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# ATMIS

OCTOBER 2023



## SIERRA LEONE FORMED POLICE UNIT CONTINGENT 4





**ATMIS**  
AFRICAN UNION TRANSITION MISSION IN SOMALIA

## Our Contacts

**Email:** [au-amisomhom@africa-union.org](mailto:au-amisomhom@africa-union.org)

**P.O. Box:** 20182 – 00200, Nairobi, Kenya

**Phone:** +254 202 713 755 /56 /58

**Fax:** +254 202 713 766

**Publisher:** ATMIS Public Information Unit

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# CONTENTS

## PAGE 3

Message from the ATMIS  
Police Commissioner

## PAGE 4

Q&A with the ATMIS  
Police Operations and  
FPU Coordinator,

## PAGE 6

End of tour message to  
SLFPU-4 personnel

## PAGE 8

SLFPU-4 supports  
capacity building and  
Peace efforts in somalia

## PAGE 10

Medical health critical to  
the operations of  
SLFPU-4

## PAGE 12

From AMISOM to ATMIS:  
the deployment of  
SLFPU-4

## PAGE 13

SLFPU-4 supports  
firemen in crowd control

## PAGE 14

SLFPU-4 embraces envi-  
ronmental conservation  
In somalia

## PAGE 16

Survival tips while on  
peacekeeping mission

## PAGE 17

Two gentle souls lost

## PAGE 18

SLFPU-4 female peacekeep-  
ers amplify role of women in  
peacekeeping

## PAGE 20

SLFPU-4 takes part in periodic  
inspections of Contingent  
owned equipment

## PAGE 21

SLFPU-4 in camp beautifica-  
tion initiative

## PAGE 22

The contribution of SLFPU-4  
brass band

## PAGE 23

SLFPU-4 pictorial

## PAGE 30

SLFPU-4 Management Team  
(Portraits)

## PAGE 31

Entire Contingent Portraits



# Message from the ATMIS Police Commissioner

CP Hillary Sao Kanu



and training Jubaland Police officers as well as safeguarding critical government facilities.

Additionally, the unit played a crucial role in providing essential security escorts to humanitarian agencies delivering aid to communities affected by conflicts and natural disasters. It is paramount to acknowledge that the successful execution of these tasks would have been difficult without the contribution of SLFPU-4 personnel.

I would like to extend special recognition to the SLFPU-4 officers based in Kismayo who, despite the challenges, have supported their Somali counterparts to ensure security and deter terrorist threats.

I welcome you to this edition of the magazine highlighting the activities and accomplishments of the 4th contingent of the Sierra Leone Formed Police Unit (SLFPU-4) during their tour of duty in Somalia.

Since their deployment in April 2022, in Kismayo, SLFPU-4 has delivered exceptional operational support and capacity building to the Jubaland Police.

Responsibilities included conducting joint patrols with the Jubaland Police, conducting stop and search operations, public order management, ensuring the security of African Union and UN personnel in Kismayo, mentoring

As the SLFPU-4 complete their tour of duty, on behalf of ATMIS Police component, I express my gratitude to the government of Sierra Leone for the willingness to assist a fellow African nation in need of peace and stability. This exemplifies the true spirit of Pan-Africanism and provides an opportunity to foster African solutions to African problems.

Lastly, as the personnel of SLFPU-4 return to their homeland, let them always remember that they are heroes and heroines of Africa. They should carry themselves with pride, knowing that their significant contribution to Somalia's peace will be forever etched in the annals of Somali history.

## Q&A with the ATMIS Police Operations and FPU Coordinator

DCP Ahmed Lateef



**Qn: In your assessment, what contribution has the Sierra Leone Formed Police Unit (SFPU-4) made towards the fulfilment of the ATMIS police mandate?**

**Ans:** The ATMIS mandate spells out the basic responsibilities and tasks of the Formed Police Units (FPU), and this includes the protection of both AU and UN staff, including ATMIS Individual Police Officers (IPOs) as they train, mentor and advise the Somali Police Force. They have discharged these tasks diligently and effectively.

Apart from providing security for the IPOs at various team sites, the SLFPU-4 personnel, based in Kismayo, Jubaland State of Somalia, have provided security for humanitarian actors thereby supporting humanitarian efforts in the delivery of humanitarian assistance in the region.

