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Ukrainian peacekeepers receive United Nations peacekeeping medals

Margibi, Liberia – The Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Alan Doss, yesterday decorated 301 members of the Ukrainian Aviation Unit of UNMIL with United Nations peacekeeping medals for their contributions to peace in Liberia.



SRSG Doss inspecting the MI-24 Gunship operated by the Ukrainian pilots

Expressing his appreciation to the Ukrainian peacekeepers for providing critical airlift support for the deployment of one of the largest peacekeeping missions in the world, Special Representative Doss praised the team of pilots, mechanics, flight specialists and support personnel for their commitment, professionalism and valuable contribution to UNMIL and the people of Liberia. “Since your arrival, you have established and successfully run a complex aviation unit that

has provided air transport for UNMIL’s civilian, military and police personnel. You have also conducted gunship patrols, border monitoring and emergency medical evacuations,” he said.

Mr. Doss then reminded the Ukrainian peacekeepers to scrupulously abide by the Secretary-General’s policy of zero tolerance for sexual abuse and exploitation, noting that: “Commanders and officers have a special responsibility in this respect, to lead by example and to get this message across to all their troops.”

The medal award ceremony, which coincided with Ukraine’s 15th Independence anniversary, was attended by senior officials of UNMIL including Force Commander Lt.-Gen. Isaac Obiakor, Deputy Force Commander Maj.-Gen. Mohammad Tahir and the Military Chief of Staff, Brig.-Gen. John Forkuo. Since January 2004, the Ukrainian Aviation Unit has transported over 67,000 passengers, and airlifted over 1,700 tonnes of cargo.

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