This is not a drawing, this is ........a mission
A Mission in Mali

Dreaming of Africa

but when we were told that we were going
to serve in a European mission in Mali named
with four letters with no possible translation: EUTM

We thought that dreaming EUTM would be difficult

Soon "our mission" began and we will share it with you here
From December 12, 2019 to June 12, 2020
Six months... Six months...

Here you can find out where they went and
what challenges those more than 700 men
and women from 29 countries overcome.

alongside the more than 1,200 students of the
Malian Armed Forces,

"men and women,
who received our training
and advice."

This is not a drawing
this is a mission.
this is...
We have to go back to December 12, 2019. That day, at sunset, the mission began...

...with the assumption of command by the new Mission Force Commander General João Bogo Ribeiro.

The light, the river, the sounds, the odors, it’s all so special...

There wasn’t much time, so we soon started working.

“On what?” you ask. Well, a great many, and different, tasks and missions. We began to provide security, courses in support of the Malian Armed Forces, in classrooms, either in Bamako, in KTC or wherever we were needed.

Quickly, but calmly, put the charger in... get ready to shoot...

Koudou, your sector, you cannot ignore your sector.

And we went out to the field with them; they became our comrades and our brothers. We came to support the people of Mali.

We are a team now, we know we would have to face many challenges. Six months later we know that the challenges continue but that we have overcome them. It doesn’t matter where, but if they need us, we’ll be there.

...all of us together we are able to accept these challenges...

It’s December, the thermometer registers over forty degrees and we’re still on patrol. If you want to know more about our mission follow us.
On the inauguration day, the centres of Sagou, Timbuktu, Gao and Sevare were connected to the Army's operations centre in Bamako.

"Now we'll all be connected looking to the future".

"When you are instructors, correct the position of the shooters the same way I correct yours."

At the same time we were training the trainers, on EUIM field exercises, completing two instructor level courses.

Where? At the Koulikoro Training Camp, the Factory, so named because it is the place where Malian soldiers and commanders are trained in a thousand skills. The Malian Armed Forces. The reason for our existence. We don't stop, keep shooting and get the target right.

We spent Christmas in MALI and learned that we have four families: our family at home, the military family, the EUIM family and the family of all our colleagues in Mali, their army and the various Malian and European institutions that support us.

Good job!!! Merry Christmas but... it doesn't stop here!

We set out on a huge project which was presented in the last week of December: the new command and control system: The C2OPS.
My name is Wob. I am a student of the mechanized infantry course at EUIM MALI. I am a student of the mechanized infantry course at EUIM MALI. and what I like best is the position of shooter in the armored car. The Casspars not only protect you from the enemy, they also provide some welcome shade from the sun when there is no other.

Rethink the mission coordinates. Under no circumstances can you have a section without a link.

The four-month company commanders course passed fast, a vital position in the chain of command, where close ties have been built between trainers and students. “We have learned the essential knowledge for company command.”

Coordination meetings were held on a continuous basis to adjust training to the needs of the Malian Armed Forces. The main one is the Comité Directeur de Coordination (CoDCo).

GPS is all very well but the handling of the compass and the map is crucial.

“It didn’t matter if the courses were on foot or in vehicles. It didn’t matter if they were in the classroom or in the workshops, if it was to fortify a defensive position or offensive exercises, only getting the job done well mattered.”

“Increasing activities in the mission in line with the requirements and needs of the Malian Armed Forces.”
To talk about EUIM is to talk about Bamako, the capital of Mali. To talk about EUIM is to talk about Kouré. But to talk about EUIM is also to talk about the military regions of Ségou, Kati, Kayes, Sévaré, Sikasso, and the southern bank of the Niger River, the cities of Gao and Tombouctou and the sector of the Joint Force 6th Sahel Headquarters in Niger, Chad and Mauritania.

Logistics is a complex issue. It was a long road trip to take all the means. A road trip to the North. Sévaré was waiting for us and the Malian Armed Forces were waiting for us to continue their training. More than 700 km. In three days.