Additionally, they provide escort and guard duties for visiting dignitaries. It would have been extremely difficult for our IPOs to perform their tasks without the support of the SLFPU-4, who provide them with security cover.

The SLFPU-4 personnel also contribute to some extent in mentoring of the Somali police in Jubaland. This is while conducting joint activities/ operations with the Jubaland Police personnel, during which, they show their Somali colleagues how to perform certain tasks. In Jubaland, the SLFPU-4 also completed the curriculum designed to inculcate and transfer FPU capability to the police in the region. Each of the four ATMIS Formed Police Units is doing this. Above all, SLFPU-4 have exceeded expectations, despite operating in a difficult and challenging environment.

**Qn: What impact has their tour of duty had on the ATMIS Police component?**

**Ans:** The ATMIS Police mandate is to support the Somali Police in their day-to-day activities, and it is the IPOs who are tasked with doing this through training, mentoring, advising. The IPOs in Jubaland would not be able to execute their tasks without the support of the SLFPU-4, given that they are the ones who provide the IPOs with security. It is worth noting that the IPOs are not armed and so cannot go out on duty without the support of the SLFPU-4. In this regard, all the achievements of the ATMIS police in terms of training, mentoring and advising and any other things that they have done in Jubaland over that past one year or so, would not have been achieved without the support of the SLFPU-4, who provide them with adequate security.

**Qn: What tasks have they been undertaking in their Area of Responsibility and how has it impacted on efforts to restore peace, particularly in Jubaland State and Somalia in general?**

**Ans:** Most of the activities of the IPOs and Humanitarian actors rests mostly on the support of the SLFPU-4. They also take part in township patrols. For example, during the festive period of Eid, they conducted joint patrols with their Jubaland police counterparts. However, they also conduct daily patrols on their own. These are normally visibility patrols aimed at boosting the confidence of the public so that they can go about their business normally. Some of the areas they patrol include Airport Road, Kismayo Highway, Kismayo Central Business District, Kismayo General Hospital, Kismayo Main Market, the University, Midnimo and its environs, Kismayo Gardens and Caterpillar and its environs, which they patrol daily.

Apart from the patrols, they also set up snap check points, to deter criminals, based on credible information. This is aimed at preventing criminals from escaping. In some instances, this has led to some arrests.

Additionally, the SLFPU-4 also takes part in providing security for the basecamp. This is to ensure their own safety and that of other people working there. The SLFPU-4 Level 1 hospital in Kismayo, also provides free medical aid to members of the local communities, living outside the camp.

“

*Apart from the patrols, they also set up snap check points, to deter criminals, based on credible information. This is aimed at preventing criminals from escaping. In some instances, this has led to some arrests.*

”



## END OF TOUR MESSAGE TO SLFPU-4 PERSONNEL

BY: CSP. Mohamed Kugba Allieu, Contingent Commander



When the personnel of the Sierra Leone Formed Police Unit-4 (SLFPU-4) enlisted at different times to serve in the Sierra Leone Police, little did they know that their calling would lead them to make a noble contribution to efforts to restore peace and stability in far-flung places such as Somalia.

The saying 'service beyond borders' resonates well with this contingent of 160 personnel, which was based in the port city of Kismayo, the administrative capital of Jubaland State, valiantly contributing to peace.

When we volunteered to come to Somalia as part of the contingent, we were not oblivious to the prevailing risks, including the threat posed by the militant group Al-Shaabab. Ours was a desire to contribute to the peace process. For the past 19 months, since the arrival of the advance team of the contingent in March 2022, amid a difficult and challenging environment, we have served diligently in advancing the mission mandate.

Finally, we have completed our task, and we are celebrating the milestones made to achieve the ATMIS mandate as enshrined in our Concept of Operations (CONOPS). It was God/Allah who sailed us through the hurdles we faced during

our tenure with the mission. All praise to Him!

In February 2023, the contingent was elated to receive their compatriot, CP Hilary Sao Kanu, as the new ATMIS Police Commissioner. CP Kanu succeeded AIGP Augustine Magnus Kailie, now the Deputy Inspector General of Police in Sierra Leone.

