



EUTM MALI

NEWSLETTER

August 2017



**EUTM MALI AND ITS PARTNERS: WHERE NEEDS MEET.
AN INTEGRATED APPROACH WITHIN THE MISSION AREA.**

JOINT AIR MEDEVAC SERVICE AGREEMENT FOR EUTM MALI AND EUCAP MALI SAHEL

The EU Council recently confirmed its engagement to Mali and the Sahel, noting that a strong, integrated approach is pivotal in achieving stability within the troubled region. The full range of resources, including CSDP (Common Security and Defence Policy) missions, are being employed. Therefore in June 2017, a joint air medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) contract for both EUTM Mali and EUCAP Sahel Mali was endorsed.

STARLITE AVIATION GROUP, an international company operating aircraft over five continents, have provided an air MEDEVAC capability to EUTM Mali since 2014. Since the beginning of its third mandate in March 2016, EUTM Mali has sought to progressively decentralise training to Mali's military regions. The huge distance involved in this enlarged area of operations, has seen STARLITE's Bamako-based fixed-wing and rotary wing assets used to near full capacity in support of training activity.



STARLITE helicopter supporting a MEDEVAC exercise

Concurrent to EUTM Mali's extended reach, EUCAP Sahel Mali's new mandate was adopted in January 2017, resulting in more distant deployments to advise and train the National Police force, the National Gendarmerie and the National Guard within the regions of Mali. To ensure greater efficiency, EUTM Mali led in defining the technical specifications and budgetary concept for STARLITE's fixed and rotary wing MEDEVAC capability to extend to EUCAP Sahel Mali.

The proposal was approved by the Athena Special Committee, the organisation which handles the financing of common costs relating to EU military missions under the CSDP. The shared contractual agreement between EUTM Mali and EUCAP Sahel came into force on 1 July 2017.



STARLITE provides a permanent Liaison Officer to EUTM Mali Mission Force Headquarters. The Liaison Officer works in tandem with the mission's Joint Medical Plans Officer to ensure all aspects of medical evacuation are carefully planned and coordinated. In addition, each organization conducts its own bespoke training with STARLITE AVIATION.

This shared contract, the first of its kind, creates great synergies for Europe's two missions operating in Mali, greater medical capacity and support for EUCAP Sahel Mali and mutual financial benefit by reducing costs of AIR MEDEVAC provision to both organisations.

EUTM MALI AND PARTNERS STANDING SIDE AS G5 SAHEL JOINT FORCE REACHES INITIAL OPERATIONAL CAPABILITY

Following EUTM Mali's establishment in February 2013, under the EU's Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP) framework, one of its main objectives has been to work alongside indigenous forces and its partners.

In February 2017 the presidency of the G5 Sahel transferred from Chad to Mali and Major General Didier Dacko, formerly Chief of Staff of the Malian Armed Forces (MaAF), was appointed as Commander of the G5 Sahel Joint Force from this summer. He is faced with the challenge of leading the multi-national force's fight against terrorism in Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Chad.

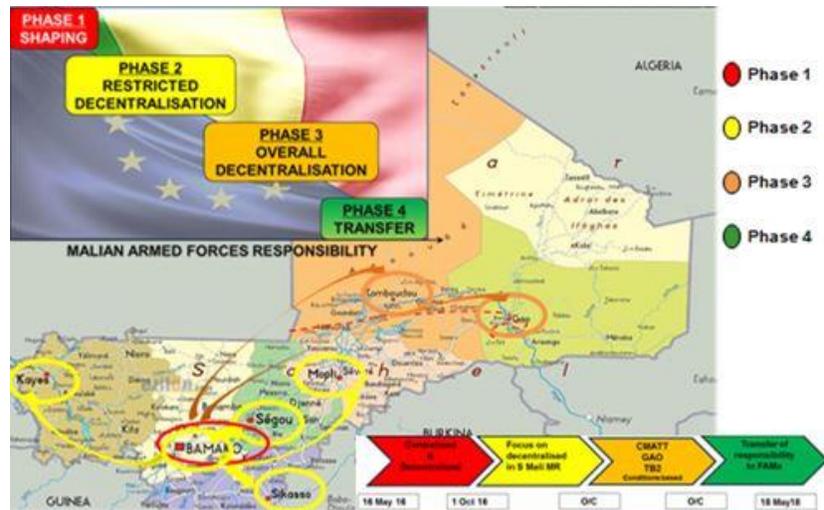


Recent months have highlighted the importance of the international community's unequivocal support to the G5 Sahel Joint Force. In July, the EU announced financial support of €50M towards the training and development of the recently-established force. EUTM Mali's role in this development centres on enhancing coordination and interoperability between the G5 Sahel nations' armed forces as it establishes its Initial Operational Capability (IOC).