"I know where the ammunition, office supplies, audio-visual media and everything else has been loaded, but where did we put the sandwiches!?"

"Welcome to the hotel Sévaré"

"Hey, they're drawing us a picture for a comic book."

"We're staying at the river's edge, where the Niger passes, taking care of everything it touches."

"A logistic system that allows us to place in any part of the country, everything required to provide the courses."

"Yes, yes, but in the end, the other day the sandwiches didn't show up!"

"Flexible logistics are important here."

"We will see that without an adaptable and efficient administration, the soldier will not be able to do his job."

Within the training program, it was time to go to Sévaré. Where the Niger River opens its arms in an incomparable way.

You may wonder why we went to Sévaré, for the answer is training, courses, courses, and more courses. Light infantry, mechanized infantry, section exercises. To meet the needs of the Malian Armed Forces.
Imagine how difficult it is to give protection to a force that never, ever, stops.

What Force Protection does is better explained in pictures.
EUIM Mali goes where not everyone goes. We were needed in Timbuktu and that’s where we went. A city full of history, and a place that truly deserves peace.

The courses requested by the MalAF were prepared in Bamako and Koulkoro, and as soon as we arrived in Timbuktu the classes began.

"My goodness"

"Hey, look how impressive the Timbuktu mosque looks at sunset".

"Well, yes, the schedule will be released, but the volume of the course makes it recommendable."

"Walking around Timbuktu is walking through history and EUIM MALI is already part of the history of this country.

"Tango 1 at the meeting point"

The Combined Mobile Advisory Training Team arrived at the 5th Military Region in Timbuktu by plane and from there they went to the Operation Barkhane Base.

"We have used Mahan doctrine as a guideline, and we are going to go over the essential elements of the doctrine, the command and control structure of the MalAF and the theory of planning at the operational level. These may seem like strange words, but this knowledge is really necessary to succeed in a mission."
EUTM Mali deployed trainers and Force Protection elements to provide training to the National Guard’s Anti-Terrorism Special Forces. Trainers and equipment went to their facilities in Bamako.

The objective was to support FORSAT and for them to acquire the necessary knowledge to carry out counter-terrorism operations: direct actions and hostage release operations.

"GET DOWN, GET DOWN!"

The trainees learned TCCC is designed to treat battlefield casualties in line with clinical guidance timelines. The MARCH Protocol emphasis is on arresting haemorrhage by using tourniquets and haemostatic dressings as well as basic casualty management from point of injury to the evacuation platform.

"Come on, come on, let's get there in time."

"Good exercise, well coordinated, in the next exercise we will continue to insist that no crossing takes place."

"Good job, we saved his life."

TACTICAL COMBAT CASUALTY CARE
The course that performs EUTM MALI is known as the FUSCO course.

The course also included the identification of elements, missions, and responsibilities of a rapid reaction force.

“AND IT SEEMED EASY, HANDLING THIS GUN”

In the final phase of the course, in line with EUTM Mali’s guidelines, the military adopted individual protection measures to prevent COVID-19 in Mali, thus contributing to the collective security of all stakeholders without compromising the success of the training.

Five EUTM trainers taught the students the planning and execution skills needed to ensure the defense of an air base.

Over 12 weeks the students progressed and continued to increase the intensity of the exercises.

“No one gets ahead, WE HOLD THE LINE.”

And also with this new circumstances, we continue to support the Malian Armed Forces and meet their needs through close cooperation or advice, training and education.
Throughout these months we have faced many challenges. But there was one we didn’t expect when we were told we were part of the EUIM Mek mission: the coronavirus.

The Force Protection continued with its exercises, giving security by taking the anti-covid measures.

First, it was a matter of ensuring security against the COVID until the mission could continue with the activities again.

Education and advisory activities and those that could be done digitally were maintained. Social distance measures were taken.

"Well, it’s going to be true that it never stops here."

We had to keep working because soon the activities will return.

To avoid any risk for the mission not only to EUIM members but also to MalAF students and the local population, the courses were temporarily postponed.
"WE'LL LEAVE OUT HERE KNOWING THAT IT WAS WORTH IT"