As a contingent, we are grateful for the opportunity to serve and be part of the history as the mission transitioned from the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) to ATMIS and to have served two Police Commissioners.

To my colleagues of the SLFPU-4, I congratulate you on the successful completion of your tour of duty. Unfortunately, during our tour of duty, we lost two of our colleagues- Sgt. 9173 Abdulai Borbor Marrah and PC. Mabinty Abdul Fofanah, due to natural causes.

In their honour and memory, the contingent held prayer sessions. May the bereaved families receive consolation from God/Allah!

Despite the difficulties, the contingent registered a number of achievements. These included:

1. The provision of armed escort and security coverage to ATMIS dignitaries, IPOs, and visiting dignitaries
2. Supported AU Individual Police Officers in the recruitment and training exercise of 300 Jubaland State Police, in two separate batches
3. Secured the passing-out ceremonies of Jubaland Police recruits on two separate occasions at the Jubaland Police Training School
4. Our aviation personnel relentlessly served to ensure safe and easy travel for all ATMIS and UN staff
5. With help from the Sector Commander, we were able to modify our camp security architecture to ensure proper camp security



6. We successfully went through five inspections of Contingent Owned Equipment (COE).
7. The medical team was able to fight and keep away COVID-19 and other diseases
8. Our transport team did well by properly maintaining our fleet for the field operations
9. The catering and sanitation personnel ensured that we got a good diet in a clean environment on a daily basis throughout our stay.

With support from UNSOS and our Logistics Officer (Alimamy Sesay – IP), the SLFPU-4 Civil Engineer (Johnny Christopher Merriman – Sgt.) together with his team was able to give us a beautiful “Peace Zone”, an additional 5,000-litre water tank, an improved commander’s quarter, a better gym, and additional social gathering points for stress management (e.g., The Office, “Koribondo Junction”, “Wisdom Base”, “Draff Grun”, etc.).

In building the capacity of all SLFPU-4 personnel, the command element made it possible for all personnel to attend at least one training in the mission theatre.

The milestones we achieved as a unit during our tenure are endless. These are just a few. Once again, I commend the entire SLFPU-4 personnel for showing great resilience, determination, and enthusiasm at all times, and in furthering the ATMIS mandate. With the exposure that we have gained, I am convinced that we will do better at replicating the same back at home. I implore you to continue to be professional throughout your policing career.

Finally, I take this opportunity to express gratitude: to God Almighty for His spiritual guidance, to the Government of Sierra Leone – through the Sierra Leone Police – for granting us the opportunity to serve on this peacekeeping mission, to UNSOS for their logistical support, and to the people of Somalia as well as our partners (Kenya Defence Forces and the Ethiopia National Defence Forces) for their support in the execution of the ATMIS Police CONOPS.

## SLFPU-4 SUPPORTS CAPACITY BUILDING AND PEACE EFFORTS IN SOMALIA

BY: DSP Kabba Julius Koroma, Deputy Contingent Commander



International Peace Support Operations make vital contributions to managing interstate and intrastate conflict. It is proven that such missions and operations manage and consequently lead to the lasting resolution of terminal conflict within a state, between states, or among states (Sierra Leone is one example). Other than resolving conflict, most peacekeeping missions include mandates that aim to strengthen the state police and justice systems as is the case with the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS).

### Somalia's struggle for peace

Somalia gained independence on 1 July 1960 and enjoyed a period of peace and stability until 1991, when the central government collapsed, plunging the country into three decades of civil war and conflict and led to the birth of the militant group, Al-Shabaab.

The long civil war prompted the African Union to intervene in Somalia, to restore peace and stability, with the deployment of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) in 2007, registering numerous gains, ultimately leading to the birth of ATMIS on April 1, 2022, following the authorisation by the African Union Peace and

Security Council on 8 March 2022 and mandated by UN Security Council Resolution 2628 (2022) on 31 March 2022. ATMIS is a multidimensional peace support mission comprised of the Military, Police and Civilian components.

Sierra Leone is one of the six Police Contributing Countries to ATMIS.

The ATMIS police component comprises the Senior Leadership Team, Individual Police Officers (IPOs) and the Formed Police Units. Presently, Sierra Leone has 39 IPOs and 160 FPU personnel deployed on the mission. SLFPU-4 is the fourth contingent to serve on the AU mission in Somalia.

