



# EUTM MALI NEWSPAPER

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FIRST INTEL COURSE IN BURKINA FASO



MFCDR MEETS CEMGA OF BURKINA FASO



MAINTENANCE COURSE



IT'S ALL ABOUT PEOPLE

## The Intra-Theater Air Transport unit arrives in Bamako



**The Intra-Theater Air Transport unit arrives in Bamako and joins the European Union Training Mission in Mali**

Brigadier General Fernando Luis GRACIA Herreiz, Force Commander of the European Union Training Mission (EUTM) in Mali, witnessed at Bamako airport the arrival of the first NH90 helicopter the Spanish Army has deployed to Mali as part of the EUTM. Two more helicopters will be flown in soon.

## MESSAGE TO EUTM PERSONEL



Dear EUTM Mali Members,  
The last mile is the hardest but in our deployment also the most rewarding. June was the period to evaluate the tasks accomplished, measure the effectiveness and to ensure continuity.

With the arrival of the first Spanish NH90 rotary wing, we concluded a firm commitment to the overall mission. Hence, in the context of the Mandate 5, it was deemed necessary to have an own air transport unit at the disposal of EUTM Mali, in order to provide freedom of movement.

I was looking forward to linking up with my EUROCORPS colleague and successor in EUTM Mali, the Brigadier General Jochen DEUER, DEU-A. He arrived with full energy. And, BG DEUER is deeply interested in the ongoing issues and is anticipating the many future challenges.

I request from all of you an ultimate effort to enable a smooth and comprehensive handover to our successors. Like in the European Football Championship, the outcome of a match is only decided in the last minute. By giving our last efforts, we will not only allow the best starting position for our successors, but also create that sense of accomplishment for every soldier who has tried to make the difference. Continuity in the mission is of utmost importance, thus further improving the capacity of the Malian Armed Forces.

Once again, my sincerest thanks to a dedicated multinational team that makes every day in Mali count.

Your General,

**Fernando Luis GRACIA HERREIZ**  
Général de brigade  
Commandant de l'EUTM Mali

## FIRST INTEL COURSE IN BURKINA FASO

14/06/2021



First step of mandate 5 in Burkina Faso

Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, June 14. In recent months, various meetings have taken place between the European Union and Burkina Faso authorities to contribute to the

future development of EUTM training activities in that country. After the approval of the legal framework, EUTM is now ready to start the training collaboration with BF armed forces.

A final meeting between the Mission Force Commander of EUTM Mali and the Chief of Defense of Burkina Faso, in the presence of the High Representative of the European Union for the Sahel, Mr. Angel Losada, and the EUDEL ambassador in Burkina Faso led to the opening of the first training activity of EUTM Mali in the country.

EUTM is thus preparing to fulfill one of the main missions entrusted in its Mandate 5, which is its extension to the G5 Sahel countries, starting with Mali's southern neighbor. Within the framework of this regionalization, the progressive implementation of the European Union's military assistance to Burkina Faso is also the first priority.

Thanks to the excellent communication between the Burkinabe authorities and EUTM, the proposal to start our collaboration with a course related to the field of military intelligence, so necessary for the planning and conduct of operations, has been approved. Therefore, we are starting today the "RENS 2021\_1 Analyst" training, which will take place over the next two weeks.

This training aims to provide the trainees with the theoretical and practical knowledge in the field of military intelligence cycle expertise and our working methods, which are necessary to perform their missions as an intelligence analyst within the S2/J2 cell of a battalion or a staff.



## The Intra-Theater Air Transport unit arrives in Bamako



*THE INTRA-THEATER AIR TRANSPORT UNIT ARRIVES IN BAMAKO AND JOINS THE EUROPEAN UNION TRAINING MISSION IN MALI*



Bamako, Modibo Keita International Airport, June 26, 2021 - Brigadier General Fernando Luis GRACIA Herreiz, Force Commander of the European Union Training Mission (EUTM) in Mali, witnessed at Bamako airport the arrival of the first NH90 helicopter the Spanish Army has deployed to Mali as part of the EUTM. Two more helicopters will be flown in soon.

Last Monday, June 21, the personnel of the Rotary Wing Force of the Spanish Army took off from Spain. They arrived at Bamako airport to join EUTM Mali as members of the Intra-Theater Air Transport unit (ITAT).

