

EUTM MALI

European Union Training Mission in Mali



The CMATT of KATI



Armoured Vehicle Course at CMATT Kati

The 11th CMATT was organized jointly by the EUTM and the Malian Armed Forces (MaAF), this advisory and training mission pursued three objectives. Firstly, the operational planning training for officers serving in the military region's headquarters or garrison regiments; secondly, training in human resources management for garrison Human Resources personnel; and finally, training a MaAF company from soldier to platoon leader level. In the case of this CMATT, this non-permanent unit consisted of 5 platoons, 3 of which infantry platoons, one light armored cavalry platoon and one artillery platoon for a total strength of 110.

The CMATT (Combined Mobile Advisory and Training Team) was held at the 3rd Military Region Headquarters from 3 to 27 April. The Military Region Commander, Col Ali Daoud Mohamedine was satisfied with the results obtained.

This training has been delivered by 35 instructors from 8 countries of the EUTM mission most of them coming from KOULIKORO (Education & Training Task Force), and the rest from EUTM-MALI MFHQ, BAMAKO (Advisory Task Force). During one month, these instructors have delivered their know-how in their field of competence. It is important to note that the CMATT program is designed in close collaboration between EUTM and the military regional headquarters. The Malian authorities define their priorities, while instructors then, adapt the program and objectives to the assessed level of the trainees. In the case of this CMATT, the efforts have been focused more particularly on training in humanitarian and armed conflict law, as well as training against improvised explosive devices (IEDs), which today constitute one of the main threats against the MaAF in operations.

For officers training, the 4-week training is divided into 4 distinct phases. The first week was designed to provide trainees with courses in different offices and staff tasks. The second was to present the planning method directly inspired by the French MEDOT. It should be noted that this method is also taught to the various armies of the G5 Sahel, which will enable officers to easily integrate into operational planning work regardless of their future employment framework, whether they have to conduct operations with Barkhane, the G5 SAHEL Joint Force or MINUSMA. These first two theoretical weeks were then followed by two other of practice where the officers conducted a complete planning exercise by using the MEDOT, as they would do when in operations. The main interest of this exercise is, on one hand, that it places the trainees in a situation of responsibility since they produce the orders and briefings and, on the other hand, that the theme of the exercise has been constructed from data that is coherent and realistic with those they will be confronted to in opera-



The second axis of effort was focused on training personnel serving in combat units. Based on the feedback from operations, three priorities have been set for the tactical exercises. The first was training in the fight against IEDs, the second was infantry fighting by foot, which is now the most common mode of combat for the MaAF. And finally, in each exercise, the priority was to place MaAF officers in a command situation. Indeed, experience shows that while Malian soldiers today possess real technical skills, there is still room for improvement in soldier management. In the case of CMATT, the fact that the trained sections were organic sections made this training easier. The group leaders commanded their usual battle groups, and the benefits were double, the trained officers improved their command abilities, while his group assimilated additional skills. In the training of artillery sections and light armored cavalry, the main challenge was the equipment. Today the MaAF are heavily involved in operations in the North of the country, and this situation is drying up operational preparedness budgets.

The training was therefore adapted to focus on the essential, and in particular to match to the reality on the ground. Artillery training focused mainly on direct fire, while for the cavalry, the platoon was trained with pick-ups, which are the real battle vehicles of the MaAF.

As far as the human resources module is concerned, the scope of this training covered general information on human resources management (HR), and the applying regulations, personnel administration and changes to the 2016 statutes, and finally in activities related to the monitoring of the staff of the MaAF. The target audience of this module was mainly the personnel of the actual units, the HR and personnel administration officers of the military and regimental command posts, as well as the "computer specialists" (able to use a computer and office automation tools) of the companies of each regiment. This training was widely acclaimed by the 43 trainees as there is no specific training in HR or personnel administration in the training courses of the MaAF.



Ltc Pierre Sella



Course at CMATT Kati

To sum up, the CMATT under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Pierre Sella from the EUTM Mission proves to be an exciting experience; fully complementary to the one delivered by the EUTM in Koulikoro. This Operational Training Detachment (OTD) allows the trainers' experience to be diversified and above all, allows them to confront the daily reality of the MaAF. By changing the location of the CMATTs in all the military regions of Mali, these OTDs allow EUTM mission to remain well an-

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