effect the avionics systems so necessary to accurate delivery of munitions.

Do they have the munitions? So much of modern warfare has become dependent upon precision guided munitions and standoff weapons to accurately destroy targets without sending in flights of airplanes but only one. In Vietnam we spent a lot of people and weapons of the "dumb" variety trying to destroy the Paul Dumier Bridge in Hanoi. In 1972 it was destroyed by a four ship of F-4s using laser guided bombs and a Pave Spike pods to guide them. One of my instructors in F-4 school was in that flight.

Modern nations have become accustomed to video game war. Casualties are low to almost non-existent. The weapons are amazingly accurate to the point where weapons may use smaller and smaller warheads to destroy the target with minimal collateral damage. Reversion to dumb weapons, even with the increased accuracy of the bombing systems, will severely impact the ability of NATO to minimize collateral damage, casualties and perhaps the number of its Prisoners of War. Libya is not a signatory to the Geneva Conventions. Our prisoners did not do well in the custody of Saddam Hussein. They would not fare better in the captivity of Qadaffi.

NATO has lost and just admitted it.