In the context of the EUTM Mali Mandate 5, approved by the European Union in April 2020, a decentralization of the training activities to the Malian Armed Forces, as well as the extension of the mission area to the other four countries of the G5 Sahel, was mentioned. To enable this project, it was deemed necessary to have an air transport unit at the disposal of EUTM Mali, in order to provide freedom of movement. Spain, fully committed to the stability of the Sahel, offered this Rotary Wing unit to the mission.



The ITAT structure, under the command of Major Miguel Angel Rodriguez Matias, comprises 62 military personnel in the following subunits: The flight unit, the maintenance unit, the supply unit, the transmission unit and the commanding staff.



The unit disposes of three NH90 helicopters of the latest generation, which will increase the transport capacity; thus fulfilling the needs derived from Mandate 5.

Last Saturday, June 26, the reception of the first helicopter took place. This step represents one of the milestones set in Mandate 5.

General GRACIA wanted to witness such a significant event on the spot. At the airport, GRACIA has seen the first NH90 arriving at Bamako airport. The rotary wing was partly disassembled and flown in by an Antonov aircraft.

Spain's firm commitment to the mission has been demonstrated by the provision of a Commanding General to the Mission in the first semester of 2021. His leadership, devotion and commitment has undoubtedly boosted the effective deployment of the ITAT in Mali.



## MFCdr MEETS CEMGA OF BURKINA FASO

14/06/21



A meeting took place today between the Mission Force Commander of EUTM Mali and the Chief of Defense of Burkina Faso, in the presence of the High Representative of the European Union for the Sahel, Mr. Angel Losada, and the EUDEL ambassador in Burkina Faso on the occasion of the opening of the first training activity of EUTM Mali in the country.

Within the framework of EUTM Mali's mandate 5, one of the objectives is to extend the training currently offered to Mali to the other G5 Sahel countries, starting with Burkina Faso. Today it has been taken the first step in this direction, with the aim of improve the capacities of the Burkina Faso Armed Forces.



## INTERVIEW - EUTM MALI ENHANCES ITS CONTINUED COMMITMENT FOR A LASTING STABILITY OF THE SAHEL.



This year 2021 the European Training Mission in Mali celebrated its eight birthday. Since 2013 and on request of the Malian authorities, the European Union Training Mission in Mali provides advice, training and education to the Malian Armed Forces. EUTM is helping the Malian authorities to build an independent and impartial armed force. The EU training force is composed of almost 1000 soldiers from 25 European countries. Regarding EUTM's structure, the Advisory Task Force (ATF) and the Educational and Training

Task Force (ETTF) are by far the most important pillars in the realm of assisting the Malian and G5 Sahel Armed Forces.

Following the strategic review process, the Council of the European Union has decided to extend the mandate of EUTM Mali until 18 May 2024. The Council also authorized the extension of EUTM Mali's area of operations to provide military assistance to the G5 Sahel countries (Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Chad and Mauritania). Supporting the operationalization of the G5 Sahel Joint Force is therefore not a new aspect of EUTM Mali's mandate. To support the G5 Sahel countries, EUTM Mali will follow a phased approach and engage in support outside Mali's borders, where conditions and resources will allow it, with priority given to Burkina Faso and Niger.

The Public Affairs Office of EUTM Mali united a panel for an in-depth interview regarding the mission execution. Hence, who else is more qualified than the Mission Force Commander himself, the Deputy Commander, the Executive Staff to explain the activities, achievements and the way ahead of EUTM Mali?

The panel is composed of the Mission Force Commander, Brigadier General Gracia, ESP Army; the Deputy Commander, Colonel Boeddeker, DEU Air Force; the Advisory Task Force Commander, Colonel Henkinet, BEL Army; and the Educational and Training Task Force Commander, Colonel Dengra Tello, ESP Army.



