



Bangui, February 28th 2015

Farewell to the Spanish contingent

Today, we say goodbye to our Spanish brothers in arms, the second largest contingent of EUFOR. Spain has made one of the most valuable contributions to the mission, providing not just the whole Special Forces component, but also a platoon to the IPU and officers to the FHQ.

The SOCC have been continuously operating in a difficult environment, focusing on the 3rd District, but also providing situational awareness on the whole of Bangui. You have gained the trust and respect of the population, in areas where before almost nobody dared to go. Despite the risk, you have continuously acted in a population centric way, and I know you will be missed, not just by your comrades of EUFOR, but also by your new found friends in the Central African Republic.

The Guardia Civil, as part of the IPU, have also continuously had their boots on the ground, operating in close cooperation with your French and Polish comrades. Your task was not easy, but you accomplished it like the professionals you are. In working with the local security forces and MINUSCA, you have shown the way forward to allow the Central African people to take care of their own security.

Finally, the officers and men in the FHQ have been an essential part of the staff. You worked hard and successfully, crossing national and language barriers, in a spirit of true comradeship and professionalism. I want to especially thank Colonel VEGA, my chief of staff, for his tremendous efforts in running the FHQ and daily operations. With you in the FHQ, I could trust that everything went smoothly.

Soldiers, my brothers and sisters, I thank you on behalf of EUFOR and also on behalf of the people of the Central African Republic. You have been a credit to the European Union, to your country and to your service, and I wish you all a safe return.

“Muchas gracias por todo lo que habeis hecho por EUFOR.

Os deseo un feliz regreso a España”

Brigadier General Jean-Marc BACQUET
EUFOR-RCA Force Commander