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**UN Civil-Military Coordination Course Ends in Liberia;**  
**Humanitarian Coordinator in Liberia stresses importance of such courses to strengthen**  
**relationships between humanitarian and military actors in implementing their roles**

*Monrovia, Liberia* – The one-week UN Civil-Military Coordination Course conducted at the Mamba Point Hotel in Monrovia concluded today with the presentation of certificates to the twenty-eight participants by the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Recovery and Governance and Humanitarian Coordinator in Liberia, Mr. Jordan Ryan.

The course, which was co-organized by the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), was intended to support the implementation of UNMIL's mandate by bringing together operators and specialists from various UNMIL components and implementing partners to further strengthen civilian-military coordination mechanisms.

Addressing the participants from the civilian, military and police components of UNMIL and representatives from non-governmental organizations and the UN agencies, DSRSG Ryan stressed the importance of civil-military coordination training as a means to strengthen the relationships amongst those involved in emergency response, aid coordination and reconstruction activities. "Courses such as this one give us a clearer understanding of the dynamics that exist between humanitarian and military actors in the implementation of their respective roles and responsibilities," Mr. Ryan said.

The Senior Advisor to the Civil Military Coordination Section of OCHA and the main facilitator of the course, Mr. Fred Polk, praised the group for its participation and said the success of the course was due largely to the talent of the participants. "They will make a significant contribution within the mission as well as between the mission and other actors in Liberia."

The UN Civil-Military Coordination Course, held from 23 to 28 April, was part of a series of training courses on complex peace operations. It focused on both natural disasters and complex emergencies, with a particular emphasis on the multi-dimensional peace mission in Liberia and on-going peace operations in West Africa. The programme combined conflict prevention, peace building, security operations, and humanitarian relief and recovery operations. The course was previously conducted in Liberia in April and June 2005, as well as in other parts of West Africa, including Ghana.

**About the Civil Military Coordination Section (CMCS), OCHA**

The Civil Military Coordination Section (CMCS) is tasked to facilitate and coordinate access to and the use of international Military and Civil Defence Assets (MCDA) in countries affected by humanitarian emergencies and to conduct Civil-Military Coordination Training Courses for the international community. It also assists in the planning and coordination of UN Agency participation in major military exercises with significant humanitarian assistance scenarios, acts as custodian for UN CMCoord related guidelines, and manages the UN Central Register of disaster management capacities, including maintaining the directory of international MCDA that can be made available to humanitarian actors in the event of a humanitarian emergency.

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