



UNMAS

United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

2013/14 ACTIVITIES

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Practical training tests early December at Armed Forces Training Command.

First group of 16 AFL engineers graduated with intermediate EOD qualification on 12 December.

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United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) is a division of the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions (OROLSI) which is a section of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO). In support UN Security Council resolution 2116 (2013), UNMAS is working directly with the Liberian security forces, specifically the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) and the Liberian National Police (LNP). UNMAS activities are designed to assist in the development of national security institutions and support their path to achieving operational independence in anticipation of UNMIL military drawdown.

UNMAS is **training LNP Instructors** to deliver **explosive remnants of war (ERW) Awareness and Recognition training** to police officers. The ERW recognition training will then be incorporated in the National Police Training Academy (NPTA) curriculum. This training will support safe handling and efficient reporting of ERW items for disposal.

UNMAS is conducting **6-week courses to qualify 32 selected candidates from the AFL engineering unit** in explosive ordnance disposal (EOD). UNMAS will support the establishment of response teams through technical mentoring, guidance and ongoing training in cooperation with the Ministry of National Defence (MOD), Operation Onward Liberty (OOL) and UNMAS implementing partner, Action on Armed Violence (AOAV).

UNMAS is conducting a **review of the current reporting system for ERW** and providing support to migrate the system from UNMIL to the LNP and AFL. The incorporation of the reporting system into the training will be critical for ensuring the sustainability of the EOD capability in the context of the UNMIL security drawdown.

DECEMBER 2013 / JANUARY 2014—UPDATE

Notable achievements for the months of December and January include:

- 12 December 16 AFL Engineers graduated with an intermediate level of explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) qualification at the Armed Forces Training Command at Camp Ware. In attendance at the ceremony was the UNMIL Force Chief of Staff, UNMIL Force Chief Engineer, UNMIL Force Senior ATO, Lt. Col. Geraldine George from the AFL, 2nd Lt. Maxwell Tulay the Commanding Officer of the AFL Engineers, Lt. Col. Larsen from Operation Onward Liberty, Commanding Officer for Pakistan Engineers-19, and AFL, OOL, UNMAS, and ECOWAS personnel.
- 18 December the AFL engineer EOD operators carried out their first operational task on AFL property at Tubman Military Academy, Camp Todee. UNMAS were on site to support on -the-job-training and mentoring.
- UNMAS received a plaque of commendation from the COIC of the AFL, Major General Abdurrahman (Nigeria) to recognize the commitment of UNMAS towards building the capacity of the AFL Engineers as a Force for Good.
- January 14 and 15 AFL engineers carried out two more operational tasks with the support of UNMAS. The possibility exists for the AFL EOD teams to take over responsibility for UNMIL Sector A when the Pakistani Engineers drawdown in March. UNMAS will focus on supporting the AFL headquarters joint staff to draft SOPs as well as draft a LOA with civil authorities in coordination with the UNMIL Legal Policy & Reform section and SSR Advisor.



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AFL Engineer EOD operators preparing for their first operational task.

Ms. Sheila Black, PM, receiving a plaque from the COIC of the AFL, Maj. Gen. Abdurrahman



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