

Chairman's Newsletter

EUROPEAN UNION MILITARY COMMITTEE



Gen. Claudio Graziano

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2019 was a momentous year for European security and defence, with important achievements made in this sensitive field.

In taking stock, we cannot miss to underline, first of all, the tangible progress that has been made in the performance of our Missions and Operations. With regards to that, I want to commend the professionalism and enthusiasm of our women and men in uniform deployed in some of the most demanding and dangerous areas of the globe, as well as the continuous effort and support provided by Member States. It is very important, from the military point of view, that this effort from Member States continues to be confirmed.

At the same time, we should also look at some concerns that need to be considered. EUTM personnel, in particular, are operating in high threat environments, where attacks are increasing in both complexity and number. Recent attacks in Somalia and Mali resulting in regrettable casualties clearly showed that our adversaries are able to disrupt our activities and the general security situation in and near EUTMs areas of deployment may suggest that the threat of terrorist attacks may increase in quality and quantity in the coming future. To enhance our ability to successfully support and assist our Partner Countries the current design of the three Training Missions needs to evolve and the mandates adapted accordingly. The EU Military Committee is working, with the support of the European Union Military Staff, on the elaboration of measures and proposals that would contribute to making the EU's military Training Missions more robust, and to increasing the effectiveness of our efforts in these countries. We have to make sure that our missions continue to contribute to the EU's overall credibility as a reliable partner and fulfil our level of ambition.

The successful outcomes achieved through EU military engagement have also been possible thanks to effective capabilities development process supporting the efforts on the ground. A lot of good work has been undertaken to make the different building blocks – CARD, PESCO and the EDF – fit well together, focusing on the same set of capability priorities under the CDP. The challenge is of course to embed them fully in MS national defence planning. This is critical to deliver tangible capabilities through cooperation and this is the overriding priority.

In 2019, the EU has also enhanced its strategic autonomy and its ability to effectively cooperate with our Partners. In this regard, the CHOD meetings have become an important platform for interaction with third states contributing to EU-led military training missions or EUNAVFOR ATALANTA (Albania, Bosnia and Hercegovina, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, the Republic of North Macedonia and the Republic of Korea), as well as with the United States, notably through participation by US AFRICOM. Additionally, the active engagement of the Chairman of the EU Military Committee has been instrumental in establishing and pursuing high-level military-to-military contacts with additional third states, some of them expressing their intention to become partners and contribute to EU-led military Missions and Operations. Cooperation with the United Nations remains sound, and we witness a continuous strengthening of the EU-NATO bond. In this respect, our common narrative should keep on highlighting that a stronger EU and a stronger NATO go hand in glove, and a stronger EU-NATO cooperation makes the transatlantic relations stronger as well.

As we look towards 2020 a number of challenges have emerged, crises in Africa, Eastern Europe and the Middle East represent challenges for the EU's security and defence. The achievements of 2019 provide a firm base from which EU MSs, together, can meet them.



The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the author and do not represent the official position of the European Union Military Committee or the single Member States' Chiefs of Defence

LATEST EVENTS



EU ceremony to honour the French soldiers that died on operation in Mali on 25 Nov (Bruxelles, 2 December)



Convention on Space, Security and EU Defence (Naples, 6 December)

“EU TRAINING MISSION in Mali”

by Brigadier General Christian Habersatter EUTM Mali Mission Force Commander (1)

The accomplishment of the mission objectives is achieved through a set of activities and courses executed by EUTM Mali that can be divided into training, education and advice. This holistic approach aims to increase the capabilities of the Malian Armed Forces (MaAF) from a strategic, operational and tactical perspective.

The different courses and activities are delivered and led by specialized teams composed mainly of members of the Education and Training Task Force (ETTF) and the Advisory Task Force (ATF). The range of activities is wide and of varied duration depending on the objectives to be achieved: from intensive one-week activities to the daily advice on multiannual plans at strategic level.

Decentralized activities

CMATT (Combined Mobile Advisory and Training Team) is a team designed with elements of the different EUTM Mali units with the objective of carrying out the activities of the mission, in an intensive way, in any of the 7 Military Regions that are part of the mission area. For this purpose, it integrates personnel specialized in training, education and advice, force protection units, medical support and the necessary logistic support for the sustainment of CMATT personnel during the period of deployment.

The duration of activities is variable, depending on the objectives

ble, depending on the objectives to be achieved. The deployments can vary between 2 and 5 weeks. Nineteen CMATTs have taken place since 2016.

First Operational Advisory Activity (OAA) in Sévaré

EUTM has trained the officers of the recently set-up first ever Malian PCIAT (Poste de Commandement Interarmées de Théâtre – Theatre Headquarters) after a specific request by the Malian Armed Forces. From the 2nd to the 6th of September 2019, officers from the PCIAT Centre in Sévaré attended a training course led by EUTM Mali Advisory Task Force (ATF). Its objectives are to enable the PCIAT Centre to cooperate and share intelligence within the operational domain, conduct planning at the operational level, monitor information and perform the "battle rhythm" in a methodical manner. The modules taught during this instruction include the importance of CIMIC, information management, operational messaging, the intelligence cycle and the Operational Deci-



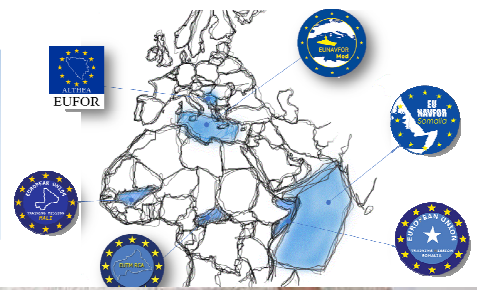
Brigadier General Christian Habersatter

sion Making Methodcycle and the Operational Decision Making Method. The OAA consisted of J1, J2, J3, J4, J6, J7 and CIMIC specialists. This team was completed with a trainer from the civilian EU-mission EUCAP Sahel Mali and a representative of the Malian Operation centre. The participants discussed and presented an exercise, given by the instructors, on the methodology for developing an operational decision. Such decentralized activities are of great importance to the MaAF and reinforce the already existing close ties between EUTM and our Malian partners.



