



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **EUTM Mali completed its 6<sup>th</sup> Combined Mobile Advisory and Training Team, the second provided to the 1<sup>st</sup> Military Region of the Malian Armed Forces in Gao.**

Since its establishment in 2013, the European Training Mission in Mali (EUTM Mali), consisting of approximately 575 military personnel from 27 contributing nations, has been a leader in the EU's enduring commitment to military operations in the Sahel. From 31 July until 20 August 2017 EUTM Mali deployed its 6<sup>th</sup> Combined Mobile Advisory and Training Team (CMATT). Following decentralised trainings in Kati, Segou and Sikasso, for the second time this year, EUTM Mali has delivered a CMATT to the Malian Armed Forces (MaAF) of the 1<sup>st</sup> Military Region (MR) of Gao.

Six platoons underwent a challenging training programme, focusing primarily on infantry, medical and counter-IED skills. In accordance with the MaAF requests, the young squad and platoon commanders, as well as the staff officers of the 1<sup>st</sup> MR, received additional specialised training and advice on staff specific skills such as logistics, operational communication and electronic information systems. As with all courses delivered by EUTM Mali, these young NCO's and officers, in addition to their tactical and operational lessons concentrated heavily on leadership skills education and legal issues.

The huge success of this second CMATT to Gao was thanks to intensive cooperation with our French colleagues deployed on Operation Barkhane and the Commanding Officers of the 1<sup>st</sup> MR in the framework of a 'lessons learned' sharing process. On 18 August, this successful CMATT celebrated its completion with a closing ceremony attended by the representatives of the Mission Force Commander EUTM Mali, brigadier general Laurent and military authorities of Operation Barkhane and the Malian Armed Forces.

EUTM Mali is looking forward to delivering more CMATT's in order to enable the MaAF to increasingly take responsibility for a military owned education and training system, leading the force to a successful reform process. As CMATTs become more frequent and EUTM Mali seeks to conduct them at increased ranges, cooperation with partners is absolutely pivotal to success.

**Information about our Mission:** <http://eutmmali.eu>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vmQo4\\_sjuZo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vmQo4_sjuZo)

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