PRESS RELEASE

EUTM SOMALIA: NEW BIHANGA TRAINING CAMP COMMANDER

On 30th August 2013, in Bihanga (Uganda, district of Ibanda) the ceremony of the change of the Bihanga Training Camp (BTC) Commander, between LtCol Frank LOOSE (GER) and LtCol Thomas SPURZEM (GER), took place. The ceremony was preceded by a medal parade for 38 BTC staff members and trainers belonging to several EU members States (Belgium, France, Finland, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Sweden) awarded with the medal by EUTM Somalia Mission Commander, Brigadier General Gerald AHERNE (IRL). During his speech, General AHERNE officially thanked LtCol. LOOSE, emphasizing the work carried out by all the personnel in Bihanga during the past four months of intense activity, having successfully completed the training of the most recent intake of Somali military personnel who returned to Somalia on August 22nd 2013.

The New BTC Commander, LtCol SPURZEM, has many years of experience in the German Armed Forces, which include appointments as a light infantry platoon leader and as a staff Officer in the Verification Centre of the German Armed Forces. He has served abroad on a number of occasions including deployments in Bosnia and Afghanistan. Under his command the BTC will continue the training of the next intake of Somali military personnel that will start in the coming weeks and will end in December with the closure of the Training Camp in Bihanga and the transfer of training to Mogadishu, Somalia.

Pictures of the event