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PRESS RELEASE

UNAMSIL CONDUCTS JOINT EXERCISE

The Sector East Quick Reaction Force, the Pakistan Battalion 9 of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone, UNAMSIL, and troops from 3rd Brigade of the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces, RSLAF, are conducting a joint tactical exercise code named "Exercise Hammer Strike" from January 5 - 15. The exercise is aimed at building the capacity of the government of Sierra Leone security sector and will take place in Gofa village in Zimmi general area, Eastern Sierra Leone.

The exercise is expected to highlight important lessons in multi-national environments and the capacity of RSLAF to cope in the wake of UNAMSIL adjustment, drawdown and withdrawal. Similarly, the intensive tactical operations will guard against spillover of negative trends from across the borders.

The Commander, Sector East, Brigadier General Sajjad Ahmed Bakhshi has visited peacekeepers at Zimmi where he was briefed on the conduct of the exercise. Brig. Gen. Bakhshi tasked the Pakistani peacekeepers to undertake responsibilities in as realistic environments as possible in the perceived threat scenario.

He also asked the conducting staff to have effective control over the overall conduct of the exercise.

The 10-day exercise will place emphasis on the coordination at various tiers of command between UNAMSIL troops from Pakbat IX and the RSLAF. Various procedures, techniques and drills for clearance of forested area will be practiced in the joint operations.

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