International coalition strikes Libya


In commenting on the resolution on Friday, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called for "immediate action" on the Security Council's authorization of the use of "all necessary measures" to protect civilians in Libya. He termed it an "historic" affirmation of the global community's responsibility to protect people from their own government's violence. To suppress a rebellion, Muammar Qaddafi began attacking and killing citizens who were protesting.

Speaking from Brazil on Saturday, President Obama informed the American people that he had authorized use of the Armed Forces of the United States to participate in military actions in Libya. International partners (coalition) include France and England.

"In this effort, the United States is acting with a broad coalition that is committed to enforcing United Nations Security Council Resolution 1973, which calls for the protection of the Libyan people. That coalition met in Paris today [Saturday] to send a unified message, and it brings together many of our European and Arab partners.

"This is not an outcome that the United States or any of our partners sought. Even yesterday [Friday], the international community offered Muammar Qaddafi the opportunity to pursue an immediate cease-fire, one that stopped the violence against civilians and the advances of Qaddafi's forces. But despite the hollow words of his government, he has ignored that opportunity. His attacks on his own people have continued. His forces have been on the move. And the danger faced by the people of Libya has grown," President Obama said in his statement.

According to information from the United Nations, acting under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, which provides for the use of force if needed, the Council adopted the resolution by 10 votes to zero, with five abstentions. The resolution authorizes Member States "to take all necessary measures... to protect civilians and civilian populated areas under threat of attack in the Libyan Arab Jamhiriya,
including Benghazi, while excluding an occupation force." The abstentions included China and Russia, which have the power of veto, as well as Brazil, Germany and India.

The military mission in Libya is called "Joint Task Force Operation Odyssey Dawn." The USS Stout, a U.S. Navy ship (destroyer), participated in Saturday's initial missile strikes in Libya. Over 100 missiles were launched from numerous ships. The USS Stout's primary mission in the Mediterranean Sea is ballistic missile defense, but it quickly adjusted to the new mission, according to the Department of Defense.

When Stout deployed from Norfolk in December 2010, few could have guessed that the ship would be asked to assist with a coalition of partner nations to stop violence in Libya.

"We're built to do multiple missions," Sonar Technician (Surface) 3rd Class Jeramy Spivey said in a Dept. of Defense release. "Rapidly shifting from ballistic missile defense to strike operations is proof that Stout is ready for anything."