***Q. Col Henkinet, can you tell us about the training mission? Moreover, which different activities is EUTM Mali carrying out?***

**A.** EUTM Mali is providing advice, trainings and educations to the Malian Forces and G5 Sahel Joint Force. The kind of training ranges from the basic training of soldiers including but not limited to marksmanship and first aid in combat, to the education of General Staff Officers and specialized disciplines such as Intelligence, Counter-Improvised Explosive Devices, Indirect Fires, etc. At every instruction, we ensure that soldiers are given an understanding and appreciation of international humanitarian law. This is something EUTM Mali want to instil in all soldiers it trains and at all command levels. I have to emphasize that whatever training or courses we deliver is requested by the Malian Armed Forces and tailor-made to meet their requirements. Training demands continue to increase significantly and the required course content and training syllabi become more and more diverse. A very important training element for the Malian Armed forces is the train-the-trainer program. The intent is that such a program will one day give the Malian Armed Forces the capability and capacity to conduct training and education courses without external support from EUTM Mali. I witnessed with great pleasure that in the last intelligence course we provided in the second half of May 2021 to FAMA, that three former FAMA graduates were now part of the teaching staff.



**Q.** *Col Dengra, how does EUTM follow up on the delivered training? Is the impact of the training measured? And, how many people are trained so far? What are the most targeted forces, units or military zones?*

**A.** At the end of each training or course, we always perform an after action review in order to check whether the learning or training objectives have been achieved and to review the course program. In terms of the



impact of our training on soldiers in combat operations, we have to rely on reports of Malian Forces' successes in the field or from other international stakeholders like MINUSMA or [Barkhane](#). So far, we have trained around 14500 Malian soldiers divided between Malian Armed Forces, Security Forces and Gendarmerie. Most important is that EUTM Mali is here to respond to the demands of the Malian Forces. We are here at the request of the Malian

authorities and our activities are conducted in full compliance with Malian requests. Recently, in Gao, we started training Malian soldiers who have embraced the [reconciliation program](#) offered by the host nation. We structure the training activities according to two main concepts. First, there is the train-the-trainer concept. This means that the aspirant trainers appointed by the Malian Armed Forces will soon be able to assume their own training events. Next, with reference to leadership, we focus primarily on the lowest echelons of the Malian command structure, who were identified as an important multiplier for the success of their future operations.

**Q. General, what accomplishments gave you the most satisfaction?**

**A.** Every single accomplishment is a step in the right direction toward making the Malian Forces independent. In particular, the signing of a Technical Agreement with the Malian authorities of Bamako airport for the construction of the EUTM MALI Main Base has brought great satisfaction. In terms of infrastructure, we have also reached a fruitful agreement with a civilian company to host the Intra-Theater Air Transport Unit, which will comprise three Spanish NH90 helicopters to be deployed in mid-June. The increase of decentralized training activities and the definitive extension into Niger and Burkina Faso in the context of “the Fifth Mandate regionalization effort” is another key factor. A first activity in Ouagadougou is therefore expected to start in June.



**Q. Col Boeddeker, apart from the training, does EUTM provide any other support to local security forces? In terms of the equipment, EUTM cannot provide lethal equipment as per EU regulations. In which way does this affect its work? Are there requests, by Malian counterparts, to receive more support by way of the provision of equipment?**

**A.** Without any doubt, the provision of sufficient equipment and arms remains a key responsibility of the Malian Government. Our capacity building for Malian Armed Forces aims at the improvement of existing infrastructure, as well as the provision of non-kinetic means and resources.



EUTM Mali handed-over the extensions of the demining school at the Engineering Unit compound at Bamako. It is worth mentioning of course, that this project was sponsored by the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. Luxembourg also sponsored the military handbooks and manuals, which have been provided to the Malian Armed Forces. Apart from EUTM Mali’s capacity building projects, it is well known that many nations in the world donate means and resources to

Mali on bilateral basis, too. For example, Germany is contributing substantially to the fight against terrorism in the Sahel by equipping the Malian Armed Forces with some thirty PUMA M36 armoured vehicles. This is in addition to the more than 50 armoured CASSPYR vehicles already provided. This considerable investment is part of the plan to strengthen the resilience and manoeuvrability of Malian Security Units.

**Q. General, how do you see the way ahead?**

**A.** The situation in Mali has been complex since 2013 and remains complex, but success is achievable with increased unity of effort. The Fifth Mandate shifts our operational center of gravity from Bamako to the center of Mali. Decentralized activities, including non-executive accompaniment, are a key factor and provide a new

level of ambition. New infrastructure is needed to host new capabilities and achieve our operational objectives. All the G5 Sahel countries are now part of the joint operations area. The way ahead is very demanding and EUTM Mali needs firm support more than ever.



