

UNITED NATIONS



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UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SIERRA LEONE
(UNAMSIL)

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UKRAINIAN AVIATION CONTINGENT DECORATED WITH UN MEDAL

Freetown – Over 100 military personnel of the Ukrainian Aviation Unit of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) were today decorated with the UN medal in recognition of their contributions to the Mission. The medal parade took place at Hastings.

The Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General (DSRSG) for Operations and Management, Mr. Behrooz Sadry, said at the occasion, “Since its arrival in Sierra Leone as UN peacekeepers in February 2001, the Ukrainian Aviation Unit has made valuable contributions towards UNAMSIL’s efforts for the restoration and steady consolidation of peace in this country.”

Mr. Sadry noted that the Aviation Unit had also “distinguished itself by upholding its proud tradition of maintaining high standards of discipline and professionalism.”

The contingent has played a key role in the air transport needs of UNAMSIL, including regular and special flights throughout Sierra Leone, the DSRSG said. He pointed out that during the recently held elections, the unit played a major role in transporting electoral materials as well as personnel to various locations in the country.

Urging them to keep up the good work, Mr. Sadry stressed that the presence of Ukrainian peacekeepers in the country was a manifestation of Ukraine’s “abiding commitment to peace in Sierra Leone and peacekeeping in general.”

The Commanding Officer of the Ukrainian Aviation Unit, Lt. Col. Ihor Bevza, said the occasion also coincided with Ukraine’s Independence Day. He said Ukraine was proud to be part of a multinational force that is promoting peace.

Lt. Col. Bevza added that the UN medal was in recognition of the peacekeepers’ “services in the peacekeeping process in Sierra Leone,” and promised they would not relent in their commitment to UNAMSIL’s objective.

UNAMSIL Force Commander Lt. Gen. Daniel Opande joined Mr. Sadry in decorating the peacekeepers. Both men later inspected some military aviation equipment.

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