The pace at which the G5 Sahel Joint Force has developed in recent months was supported by the Liaison Officers' Course delivered by EUTM Mali. This highly successful training event,

which took place in Bamako in May 2017, saw 23 officers from the five member states trained in preparation for their vital role. By the end of 2017 the EUTM Mali hopes to have delivered two similar courses. However the focus of this will be on operational planning and staffwork rather than liaison.

Concurrently, Mandate 3 has seen EUTM Mali increase its decentralised training and advice, progressively handing over responsibility to the MaAF. To achieve this, from late 2016 several Combined Mobile Advisory and Training Teams (CMATT) have been completed, initially in the relatively local military regions of Segou and Kati.



In February 2017, EUTM Mali delivered its training much further afield, in the 1st Military Region in Gao, 1200km from the Mission Force Headquarters in Bamako. In June 2017 a similar CMATT was deployed to the 8th Military Region in Sikasso for several weeks. As CMATTs become more frequent and EUTM Mali seeks to conduct them at increased ranges, cooperation with partners is absolutely pivotal to success. MINUSMA, as well as BARKHANE, have recently assisted with air transport, accommodation, medical support and force protection; without such close co-operation and assistance the roll of the future CMATTs would be difficult to achieve.

As the G5 Sahel Joint Force takes shape, operating in Mali's central region, EUTM Mali's close links with MINUSMA will continue. Increasingly, these engagements incorporate Malian Defence and Security Force personnel and representatives from France's operation BARKHANE, providing an excellent forum to exchange information, increase co-operation, and reinforce strong relationships.

FACT AND FIGURES (update July 2017)



Malian armed forces (MaAf) students in total	10196	
GTIA (Groupement Tactique Interarmes) trained	8	
GTIA retrained	5	
ETIA (Elément Tactique Interarmes) trained	6	
CMATT (Combined Mobile Advisory and Training Teams) conducted	4	
Company Commanders' courses	4	
Train the trainers courses	9	
G5 Sahel LNO courses	3	
Sniper courses	6	
Indirect Fire (Mortar, Artillery, Tactical Air Control Party) courses		8
Logistic courses		3
Medical courses		4
Engineer courses		7
Leadership & education team (LET) interventions in military schools		4
Counter-IED courses and Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law instructions included in all basic courses		

EUTM MALI'S CONTRIBUTION TO INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW, HUMAN RIGHTS AND GENDER ISSUES



EUTM Mali includes International Humanitarian Law (IHL), Human Rights and Gender in all advice, training and education activities as an integral part of its mandate. With the appointment of an IHL Gender Advisor to Mission Force Headquarters in January 2017, this has augmented and helped enhance EUTM Mali's commitments on these issues, internally and externally.

The IHL Gender Advisor attends the inter-agency Protection Cluster, chaired by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). These monthly meetings are the main forum for information sharing and coordination with regard to human rights and humanitarian issues in the conflict areas of the country, as well as the monthly inter-agency Gender-based Violence (GBV) sub-cluster, chaired by UN Population Fund (UNFPA). The GBV sub-cluster is the main forum for information sharing and coordination with regard to conflict related sexual violence (CRSV).

There is ongoing cooperation on IHL, Human Rights and Gender issues with MINUSMA, both the civilian and military components of the Mission as well as with UN Women, ICRC, the EUCAP Sahel Gender and HR Focal Point as well as other organizations working on IHL, Human Rights and Gender in Mali. The IHL Gender Advisor also liaises



with the Ministère de la Promotion de la Femme, de l'Enfant et de la Famille regarding the Malian National Action Plan for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (Women, Peace and Security), specifically with regard to the indicators relating to defense.

Projects currently in development include a series of short videos (6-8 minutes) that will visually demonstrate key messages and principles with regard to IHL, Human Rights, and Gender that will be used as a resource tool for training purposes. Each video will focus on a separate message (Protection of Civilians, Use of Force, Engagement with the local community and CRSV), and will be accompanied by a pamphlet highlighting the main points as a companion piece for broader distribution.

Recently the Chief of Staff of the Malian Armed Forces appointed a "Commission de réflexion sur le statut des femmes militaires." The Commission will produce a report with regard to addressing barriers to full inclusion for women in the Malian defense forces. EUTM, along with its MINUSMA partners is committed to providing ongoing support and advice to the Commission as it develops its mandate.

IHL has recently been augmented with the addition of an IHL trainer and advisor, who will develop and deliver IHL, Human Rights, and Gender training to the Malian Armed Forces, supported by external partners, including MINUSMA Human Rights Division and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). In addition, IHL trainer and advisor will provide support to doctrinal development for the Malian Armed Forces as part of the Advisory

Task Force team at EUTM Mali. Neither position is tied to a national contingent rotation and as such there is an option to remain longer in the post.



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