**Q. General, last question, you often used the slogan “EUTM Mali makes every day count”. What was the rationale behind it?**

**A.** Since our early deployment, we are well aware of the challenging tasks resultant from the Mandate 5 Mission Plan. I motivate my staff to work very hard and effectively on a daily basis, knowing that we had little



time to accomplish much. On the other hand, I also expect my instructors would give the best of themselves so that the training was delivered to the highest possible standards. Moreover, it was my intent to ensure that all students, be they soldiers of FAMA or G5 Sahel Joint Force soldiers, would be inspired and motivated to do their best in training or educational sessions. In answering this last question, I would like to take the opportunity to thank my staff, my instructors and soldiers for their professionalism and great dedication to the mission. My sincerest thanks for a job well done.

I would also take this opportunity to congratulate the EUMS its 20-year anniversary. While the MPCC is our Operational Headquarters, EUTM Mali has enjoyed the support of the EUMS and benefited from its cooperation and expertise. We look forward to the EUMS contributing to EU security and defense for the next 20 years and beyond.



## ***EUTM MALI SUPPORTS SECTOR 5 COMMAND POST IN SEGOU***

*14/06/2021*



Members of the mobile team of the EUTM Advisory Task Force were present from June 14 to 25 at the Command Post (CP) No. 5 of the 2nd Military Region.

Their mission was to support and accompany the staff officers of this command post in several areas: intelligence, planning, conduct of operations, communications, operational reports and returns, and training with the establishment of an annual training plan for the 21st Infantry Regiment.

Indeed, the purpose of the support was to propose methods, procedures and expertise adapted to each of the above-mentioned areas.

As advice was already offered in other areas, this support once again contributes to the strengthening and development of the operational capacity of the Malian Armed Forces.



## **CLOSURE CEREMONY OF INTEL CORSE IN BF**

*25/06/2021*



Presided by Colonel Major Oumarou Sawadogo, Head of the Central Armed Forces Group of Burkina Faso, the closing ceremony of the "Intelligence Analyst" course was held in Ouagadougou. This training was the pioneer activity in the extension of the mandate 5 of the European mission EUTM-Mali to the G5 Sahel countries, and excellent results were obtained both in the performance of the students during the training and in the collaboration between the European and Burkinabè authorities. After this

first cooperation, EUTM and the Burkinabe Armed Forces will continue the training program coordinated by both parties for the next months.



## RAISING KIDAL

*A SHORT INSIGHT OF EUTM MALI'S MOST SIGNIFICANT TRAINING CHALLENGE*



Sixty eight (68) personnel, some nervous, other less so, stand before the European Education and Training Team. It would almost remind you of Day 1 with a new recruit or cadet intake at home, almost but not entirely. This however is a raising order (Military term referring to the gathering together of troops or soldiers in preparation for combat) unlike any other. A quick scan reveals a significant age differential, from the twenty something, to the fifty something, they're all here.

A plethora of headdress variants from the Beret to the Arabic Keffiyeh (headscarf) reflect a multitude of military, personal and cultural backgrounds. The presence of four (4) Interpreters compounds the group geographic differentials and is an indicator of the challenge ahead. Finally, a closer look reveals weathered and hardened faces. This is a silent clue that many of these men have significant combat experience having been on opposing sides in past conflicts that political engagement, peace agreements and professional training are trying to bring to an end.

Seven (7) years prior to this moment, on the July 24 2014, a peace accord known as The Algiers Process was brokered to establish a national and durable peace plan in order to guarantee a definitive solution to the crisis in Northern MALI, known by some as AZAWAD. Chapter 8 of this agreement referred to Disarmament, Demobilization and Reinsertion (DDR), of non-government ex-combatants. An initiative to reintegrate those lost to various TAGs (Terrorist Armed Groups) or other non-government forces pre and post 2013. The incentive – ultimately for the end user, a more organized existence with an initial service payment followed by a regular and reliable salary, an incentive that has attracted in excess of 30,000 applicants thus far. Graduates of the DDR process are organized as reconstituted units within the MaAFs (Malian Armed Forces) and are ultimately redeployed throughout the Northern Regions to facilitate the return of security to these regions. Training responsibility of DDR personnel lies primarily with the MaAF but the International Community contributes. In this case it's the turn of EUTM (The European Union Training Mission in MALI).

