



## Press Release

### DEPARTURE OF THE FIRST EUROCORPS ROTATION TO MALI

On Friday 8 January 2021, 36 Eurocorps soldiers boarded an A400 M military transport aircraft of the Spanish Armed Forces in Strasbourg-Entzheim airport to deploy to Mali for their mission.

The Commanding General of Eurocorps, Lieutenant General Laurent Kolodziej, did not miss the opportunity to personally farewell his soldiers at the airport and to underline the importance of their Mission: "...It's a difficult mission, but also a mission you can take with pride, because you are going to help the Malian Forces to shape their future..."

With this event Eurocorps starts its commitment in the European Union Training Mission in Mali (EUTM-MALI). Brigadier General Fernando Luis GRACIA HERREIZ, original Deputy Chief of Staff of the Eurocorps Operations Division, will be the Force Commander of EUTM Mali until July 2021.

Altogether nearly 70 Spanish, French, German, Belgian, Luxembourg and Romanian soldiers from the multinational headquarters in Strasbourg will be deployed progressively until the end of January 2021 in Mali. They will perform following main tasks there:

- Mission Force Headquarters (MFHQ), the main advisory and consultative component of the Mission Force Commander and on which he relies to exercise command and control of the EUTM Mali forces.
- Advisory Task Force (ATF), a unit responsible for advising and training the staff of the Ministry of Defense, the General staff of the Army and the Headquarters of the Malian Military Regions. It also provides advice and training to the headquarters of the G5 Sahel Joint Force, helping to consolidate and improve their operational capabilities.
- Education Training Team Force (ETTF) provides training to the Units and supports training at the Military Education Center with the aim of improving the leadership and operational management skills of Malian officers and non-commissioned officers.

In 2021 and 2022, Eurocorps will be engaged in four rotations of European Training Missions (EUTM) in Mali and the Central African Republic under the command of a Eurocorps General (Spanish and German for Mali, French and Belgian for CAR). In all, 240 soldiers from Eurocorps will be deployed for these missions.

Eurocorps is a multinational headquarters composed of military personnel from five framework nations (Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg and Spain) and five associated nations (Poland, Greece, Italy, Romania and Turkey). This permanent and operational command structure is capable of being deploying into operation at a very short notice for the benefit of the European Union and NATO.

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