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Dear Colleague,

I am writing to you to express my sincere gratitude for the support provided to German service members by Sweden's excellent team of medical personnel in Mali on 25 June.

Twelve of our service members were injured, some of them critically, in the suicide attack that day. Their lives depended on the speed, skill, and judgment of your fine medical team who provided first-rate care, as a result of which all lives were saved.

I am sending you this note of gratitude on behalf of the German armed forces and the government of the Federal Republic of Germany as well as on behalf of the German service members, who were able to rely on their Swedish comrades when it mattered most.

It is one thing to know that we are standing side by side in this dangerous mission. It is a completely different thing to experience it personally. On 25 June, and particularly in the crucial hours after the attack, we experienced first-hand what it means to have allies, partners, and friends by our side whom we can rely on.

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The German service members injured are in stable condition and some of them were already discharged from the hospital. Similarly, the Belgian comrade injured during the incident is on track to full recovery.

Our important but dangerous mission in Mali will continue. For those who we send into harm's way, it is crucial to know that they have friends and comrades who will watch out for them. It gives our soldiers the confidence that they are not alone out there.

I wish you and all your service members good health, the best of luck, and great confidence in their skills. It is truly great to know that they are out there with us.

Yours sincerely,