Historically, EUTM's past has been focused on centralized training within the vicinity of the country's capital BAMAKO but the exigencies of the current situation in country and the dislocation of fighting troops has required EUTM to become expeditionary meaning EUTM have re-located closer to the trainees, thus closer to the areas of conflict.



## THE DIGITAL NEWSPAPER ON [EUTMMALI.EU](http://EUTMMALI.EU)

No less than twenty-five European Countries contribute professional military trainers to the mission. These trainers with a multitude of instructional skill sets and experience are broken into mobile training teams (MTTs) in an attempt to achieve the EUTM Mission Statement, “To contribute to the improvement and capabilities of the Malian Armed Forces.”

This particular task, directed by our Education and Training Task Force Commander Col Rafael DENGRA and implemented by our Chief Instructor Lt Col Alexander BAUER would present a challenge like no other to a carefully selected European Training Team. The Training area itself is a Malian Armed Forces Camp, outside GAO or GAWGAW city, a historically important commercial center for trans African Trade, 320km EAST of TIMBUKTU on the banks of the River Niger, a gateway town to the Sahara and as Irish trainer, Sgt Gerry O’Gorman from Ireland reminds me, “It’s a long long way from TIPPERARY!”.



The Training Team deployed to GAO, consists of Latvian, French, Austrian, German, Irish and Lithuanian Trainers. Spanish comrades provide a security element. This security allow the training team to concentrate on their task, whilst an ex-British Forces Sgt and a Ukrainian Doctor provide medical cover, it’s a mixing pot of personalities and culture that somehow works.



Conditions are difficult for all, especially so for the trainee students, they also have been brought together by the demands of their profession, but unlike our team, theirs is fraught often with distrust and cultural difference that simmer constantly. However, shared hardship has a way of breaking down boundaries and creating positive group cohesion. That’s how military training is designed.

The Course Leader, Captain K. K. from Latvia, focuses on a “Move – Shoot – Communicate – Medicate” training plan, knowing that to impart these skills, best prepares the trainees for redeployment to the Northern Regions of KIDAL and probable conflict.

Theory lessons, such as land navigation, International Humanitarian Law are tediously translated through French, TAMASHEK & BAMBARA. These are followed by intense practical exercises. It is not easy.

## THE DIGITAL NEWSPAPER ON [EUTMMALI.EU](http://EUTMMALI.EU)



Crawl, move, shoot, communicate, medicate, repeat and repeat and repeat. The training aim focuses on developing an instantaneous and effective reaction to enemy contact, and building on this by drawing on an array of military skills to ensure mission success.

The trainers focus on the junior leadership within the KIDAL Company, those that by Rank will burden the responsibility of command, whose action or inaction can have serious consequence.

Down time leads to open discussions, the MALIAN soldiers share their personal experiences in the field and trainers listen. The Malian soldier's families are accommodated within the grounds and they too build a rapport with trainers, often curious to hear stories and to extend the MALIAN welcome. The entirety of this project is far from one way but rather a cooperative, a symbiotic relationship where shared knowledge and skills are the byproduct.

The process is not without its challenges; a short timeline with the Company feels more compressed as their deployment date beckons. The trainers always want to give more but they have a common enemy, the sun is relentless in the training grounds, the mercury does not fall below 44 C on any training day and often screams 50 C, personal administration, hydration and an ability not to overreach are key in maintaining their ability to impart correct and quality military instruction.

Staff from our Medical Support Team "IQARUS", take seriously their job in this environment, constantly checking Trainers and Trainees. "Dr. Denys" and Military Paramedic "Mike" prompting gentle reminders of hydration and sun protection. It is easy to see that they are fully invested in their duty of care for troops, and their sincerity is not lost on the training team who have fully assimilated them as part of the EUTM GAO family.



It's week three of five before the ever-elusive "Buy In" is achieved. A positive rapport of mutual respect between trainer and trainee has been forged, trust and effort is reciprocal and The KIDAL Company is beginning to believe.