### SLFPU-4 Contribution towards the peace process in somalia

The SLFPU-4 commenced full operations in Somalia in April 2022 with the arrival of 144 personnel, following the arrival of the advance party in March 2022.

Since the contingent deployed to the mission, it has contributed immensely towards the achievement of the ATMIS mandate. The contributions of the contingent are in line with the ATMIS police Concept of Operations (CONOPS), hinged on Force Generation and Integration, Personnel Capacity Building, and Institutional Building.

**Force Generation & Integration:** The contingent was fully engaged in the recruitment of 300 Jubaland Police personnel, conducted in two separate batches. SLFPU-4 provided armed escorts and full security coverage during the screening, vetting, and final selection of the recruits on both occasions. Also, the contingent's medical personnel helped conduct screening and examination of recruits prior to commencement of training. The contingent sent trainers and also gave out training equipment, thereby supporting the training. During the training the recruits were taken through a number of topics which included, Human Rights in the Use of Force and Firearms,



Safe Handling of Firearms, Small Firearms and Ambushes, Public Order Management (POM), Physical fitness training and Self-defence tactics, among others.

**Personnel Capacity Building:** On numerous occasions during the contingent's extended tour of duty, SLFPU-4 personnel supported various training sessions for Jubaland Police, organised by the ATMIS police component. The support included provision of armed escort and security coverage for AU IPOs as they conducted their training and mentoring sessions aimed at building the capacity of the police in the region.

**Institutional Building:** SLFPU-4 provided a conducive and enabling environment to foster peace and social development, by providing escorts and full security coverage to the parties involved. This also included providing security for numerous projects that were being implemented such as the construction and refurbishment of both new and old police stations. Additionally, SLFPU-4 personnel also provided security for humanitarian actors in the delivery of much needed humanitarian assistance to communities in need.



# Medical health critical to the operations of SLFPU-4

BY: ASP Dr. Yayah Munu, Contingent Doctor



As with all peacekeeping missions around the world, the health of peacekeepers has a significant bearing on their effectiveness in the line of duty. To some extent, the most common physical health issues that medical officers address in the mission theatre are often mundane. In many cases, such health issues prevent personnel from undertaking their normal duties, and, in some instances, they are repatriated or even die. In fact, the extent to which any sort of illness can affect peace support operations goes beyond death. Some of the significant impacts include:

- 1. Reduce the availability of personnel:** If a peacekeeper falls ill, they may not be able to perform their duties, which can reduce the number of personnel available for the operation. This can put additional challenges on the remaining personnel and reduce their overall effectiveness in their operation in the mission theatre.
- 2. Decreased performance:** Illness can also impact the performance of a peacekeeper. They may not be able to work efficiently

or effectively, which can compromise the safety and security of the mission.

- 3. Spread disease:** If a peacekeeper falls ill with a contagious disease, there is a high risk of it spreading to other personnel, which can quickly escalate and impact the entire mission.
- 4. Increase cost of healthcare:** If a peacekeeper falls seriously ill, they may require medical attention that is not readily available in the mission theatre. This can result in additional logistical challenges and expenses for the Police Contributing Country (PCC).

Considering the above, Sierra Leone, as one of the PCCs to the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS)- with both Individual Police Officers (IPOs) and a contingent of the Formed Police Unit (FPU), puts in place structures, which includes a team of medical officers, to properly manage the health of the personnel. In the case of the SLFPU-4, the medical team was made up of nine (9) well-trained and qualified medical practitioners. These included, a clinical health officer, a pharmacist, a laboratory technician, and five nurses, all led by me—the medical doctor. This team was deployed at the ATMIS level-1 hospital located in the ATMIS camp in Kismayo, to respond to the medical needs of the personnel, and to guide them on how to maintain a healthy lifestyle to minimise the risk of falling ill whilst serving the mission.

However, in late 2022, the medical team had to battle an outbreak of COVID-19 in the SLFPU-4 Camp as nineteen (19) personnel contracted the virus. This happened after one of the tutors began presenting symptoms of COVID-19 at the end of a two week training on Improvised Explosive Devices (IED), attended by among others eight SLFPU-4 MOVCON personnel.



