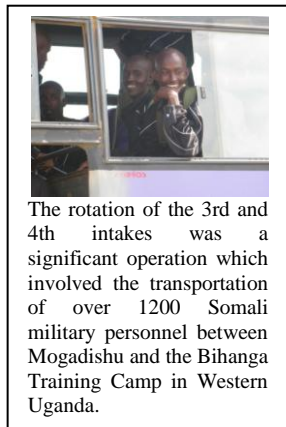




Headquarters European Union Training Mission
Public Information Office
Forrest Cottage
Kampala (UGANDA)
E-Mail: pio@eutmsomalia.eu

New Security Forces for Somalia



The rotation of the 3rd and 4th intakes was a significant operation which involved the transportation of over 1200 Somali military personnel between Mogadishu and the Bihanga Training Camp in Western Uganda.

The European Union Training Mission (EUTM) for Somalia successfully delivered a 3rd rotation of well trained Somali soldiers to the Somali authorities in Mogadishu. This EU program will have trained more than 3000 Somali soldiers by the end of the 4th training intake.

Step by step security is improving in and around Mogadishu. The soldiers trained by the EU play an important role in this development. They were not only trained in their professional military skills, but also how to apply international law on human rights and gender. The EU Training Mission is part of a much broader Strategy of the EU on how to assist countries in the Horn of Africa in countering piracy and improving security. This is of great importance for the countries in the region and for all EU Member States given the high economic relevance of the

region.

The training is conducted in Bihanga Training Camp which is located in Western Uganda. During each six month training session, between 600 and 900 Somali men and women are trained by teams of military trainers from twelve EU contributing nations in partnership with the Ugandan Army. The aim of the training is to contribute to the strengthening of the Somali National Security Forces and thereby contribute to the credibility of the Somali Government as a functioning institution serving the Somali people.

Units and Newly Qualified Trainers Return to Mogadishu

Following their recent graduation and Passing-Out Parade, four newly trained Somali company sized units returned from the training camp to Mogadishu, together with a cohort of sixty newly qualified military Trainers. On Friday, the last of the six hundred and three newly trained Somali military personnel were repatriated to Mogadishu ready to be integrated into the Somali National Security Forces. Now that they are back in their homeland, they are fully prepared to serve their country and assist their fellow citizens in getting back on their feet following twenty years of chaos.

The Training goes on - Fourth Training Intake in Uganda

The closing of one door sees the opening of another. The 603 newly qualified soldiers were replaced by 581 new trainees. The excited new recruits arrived from Mogadishu wearing black tracksuits and a nervous smile. Upon their arrival the new personnel were welcomed by the EUTM Somalia staff. Any anxiety suddenly disappeared in the presence of a friendly smile, words of encouragement followed by their first meal on Ugandan soil before being transported to the Bihanga Training Camp in the Western Ugandan district of Ibanda, about 280 km from Kampala.

EU Training in Uganda - Part of a Comprehensive Approach

The EU training initiative is part of the EU comprehensive approach towards the stability of Somalia, and it is in line with the UNSC recommendation on the development of the Somali Security Sector Institutions. The EU Training Program is part of a wider stakeholder agreement involving the United Nations, the African Union, Uganda and the United States.

Captions: (picture of the group) The rotation of the 3rd and 4th intakes was a significant operation which involved the transportation of over 1200 Somali military personnel between Mogadishu and the Bihanga Training Camp in Western Uganda.