They are beginning to believe that they can be better, that they can work together and achieve the common goal, that they can make a difference. Personal confidence, shattered in many, from effort in often hopeless situations is gradually restored and a competitive more determined mindset now fills this space, reflected in the roars of "SUIVEZ-MOI!" or "FOLLOW ME!", during squad tactic maneuvers.

Substantial time is spent on the subject of Tactical Casualty Care under Fire .A small but effective



knowledge of Pre-hospital trauma care, especially when medical resources are scarce can truly mean the difference of increasing survivability from a field accident or injury.

The Company of trainees will redeploy to their Station in KIDAL within two (2) weeks and what the future has for them is uncertain at best. They will however, be better prepared for that uncertainty. Preparation brings confidence and in times of duress, it will make the difference.

Trainers and trainees wish they had more time but time is an exigency of any military mission and this too is understood by both parties. Nonetheless, the mission objective to improve the military capability of the KIDAL Company has not just been achieved but has surpassed expectation.



The European Trainers draw similarities to their own situation of leaving home for overseas duties to those of these soldiers and their families. The anxiety is tangible and emotive. No one openly discusses the possibilities but all are aware of the risks. The trainers wish the best for their trainees and their families, and do their best to alleviate the uncertainty of the future, best communicated with a friendly smile, a high five or a moment to say “How are you?”

Hearts and minds can never be underestimated. The Malian Families living in The Training area intrigued by our presence. A friendly smile does a lot to ease fears and is welcomed by all.

Quietly whispered is the EUTM trainers desire to accompany their students on their deployment ahead, so far not permitted in combat situations, but indicative of the sense of comradeship between trainer and trainee and the epitome of the military spirit, “You do not leave a soldier behind”.

The sentiment is a broader reflection on the relationship of this mission with our hosts, where perhaps as important as our training objective, is the mutual shared experiences, new friendships and an ability for all of us to understand each other better.

1st COY KIDAL, as an EUTM collective, we thank you for the experience shared, we wish you every luck in your operations ahead and we hope we have made as much a difference to your lives as you have to ours.

Major Kieran WOULFE, IE Army, EUTM Mali - ETTF KTC - Deputy Chief Instructor

## EUTM ORGANIZES A PANEL ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND CONFLICT IN MALI



25/06/21



Bamako, June 25, - The European Training Mission (EUTM) in Mali organised a panel with key actors on Human Rights and Conflict in Mali. The aim of the event was to share the actions, currently carried out by the different organisations, and to strengthen the links between EUTM and other partners in the Sahel region.

Representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross, UN WOMEN, EUCAP, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights were also present. Giovanni Arcudi and Isabelle de Ghellinck from EUCAP briefed an interesting update on the actions taken to improve the situation of military justice in the country in order to prevent impunity for certain crimes committed by the military and security forces.

The ICRC representatives explained the actions the Committee is carrying out for the dissemination of humanitarian law, support to the most vulnerable population and issues related to detainees. On behalf of UN WOMEN, Mr. Wanalher Ag Alwaly and Ms Aminata Maiga explained the organisation's projects in the most problematic areas of Mali, such as Mopti, and the conflict resolution mechanism that is implemented as a prompt solution to problematic situations.

On behalf of OHCHR, Mr Augustin Hodali explained the Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law Compliance Framework of the G5 Sahel Joint Force and the 7 pillars wherein OHCHR intervenes. Hence, CITAC (Civilian Casualties Identification, Tracking and Analysis Cell) is a fundamental mechanism for a better analysis and understanding of the impact of its operations on civilians and their reparation. EUTM was able to present the lines of operations regarding the implementation of the 5th Mandate, in particular the non-executive accompaniment to improve the lessons identified of training activities, provided to the security Forces in both Mali and Burkina Faso, and to get a first-hand impression of their performances.



In short, this type of meeting builds trust between the different organisations and helps us to obtain an understanding of the situation in the country thanks to the views provided by the main actors.

“EUTM Mali subscribes to EU’s Comprehensive Approach to support the efforts of G5 Sahel for peace, security and development in Mali and the region.”

## PICK UP AND TRUCK MAINTENANCE COURSE

31/05/21



KATI, from May 31 until June 25, - The "Pick-Up and Truck Maintenance" course took place in Kati.