Following an alert, the SLFPU-4 medical team swung into action and swiftly screened 62 contacts, culminating with 19 COVID-19 positive cases, who were all isolated while the other 43 contacts were quarantined.

In the following days, the SLFPU-4 medical team supported by UN doctors conducted daily ward rounds, attending to symptomatic patients. Strict COVID-19 standard operating procedures and prevention protocols such as the regular use of masks, regular handwashing, social distancing, avoidance of large gatherings, and self-isolation when feeling sick, were enforced. Subsequently, COVID-19 booster vaccines were administered to all SLFPU-4 personnel.

As a team, we know that managing the health of the contingent in a peacekeeping mission like ATMIS is challenging but critical for the success of the mission. Also, the health of personnel

does not only affect their ability to carry out their duties effectively but also impacts the overall morale and well-being of the contingent.

As a professional medical team, some of the structures we put in place to manage the health of SLFPU-4 personnel included, pre-mission medical screening, ensuring adequate medical resources, regular in-mission health assessments, health education and promotion, ensuring access to mental health support, adequate rest and recovery, access to health services on patrol and escort duties, and providing medical services to non-SLFPU-4 personnel, such as our sister forces.

By implementing those strategies, the team was able to manage the health of personnel, ensure their overall well-being and success in serving ATMIS, and create positive relationships with our partners in the mission up to the end of our duty tour.





## FROM AMISOM TO ATMIS: THE DEPLOYMENT OF SLFPU-4

BY: ASP Abdulai Momoh Kamara, Admin Officer



The deployment of Sierra Leone FPU Contingent-4 in Kismayo, Somalia, came at a time when the mission was transitioning from the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) to the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS).

ATMIS became operational on 1 April 2022 after it was authorised by the African Union Peace and Security Council on 8 March 2022 and mandated by UN Security Council Resolution 2628 (2022) on 31 March 2022, as a successor mission to AMISOM.

Thus, SLFPU-4 deployed in a mission that has the responsibility of enabling the Somali Security Forces (SSF) to take over the security responsibilities of the country, when ATMIS exits in December 2024.

The arrival of the advance team, comprising sixteen (16) personnel, on March 10, 2022, paved the way for the deployment of the main body, comprising 144 personnel, a few days later.

In total, 160 personnel, including 125 males and 35 females deployed to the mission, with zeal and determination after completing the mandatory pre-deployment training and later, upon arrival undertook several in-mission trainings, to induct them on their new work environment.

Amidst several challenges faced by the contingent, ranging from the Al-Shabaab threat to the hostile environment in Somalia, armed with courage, determination, and perseverance the SLFPU-4 personnel discharged their duties, of providing operational support. This included provision of escort services for the AU Individual Police Officers (IPOs) to and from various police stations, including Central, Caterpillar, Afmadow, Minlimo, and Dalxis, for mentoring and patrol duties among others.

Other tasks during our tour of duty included providing escort and security for visiting dignitaries including AU and UN personnel, securing vital installations of the AU and UN,



## SLFPU-4 SUPPORTS FIREMEN IN CROWD CONTROL

BY: DSP Abass Y. Bangura, Operations Officer



In July, the Sierra Leone Formed Police Unit (SLFPU-4) Quick Response Group (QRG) moved swiftly to support ATMIS firemen in controlling a curious crowd of onlookers during an emergency incident in Kismayo..

The firemen were responding to a fire, in the environs of the Jubaland State House.

However, on the arrival, a large crowd of onlookers had gathered at the scene obstructing access and hindering their operation.

The incident necessitated swift intervention, prompting the SLFPU-4 QRG to swing into action

following an emergency operation signal.

The blaze, which was spiralling out of control, posed grave danger to Kismayo, a busy city, known for its vibrant marketplaces and crowded streets.

The SLFPU-4 QRG, a 40-man team was set up to serve as the first responder to any emergency situation involving crowd control within its Area of Responsibility (AoR).

In this instance, the team swiftly dispersed the crowd and created a safe perimeter enabling the firemen to perform their duties. The inferno was extinguished after several hours much to the relief of the local residents.

