



PRESS RELEASE

Ref No UNAMSIL/PIO/PR/ 189/2004

Date: 15 October 2004

UNAMSIL FORCE COMMANDER WELCOMES GHANBATT 10

Freetown, Sierra Leone – Major General Sajjad Akram, Officer-in-Charge of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) and Force Commander yesterday visited the newly-arrived tenth Ghanaian Battalion (GHAN-BATT 10) in Sierra Leone's second city of Bo, Southern Province. The battalion will serve as part of the Mission's Force Reserve.

He welcomed them to the Mission and expressed pleasure in having to work with them to strengthen the peace in the country, saying being the Force Reserve, he would "deploy [them] for various duties in the mission area". He said he had been "privileged and honoured" to have commanded their predecessors GHANBATT 9 who recently left the Mission and returned home, and praised their contributions to peace in the world at large and in Sierra Leone particular, which left some of them dead.

The Force Commander said he had admired the "high discipline, professional performance of duties and exemplary conduct" of GHANBATT 9; hence had decided to offer GHANBATT 10 the opportunity to serve UNAMSIL.

Major General Akram admonished the peacekeepers that as they were settling in they should relate well with the locals and get acquainted with the UN's zero-tolerance for any untoward conduct from its members. He urged them to maintain the good image of their country, especially its army; something he said had impressed him into diplomatically persuading the International Military Advisory Training Team (IMATT) and others to train the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF) on Ghana's Armed Forces model.

The GHANBATT 10 Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Stanley P. Alor briefed the Force Commander about the make-up of his battalion assuring they would live up to expectations.

The Force Commander was accompanied by senior UNAMSIL military officers including the Southern and Pakistan Army Contingent Commander, Brigadier General Sajjad Ahmed Bakhshi.

Meanwhile Major General Akram and entourage also visited the eastern provincial headquarters town of Kenema to bid farewell to the ninth Pakistan Battalion (PAKBATT 9) who have completed their tour of duty. He wished the peacekeepers all the best as they were preparing to start the Muslim Holy month of fasting and congratulated them for maintaining a high standard of discipline as well as an exemplary performance.

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