This four-week course was already the second logistics course that was organized by the European Training Mission (EUTM) in Mali in close cooperation with the Malian Armed Forces. In April and May, the "Driving School for Instructors" for Army-members only had already taken place. On the other hand, the "Pick-Up and Truck Maintenance" course was a real "joint" course, since participants from the Direction of Materiel, Fuels and Transportation (DMHTA) also attended.

The lessons were given both in rooms of the 37th Transportation and Maintenance Regiment (RTE) of the Malian Army and in the Central Vehicle Repair Facility (ECRRA) of the DMHTA.

Furthermore, the German Armed Forces Technical Advisory Group (GAFTAG) enabled the course thanks to the provision of tools.

During the four weeks, the two EUTM Educational and Training Task Force (ETTF) instructors provided knowledge on diagnostic and basic maintenance, vehicle structure and basic recovery to the 13 non-commissioned officers and enlisted soldiers.

The opening and closing ceremonies were chaired by Colonel-Major Deme, head of logistics and Colonel Samaké, the chief of the training division, both representing the Malian General Staff, as well as by Lieutenant-Colonel Théra, the commander of the 37th RTE.

Col Vincent HENKINET (BEL-Army), Commander of the EUTM Advisory Task Force, and Col Rafael DENGRA (ESP-Army), the Commander of EUTM ETTF, both representing EUTM, presided respectively the opening and closing ceremony. In their speeches, all representatives underlined the importance of this course, as the experience of operations shows that preventive maintenance of equipment is a significant factor for success in the operations of the Malian Armed Forces.



## EUTM'S EXPEDITIONARY FOOTPRINT AT GAO: "IT'S ALL ABOUT PEOPLE."

*THIS STORY IS ESPECIALLY DEDICATED TO A TOUGH CREW OF EUROPEAN UNION  
TRAINING MISSION MALI SOLDIERS WHO MOVE SAND HILLS IN AUSTERE  
ENVIRONMENT.*



Upon arrival at Gao, you are warmly welcomed by Maj K. W. of the Irish Army. Together with Lt F. M., DEU Army, they take the visitors to their duty station, more specifically a small compound located in MINUSMA's Super Camp and near a graveyard. The EUTM crew call it themselves Hotel California.

*"On a bright desert highway. Lot of sweat on top of my head. Warm smell of heat. Rising up through the air.*

*Up ahead in the distance. I saw a heavy gate. My head grew heavy, and my sight grew dim. I had to stop for the mission.*

*There he stood in the doorway. I heard the mission bell. And I was thinking to myself: "This could be heaven or this could be hell".*

*Then he lit up a smile. And he showed me the way. There were voices down the graveyard. I thought I heard them say.*

*Welcome to the Hotel California. Such a lovely place (such a lovely place). Such a lovely crew. Plenty of room at the Hotel California. Any time of year (any time of year). You can find it here.*

*His mind is expendables-twisted. And he got the duty car. He got a lot of tough, tough soldiers he calls friends.*

*How they dance in the graveyard. Sweet summer sweat. Some dance to remember. Some dance to forget.*

*So I called up the Chief: "Please bring me my holy water". He said: "We haven't had that spirit here since our arrival."*

*And still those voices are calling from far away. Wake you up in the middle of the night. Just to hear them say.*

*Welcome to the Hotel California. Such a lovely place (such a lovely place). Such a lovely crew.*

*They're living it up at the Hotel California. What a nice surprise (what a nice surprise). Bring your alibis.*

*Mosquitos on the ceiling. The water bottles on ice. And he said: "We are all just soldiers here of our own device."*

*And in the master's chambers. They gathered for the brief. They stab it with their steely knives. But they just can't kill the heat.*

*Last thing I remember. There was no electricity. I had to find the passage back. To the place I was before.*

*"Relax," said the brave man. "We are programmed to receive. You can check out any time you like. But you can never leave."*

**“It is all about people”**. The EUTM on-scene-commander, Major K. W. forged a solid team of around 25 multinational soldiers. Thanks to an extraordinary esprit the corps, they are able to perform their duties in an excellent manner from a remote location and in austere environments. The team consists of instructors, force protection and medical personnel. Moreover, everybody contributes significantly to mission successes.