The success of the operation, underscores the critical role that peacekeeping missions can play in supporting local authorities during emergencies, and the importance of collaboration between key stakeholders.

Following the incident, Jubaland Police Commissioner, Col. Sadiq Mohamud Dhogor, expressed satisfaction over how the operation was conducted.

The incident also signals the need to raise awareness among the public about emergency response protocols ahead of the exit of ATMIS in December 2024.



## SLFPU-4 EMBRACES ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION IN SOMALIA

BY: CIP Salieu Kanu, Liaison Officer



The environment is oftentimes a casualty of conflict. Peacekeeping missions in countries of conflict, like the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS), can have significant environmental impacts on the country. These impacts include, but are not limited to, the high consumption of natural resources, the generation of more waste, the emission of dangerous gases, and the disruption of local ecosystems. They can even lead to the reduction of the country's human resources. Thus, it is important for personnel deployed to such missions to reduce their environmental footprint during their service for environmental sustainability, the well-being of the local population, and the effectiveness of the mission.

Aware of this reality, the leadership of the SLFPU-4 contingent employed some strategies to reduce the contingent's environmental footprint in Kismayo as they serve the people of Somalia under the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS). As much as the objective of the contingent leadership was to reduce the contingent's environmental footprint during their service, they were also not oblivious to the volatile nature of the security situation in Somalia.

Thus, the contingent had to adopt strategies that would play in or between the lines of security alertness and environmental protection. Here are some of the strategies the contingent adopted:

**Environmental impact assessment:** Upon deployment to ATMIS on 2 April 2022, the UNSOS Chief Environment Officer, Richard Oyoo, conducted an Environmental Management Training for SLFPU-4 at their Base Camp in Kismayo, Jubbaland State. The training lasted six (6) consecutive days (May 24th to May 29th, 2022). It empowered the contingent to conduct an in-depth environmental impact assessment to identify potential environmental risks and take necessary mitigation measures. In doing the assessment, the contingent engaged local staff members and other mission partners to identify environmental concerns and incorporate their perspectives into the contingent's environmental management plans.

**Tree-planting exercise:** On June 5, 2022, and 2023, the contingent observed "World Environment Day" by planting trees within the ATMIS protected area in Kismayo. While UNSOS contractors took care of the trees outside the SLFPU Base Camp, the contingent deployed Sub-Inspector Juma Swaray to take care of the camp's floriculture, including the trees.

**Reduce waste generation:** From the environmental management training, the contingent learned that one major factor to consider in managing the environment was "waste." The contingent knew that when living in Kismayo, they must generate waste. But the quantum of waste generated would determine the impact on the environment; thus, measures were put in place to reduce it to a minimum. That included reducing unnecessary packaging items, recycling some used products, and composting organic waste to generate manure for the growing of Sierra Leonean food delicacies.





**Use of renewable energy sources:** One of the tactics Al-Shaabab (AS) militants use to attack is an improvised explosive device (IED), and one of the components used in preparing such a device is a “Power Source”. The power source could be any type of battery. In a bid to reduce the proliferation of torchlight batteries that may land in the hands of AS militants, the contingent deployed solar rechargeable torchlights to be used by its personnel. Deploying renewable energy technologies such as solar rechargeable torchlights also reduced the use of fossil fuels on generators and the associated greenhouse gas emissions that would have followed if they were used.

**Appointment of environmental or sanitary officers:** The contingent leadership appointed two personnel to be responsible for our environmental management systems (EMS). The officers helped the contingent identify and manage the environmental impact within the Base Camp throughout our tour of duty. They also helped ensure compliance with environmental regulations to improve environmental performance.

**Use of environmentally friendly products:** The contingent also encouraged personnel to mostly make use of biodegradable cleaning products and recycled paper in order to reduce the environmental impact of the contingent during their service in the mission.

**Continual cleaning exercise:** The contingent organised weekly and monthly general cleaning exercises that covered the surroundings of every

Prefab, the Ablutions, the Kitchen, the local gym, the garage, the Level One Hospital, the offices, the sentry posts, and the interior & exterior of the Camp's perimeter fence.

**Implement energy-efficient practises:** Due to both security and environmental reasons, the contingent adopted energy-efficient practises, such as turning off lights and appliances when not in use, to reduce energy consumption.

