



## Uniformed Capability Requirements: MINUSMA Special Edition

UN Department of Peace Operations

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### I. CONTEXT

In June 2019, Security Council resolution 2480 (2019) added a second strategic priority to MINUSMA's mandate: support to the restoration of State authority and protection of civilians in central Mali. Requesting MINUSMA to maintain "a proactive, robust, flexible and agile posture", the resolution stipulated that Mission leadership should have the flexibility to deploy MINUSMA contingents between sectors to respond effectively to rapidly evolving situations in both North and Central Mali. While the resolution did not revise the authorized troop strength, it requested the Secretary-General to conduct within six months an assessment of the situation in Northern and Central Mali and of the Mission's configuration in regard to the implementation of its primary and second mandated strategic priorities.

The developments over the past six months highlighted the need to adapt the Mission's configuration to enable it to deliver on its two mandated strategic priorities. MINUSMA's presence in the north remains essential to create the space for the political process to unfold and facilitate the return of State authority. Following a series of deadly attacks against Malian armed forces, the latter withdrew from a number of strategically located bases in northern Mali in November resulting in heightened terrorist groups activity and protection of civilians concerns in the Gao and Ménaka regions. MINUSMA, which had deployed infantry elements along with Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance assets and a Quick Reaction capability from Gao to central Mali to deter violence against civilians, had to conduct an emergency redeployment of air assets from Mopti to Gao.

The Secretary-General presented the results of his assessment of the situation in northern and central Mali in his December report to the Security Council. Considering the highly complex security threat environment, the increased terrorist activity in northern Mali and persisting threats against civilians in the center, the report outlined a Force Adaptation Plan that focuses on increasing the Mission's protected mobility, agility, flexibility and situation awareness to enable it to respond to the rapidly evolving situations and heightened security risks in northern and central Mali.

Remaining within the authorized troops strength, the MINUSMA Force Adaptation Plan envisions the transformation and relocation of a number of units and the generation of additional capabilities to establish a Mobile Task Force. Composed of rapidly deployable units, helicopters units and ISR assets, the Mobile Task Force capability would be deployed across all sectors, allowing the Force to anticipate and/or rapidly mobilize in response to incidents throughout the Mission's area of operations.

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<sup>1</sup> This is a special edition of the Current and Emerging Uniformed Capability Requirements for United Nations Peacekeeping in support of the MINUSMA Force Adaptation Plan.

The strong support of Member States, in line with the Secretary-General’s Action for Peacekeeping Initiative and the Declaration of Shared Commitments, will be essential to ensure the successful adaptation of MINUSMA’s Force and the Mission’s ability to implement its mandate. The Department of Peace Operations will organize a briefing on the Force Adaptation Plan to Member States in February 2020 followed by a Force Generation Conference in March 2020. Open to all Member States interested in contributing to the implementation of the Force Adaptation Plan, the Force Generation Conference will provide the opportunity to pledge military units, as well as support to the reconfiguration of units already on the ground through capacity building and the provision of equipment and training.

## II. UNIT GAPS

The Department of Peace Operations is in the process of updating all relevant Statement of Unit Requirements (SUR) in line with the Force Adaptation Plan. Should you need additional information, please contact Lieutenant-Colonel Markus Milde (e-mail: [milde@un.org](mailto:milde@un.org)).

Below are the capabilities that must be generated for the different MINUSMA locations.

Location	Capability	Opportunity for Deployment <sup>2</sup>	Remarks
Kidal	Medium Utility Helicopter unit with integrated AMET	Starting now	Able to support 03 independent simultaneous taskings, one task will be UN CASEVAC with AMET
	Armed Helicopter unit	Starting now	Able to support 02 independent simultaneous taskings
	UAS	Starting now	Able to support 02 task lines
Timbuktu	UAS	Starting in Jul 2020	Able to support 02 task lines
Gao	Medium Utility Helicopter unit with integrated AMET	Starting in Oct 2020	Able to support 03 independent simultaneous taskings, one task will be UN CASEVAC with AMET
	Attack Helicopter	Starting in Jul 2020	Able to support 02 independent simultaneous taskings
	Fixed Wing ISR Unit	Starting now	Able to support 02 task lines
	UAS	Starting now	Able to support 01 task line [?]
	Forward Surgical team	Starting now	

<sup>2</sup> Opportunity for deployment is dependent upon exiting mission infrastructure to host/accommodate the unit at its deployment location. Additional land acquisition and construction of infrastructure will need to take place in Mopti to host the newly generated units there.

Location	Capability	Opportunity for Deployment	Remarks
Mopti	Medium Utility Helicopter unit with integrated AMET	Starting in Dec 2020	Able to support 03 independent simultaneous taskings, one task will be UN CASEVAC with AMET
	Armed Helicopter unit	Starting in May 2021	Able to support 02 independent simultaneous taskings
	Fixed Wing ISR Unit	Starting in Sep 2021	Able to support 04 task lines
	Special Forces unit	Starting in Dec 2020	With mine protected mobility against 10 kg explosive
	Forward Surgical team	Starting now	
	Level 2 hospital	Starting in Dec 2020	