

# EUTM MALI

European Union Training Mission in Mali



## CMATT Sikasso, a real success



“The first time I have fired on a shooting range in over five years”, commented a FAMA soldier during AK47 marksmanship training in Sikasso. Over 100 soldiers and NCOs have recently completed five weeks of training, as part of a EUTM Mali Combined Mobile Advisory and Training Team (CMATT) in Sikasso from 29 Jan – 2 Mar 18.

This article is a quick look at what they have been up to.

Malian training malians at

CMATT Sikasso

To accomplish this task, EUTM has deployed a detachment, commanded by the Spanish Maj. Miguel Sanchez Macizo, composed of 120 EUTM members, belonging to 19 countries.

Known as the ‘Garden of Mali’, Sikasso is nestled in the south of the country, close to the Burkina Faso and Ivory Coast borders. Mali’s second largest city is internationally renowned for its mangos; it is also home to the 8<sup>th</sup> Military Region (MR) unit and barracks, part of the MaAF’s ‘strategic reserve’. For five weeks, EUTM has been assisting the FAMA in two core areas –advising the Military Region command post and training of one ETIA company- with a joint goal of improving the capabilities of MaAF in the 8<sup>th</sup> MR Sikasso.

Critical to the success of the task for EUTM was training of leaders, namely NCOs and officers. For the company, this meant an emphasis on ‘Malian’s teaching Malians’ alongside support and coaching, where required, from 25 EUTM trainers.

Soldiers and officers appeared for the CMATT from eight different units within the region, 85% from artillery and armoured units, with a vast mixture of operational and previous EUTM training background. This provided a good foundation on which the EUTM could learn from the MaAF and visa versa.

All MaAF NCOs conducted a 'Train the Trainer' course, where they learnt methodology of teaching and tactics, before then leading the training of their own soldiers in basic squad tactics of formations, reaction to contact, hasty attacks and check points. Specialist training, such as sniper training, Counter IED, GPS, medical, basic radio usage and international humanitarian law was delivered throughout. Firing on the shooting range was an immensely rewarding experience for the soldiers, some of whom had not fired for many years.



Alongside the training for the company, the Advisory Training Force (ATF) covered a four-week course with the MaAF Military Region officers conducting a Battalion level exercise.

Advising consisted of a two week theoretical refreshment of knowledge followed by a two-week application of the theory to military scenarios.

Furthermore, the Malian military infirmary received training from the EUTM Role 1, an opportunity to share ways of working and best practice.





Visit of MFCd brigadier general Enrique Millan



Sniper Course at CMATT Sikasso



Maj. Sanchez at CMATT Sikasso

CMATTs are only possible with significant support from the MaAF and also EUTM Mali assets. Supporting the training staff are a large team of EUTM medics, a ROLE 2 facility, 'STARLITE' helicopter assets and a strong real life support team.

The CMATT has helped to develop the capability of the 8<sup>th</sup> MR and provided key training opportunities. More importantly, however, the CMATT has provided EUTM Mali with the opportunity to learn from the Malians themselves. By deploying to their military barracks, utilising their logistics and working alongside them in a 'coaching' role, the EUTM Mali has gained unrivalled insight and deeper understanding of the MaAF mindset and fighting spirit.

### EUTM MALI

+223 7999 7219  
+223 4497 6098

[www.eutmmali.eu](http://www.eutmmali.eu)  
[www.facebook.com/eutmmali](https://www.facebook.com/eutmmali)  
[www.twitter.com/eutmmali](https://www.twitter.com/eutmmali)  
[www.flickr.com/photos/eutm\\_mali](https://www.flickr.com/photos/eutm_mali)  
[www.instagram.com/eutm\\_mali](https://www.instagram.com/eutm_mali)

