

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

*UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SIERRA LEONE
(UNAMSIL)*

11 November 2003

Ref. No.: UNAMSIL/PIOR 42/2003

PRESS RELEASE

FORCE COMMANDER VISITS GHANAIAN BATTALION 8

Freetown – The Force Commander of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) Major General Sajjad Akram today visited Ghanaian Battalion (GHANBATT) 8, in Lungi, outside Freetown peninsula, where Sierra Leone’s international airport is situated.

GHANBATT 8 Commanding Officer, Lt Col George Biah, briefed Maj. Gen. Akram on the security situation in Lungi area, which he described as “calm and stable”. The Quick Reaction Company drafted from GHANBATT 8 secures the airport, through regular foot and mobile patrol. It also conducts joint patrols with the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF) Battalion 4.

GHANBATT has been designated Force Reserve 1. As such, two companies of GHANBATT are capable to deploy at the shortest possible time and remain independent and self-sustained for forty-eight hours without re-supply. During the FC’s visit, the Force Reserve Alpha Company demonstrated some military exercises including helicopter embarking and procedures of deployment.

Maj. Gen. Akram commended the troops for their professionalism and expressed his appreciation to the Ghanaian contingent for the remarkable contribution they had made to the return to peace in Sierra Leone. The FC said he was “impressed” by Ghanaian Army’s motto “We never give up”, mentioning the commitment of the peacekeepers and of Ghana to other peacekeeping missions, notably the first UN operation in Congo, in 1960.

Sector West Commander, Brig Gen Nuhu Bamalli and other senior military officers accompanied the FC from UNAMSIL Headquarters.

UNAMSIL Headquarters, Mammy Yoko, P. O. Box 5, Freetown, Sierra Leone
Tel: 232-22-295-000 Fax: 232-22-295-189

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Chief PIS, Kemal Saiki, Tel. 232-22-295-583 mobile 076-692801 email: saiki@un.org

Editor: Rachel Eklou-Assogbavi, Tel. 232-22-295-814, mobile 076-627774 email: eklou-assogbavi@un.org

