In this issue:
1. The cover story takes us to EU Comprehensive Approach.
2. The newsletter also presents the European Union Training Mission in Mali.
COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY STRUCTURES: EU TRAINING MISSION MALI

In this issue we provide an insight into the European Union Training Mission in Mali, and interviewed Brigadier General Marc Rudkiewicz, who is the Mission Commander.

Could you explain the role of EUTM Mali?
EUTM Mali is a non-executive mission with two main pillars - training and advising, which are an important element of the support programme undertaken by the international community and the European Union to assist the Malian government with its reform agenda. The objectives for EUTM Mali are two fold; in the field of advising, the main aim is to assist in the restructuring of the Malian Armed Forces (MaAF) into an affordable and sustainable force. For training, which is organized at both levels – individual and collective - with the main effort on the last, the objective is to train 8 Groupements Tactiques InterArmes (GTIA) by May 2016, 5 have already been delivered to the MaAF. The desired military endstate is for the MaAF to be able to deploy at least 3 GTIAs on operations on a permanent basis, supported by reorganized logistics, human resources and training systems, under effective organic and operational command and control structures.

How does EUTM Mali work, in practical terms?
The return to law and order and reform of the MaAF through reconciliation represents the cornerstone of the process which aims to shape a favorable environment to enable the durability of trained units. EUTM Mali is well organized and equipped to fulfil its main tasks: to train GTIAs through a programme designed to prepare them to be deployed to carry out security missions together with MaAF executive partners, MINUSMA and BARKHANE, and to accompany and assist the Malian military authorities in the design and conduct of reforming their defense structures. Understanding and compliance with international humanitarian law is a key component of the mission.
The training of a GTIA lasts for 12 weeks and is broken in to 5 main phases; a leadership component for commander of all levels, a basic skills package focused on the soldiers, a specialization phase for the different elements, an integration phase for company groups before culminating in a GTIA level exercise. Training is focused on 4 tactical actions: area control, reconnaissance, neutralizing of an isolated threat and blocking action. The different specialties within the GTIA are: infantry, light-armour, snipers, reconnaissance, artillery, engineers (including EOD), TACP, combat casualty care, communications and logistics. Besides the military training, moral guidance is also emphasized focusing on cohesion, discipline and ethics. The know-how and behavior elements of the training process are held together by the power of trust and exemplary conduct displayed by both trainers and trainees. At the same time as the training of GTIAs, a training course for Malian trainers (Train The Trainers - TTT) is conducted. These trainers will, in turn, become instructors in their specialties, which allows the development of an autonomous training capability over time.
The counseling and advice pillar is carried out by a multidisciplinary team of twenty military advisers, who support their Malian counterparts in the following areas: human resources management, intelligence, conduct of operations, information systems, operational logistics, readiness, finance and planning.

What drives you to achieve your objectives? What are your biggest accomplishments?
EUTM Mali embodies the spirit of defense and security measures conducted by the European Union to support the empowerment of the Malian Armed Forces. Today 25 European nations, amongst which Switzerland, Moldavia and Montenegro have around 600 members deployed within EUTM Mali and we can say that the European dimension represents one of the main assets of our mission. Starting in February 2013, five GTIAs have been trained by EUTM Mali, and importantly, over this time we have disseminated a common military culture across the Malian military community. A long term efficiency, the nesting of EUTM into the Security Sector Reform and wider Malian national restructuring process and the maintenance of trust and confidence with all stakeholders are seen as our criteria for success.