Hence, Gao is separated 1000 kilometers from Bamako, where the Headquarters of EUTM Mali are located. Temperatures are around 45 degrees in the shadow, whilst in the sun temperatures raise until 55 degrees. The water for washing hands and taking a shower is burning your skin. Every soldier requires around 15 liter of bottled drinking water a day.

Because its expeditionary nature, the training mission in Gao is conducted in harsh circumstances. The crew, not to say the EUTM pioneers at GAO, is trying to improve its work and living conditions on a daily basis. So



far, it is extremely hard to have both corporate and welfare connectivity. Nevertheless, once you witness their comradeship, cohesion and spirit on the spot, you will never leave Hotel California.

**“It is all about people”**. The task of the EUTM Gao team consists of training reconciled Malian Soldiers. And, the Malian First Military Region and reconstituted units in Gao, remains for EUTM a first priority Training Audience.

Reconciliation is the process of making groups of people friendly again after they have argued seriously or fought

and kept apart from each other. These Malian soldiers have benefited of a Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration program, executed by the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali, in war-torn societies in the Gao-Kidal region. These former combatants have disposed small arms, ammunitions and explosives. After a controlled discharge of active combatants from armed groups, reintegration focuses on the process by which ex-combatants acquire civilian status and gain sustainable employment and income. The objective is to contribute to the security and stability of Mali so that recovery and development can begin. (Source: MINUSMA).



**“It’s all about people”**. When training these reconciled Malian Soldiers, EUTM Mali instructors focus on leadership and cohesion. “Suivez-moi” or “follow me” becomes the main motto of the Malian platoon. This was emphasized repeatedly by the EUTM on-scene –commander during his speech to the Malian Platoon after finishing a kind of rehearsal exercise, held on June 18, 2021. Apart from basic military skills, medical care in combat, reaction on improvised explosive devices, and International Humanitarian Law were comprised in the training sessions as well. A long lasting effort from EUTM’s side but with good results.

**“It’s all about people”**. EUTM trainers are so engaged and so absorbed in their job that they regret having to let the recruits go without being able to support them further on their side. Hence, the non-executive nature of the mandate does not allow EUTM to accompany trained Malian soldiers in combat situations. However, accompaniment is proposed to the 1 MR (First Military Region) and Poste de Commandement Interarmées du Théâtre. At that time, the tough EUTM Gao Team will be able to state “you do not leave somebody behind”.

Hotel California and its occupants exude something extraordinary. You can feel it but it is hard to describe. Maybe I am wrong but I do think they are expendables-twisted. Normally, everybody needs these extraordinary people but finally they do not want to have expendables invited around their table. At Hotel

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California, it is twisted. It is the other way around. The team does not want to sit around somebody else's comfortable and copious table anymore. As a souvenir, they like to have the group picture in front of the graveyard. They like the dirt on the training field. They are used to stand the hardships. As long they have degraded communications, you should go and visit them. You have to bring your story to them. These extraordinary men will show you a lovely place and it will be so hard to leave.

EUTM Mali PAO



## SECOND STAFF CERTIFICATE SESSION STUDENTS OWN COMMAND AND OPS



01/07/21



During a dozen hours of initiation to the computerized system C2OPS (Command and Control of Operations) led by two experts of EUTM, the Malian officer trainees of the C.E.M. (Staff Certificate) had the opportunity to initiate and train in the use of this computer tool.

C2OPS is a command system that allows orders, reports and alerts to be processed according to procedures that are synonymous with efficiency and responsiveness. This system aims to strengthen the operational capacity of the Armed Forces of Mali (FAMa).



July 1, 2021, the trainees, like their elders from the first session, received the signed attestation from the EUTM Commander, Brigadier General GRACIA, and are now ready to operate this system in their future assignment.

## EUTM SIGNS A TECHNICAL AGREEMENT WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS



01/07/21



Bamako, July 01, 2021, - The European Union Training Mission in Mali and the International Committee of the Red Cross have signed a partnership agreement which will facilitate the dissemination of International Humanitarian Law to the Malian Armed Forces and G5 Sahel Joint Force. In particular, International Humanitarian Law is integrated into the training activities by EUTM trainers and counsellors.

EUTM reaffirms its commitment to offer a quality-training programme based on the respect to the Law of Armed Conflicts.

