

EUTM MALI

European Union Training Mission in Mali



CMATT at Kayes

A Belgian has taken charge of the Kayes CMATT

CMATT (*Combined & Mobile Advisory and Training Team*), refers to a decentralised army training assignment to a Military Region of Mali.

The principle being to send instructors where the Malian Armed Forces have their barracks instead of moving them to the permanent training centre in Koulikoro.

In the middle of August, about a dozen people of four different nationalities flew from Bamako to Kayes with a view to preparing the future CMATT.

Today, the CMATT's commander, the Belgian major Vincent, takes a look back at an incredibly fascinating period: "We were welcomed warmly by Colonel Yaya DIALLO, Commander of the 4th Military Region of Kayes, who announced that he wanted to train no fewer than fifteen general staff officers as well as two companies, namely about 250 people, a first in the history of CMATT! After a quick reconnaissance of the facilities, training grounds and shooting ranges, a four-week instruction programme was drawn up, presented and approved by the commander of the 4th Military Region. All that remained was for us to return to MHFQ to prepare this mission in detail, which took place between 18 October and 22 November."

The resources deployed, as much in terms of personnel as material, were impressive: 32 permanent instructors, a few non-permanent instructors present occasionally to instruct the MaAF (Malian Armed Forces) in a very specific field, about 40 soldiers in charge of the *protection force*, a field hospital with two surgeons, an anaesthetist, a doctor and nurses, a logistical support and transmission element, and all that with about 30 vehicles and trucks.



Activities in the CMATT at Kayes

Not to mention the IHL (International Humanitarian Law) personnel deployed in order to give classes for all.

The course will start with a short evaluation of the trainees' level, bearing in mind that some of them have just returned from six months of operational engagement in the centre of Mali, a zone where there are attacks against the national security forces and MINUSMA.

After a quick review of the basics, the programme was then delivered as planned.



Working session on the field



C-IED lessons at CMATT Kayes

The two companies were familiarised with infantry procedures used daily for operations such as patrols, check-points, reaction to contact, C-IED (*counter improvised explosive device*).

In addition, the officers of the companies received a half-day on leadership.

As for the general staff officers, a few reminders and theoretical classes preceded two planning exercises: the first with the help of the instructors and the second completely independently.



CMATT at Kayes

These few weeks spent in the facilities of the 4th Military Region of Kayes will, no doubt, remain engraved on everyone's memories.

Indeed, the instructors, the *protection force* and the support elements can be proud of the exemplary work accomplished.

As for the MaAF, they can also be proud of their motivation, their implication and, last but not least, the progress made in such a short period of time. And, all of this in an incredibly good atmosphere.

EUTM MALI

+223 7999 7219
+223 4497 6098

www.eutmmali.eu
www.facebook.com/eutmmali
www.twitter.com/eutmmali
www.flickr.com/photos/eutm_mali
www.instagram.com/eutm_mali



The CMATT Commander

The Belgian major Vincent was pleasantly surprised because:

"Very quickly, a relationship of trust appeared between the instructors and trainees, a relationship built on mutual respect, a common interest and a hunger to learn from one another.

All made excellent progress over the four weeks and achieved a more than honourable level, although, of course, some points still remain to be improved. This is normal since perfection does not exist!"