(1) On 12th December, Brigadier General Christian Habersatter handed over the EUTM Mali Command to Brigadier General João Pedro Boga Ribeiro

News from our Operations & Missions



EUFOR ALTHEA

On 19th December, members of the EUFOR Joint Military Affairs Countermines (JMA CM) team travelled to Travnik to receive a brief at the BiH Mine Action Centre (BHMIC) Regional Office on progress made in emergency minefield marking of Suspect Hazardous Areas (SHA). They also visited recently marked areas in the municipality of Donji Vakuf.



EU NAVFOR Atalanta

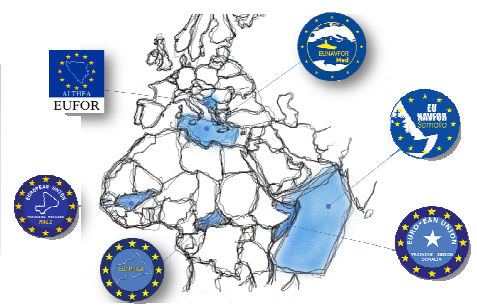
On 7th December, the EU NAVFOR Somalia Operation ATALANTA flagship, ESPS Victoria, and her SH-60B helicopter, carried out a variety of training exercises with the United States Personnel Recovery Task Force (PRTF). The training covered various activities including HELOCAST practices with re-embarkation via rope ladder and hoist, personnel recovery activation and fast rope procedures, parachuting exercises. The training was an excellent opportunity to enhance coordination and interoperability between Operation ATALANTA assets and the U.S. PRTF. Such activities are clear example of EU NAVFOR Somalia's commitment to cooperating with different actors in the Horn of Africa region.



EU NAVFORMED Sophia

On 18th December, in conclusion of her mandate, the former High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Ms. Federica Mogherini, awarded the "The Common Security and Defence Policy Service Medal for Extraordinary Merit Service" to Vice Admiral Enrico Credendino, Commander of EUNAVFOR MED - operation SOPHIA.

News from our Operations & Missions



EUTM Mali

On 12th December, Brigadier General João Pedro Boga Ribeiro officially took over command of EUTM Mali from Brigadier General Christian Habersatter, in the presence of the Military Planning and Conduct Capability (MPCC) Director, Lieutenant General Esa Pulkkinen. The EU has approved EUTM Mali's fourth mandate, which will last until May 2020, with the focus on four pillars of activity: advice, training, military education and support of the G5S Joint Force.



EUTM Somalia

On 6th December, the Finnish National Day was celebrated at the International Campus, in Mogadishu International Airport, in the presence of the Finland Deputy Ambassador – Head of Cooperation, H.E. Karita Laisi, the EUTM Somalia Mission Force Commander, Brigadier General Antonello De Sio, and the EUCAP Strategic Maritime Adviser Mr. Jukka Hollström.

Finland's Independence Day celebrates Finland's declaration of independence from Russia in 1917.

Finnish personnel cover several pivotal positions in the EUTM-S Headquarter, performing mentoring and training activities. EUTM-S is particularly grateful to Finland because its personnel support the strengthening of Defence institutions in Somalia.



EUTM RCA

As part of its partnership with the Central African Defense Ministry, and in support of the revival and autonomy of the Central African Armed Forces (FACA), the EUTM-RCA organized the first training activity for Officers of the Infantry Application Division from February 4th to December 24th. Supervised by counselors from the Education pillar (EDP) of EUTM-RCA, this training took place in three stages.

The end of the training was marked by a ceremony held on December 24th, in the Kassaï camp in Bangui, in the presence of Colonel Victor YACOUB, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Central African Armed Forces and authorities of EUTM-CAR.

News from the Committee

Meeting with the Egyptian Ambassador to the EU and BE

On 2nd December, the Chairman of the European Union Military Committee (CEUMC), General Claudio Graziano, met with the Egyptian Ambassador to the EU and Belgium, H.E. Khaled Aly El Bakly.

This was a valuable occasion to discuss issues of shared strategic interests. The importance of a strong EU - Egypt relation, as well as the meaningful European presence in the region were clearly underlined.



Meeting with the Italian Minister for European Affairs

On 3rd December, the Chairman of the EU Military Committee, General Claudio Graziano, met with the Italian Minister for European Affairs, Mr. Enzo Amendola.

The Chairman and the Minister had a very productive sharing of views on the need to enhance capability development among EU Member States (MS), as well as MSs' operational commitment in order to make the EU Defence more credible and effective.

Address to the Polish War Studies Academy

On 12th December, the Chairman of the European Union Military Committee (CEUMC), General Claudio Graziano, addressed the attendees of the Polish War Studies Academy, on the occasion of their study trip to the EU and NATO Institutions.

General Graziano took the opportunity to provide insights on the topic of the current military aspects of the EU Global Strategy and reiterate the importance for the EU to achieve its own strategic autonomy, which will eventually also contribute to a stronger NATO .