**Proper water management:** Owing to the fact that Somalia experiences minimal rainfall, the contingent ensured that water usage and sources were managed carefully to prevent wastage and contamination. Water conservation measures such as rainwater harvesting, and wastewater treatment and reuse were implemented to reduce the amount of water used during the contingent's service in the mission.

**Proper waste disposal:** The contingent's environmental or sanitation officers ensured the proper disposal of waste at the UNSOS-provided waste sites so as not to harm the environment or local communities. Also, soil and water pollution were minimised by using environmentally friendly chemicals, proper disposal of hazardous waste, and controlling soil erosion.

Overall, reducing the environmental footprint of SLFPU-4 in Somalia was a deliberate commitment and a willingness to adopt environmentally friendly practises to minimise environmental impact and contribute to a more sustainable ecosystem for the future of Kismayo.

# SURVIVAL TIPS WHILE ON PEACEKEEPING MISSION

BY: PC Safea Amara



Peacekeeping has always been a challenging venture for peacekeepers, given the possibility of them facing one of three situations – Missing In Action (MIA), getting Wounded In Action (WIA) or Killed In Action (KIA).

No government wants its citizens to fall into any of these predicaments—not even the peacekeepers themselves. Their primary and singular desire is to serve the mission and return home safely to meet their families. Stress is the other social issue that is likely to affect the wellbeing of peacekeepers.

Having served as peacekeepers in the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) for eighteen (18) months, the fourth contingent of the Sierra Leone Formed Police Unit (SLFPU-4) employed several measures to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all personnel. Some of these include:

**Recognise and comply with the mission standard operating procedure (SOP):** Every mission, ATMIS included has Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

To ensure that our tour of duty was successful, we had to adhere to the mission mandate and the laid down SOPs. In an effort to ensure compliance and strict adherence to the SOPs, the SLT ensured strict enforcement.

**Fitness prior to deployment:** SLFPU-4 conducted several health assessments of its personnel before deployment.

**Recreation activities:** Throughout the service, SLFPU-4 encouraged its personnel to make use of the gym and also engage in other sporting and recreational activities.

**Stress management:** The techniques on how to discourage and manage stress were taught during parades, given the likelihood of peacekeepers being affected by stress due to the following: nostalgia, physical and psychological isolation, physical segregation and exposure to risk among others.

**Ever alert and vigilant:** This was out of the realisation that the security situation in Somalia is very fluid. The enemy will not notify you when he comes. Somalia's mission ground is unpredictable; therefore, one should have a prepared and determined mindset for emergency, difficult, and unfavourable conditions so as to act smartly and correctly in a crisis situation.

**Personal protective equipment (ppe) while on duty:** Given the fluid nature of the situation in Somalia, we always ensured that we had our PPE on at all times, when on duty.

Other measures included cautious use of finances and personal resources, adjusting to the new work environment, and observing and reporting any suspicious activity.

All the above measures played a massive role in the successful completion of our extended tour of duty, and to God we give the glory.

## TWO GENTLE SOULS LOST

BY: CIP Salieu Kanu, Liaison Officer



Death reared its ugly head on two separate occasions, robbing SLFPU-4 of two gentle souls- Sergeant 9173 Abdulai Borbor Marrah and Police Constable 14908 Mabinty Abdul Fofanah.

The death of our two colleagues stung and plunged the contingent in grief and sorrow. Prior to their demise, they had actively contributed to the ongoing peace and stability efforts in Somalia, under the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS). Their deaths filled our hearts with excruciating pain and unending grief throughout our tour of duty. Our hearts and prayers go out to their families. Your names have been etched in history and in our hearts. We will always remember you.

Late Sgt. 9173 Abdulai Borbor Marrah (AUPOL 4205) was born on December 28, 1977. As a young man with ingenious skills in mechanical engineering, he enlisted in the Sierra Leone Police (SLP) on 13 December, 2003, and on completion, of his recruitment training, he was deployed to the Police Garage in Kingtom Police Barracks, where he served, helping to maintain and

improve the police fleet, until his deployment to the AU mission on March 10, 2022, as part of the Advance Team of 16 personnel.

Throughout his service in the SLP, he excelled in his career as the lead mechanical engineer and was promoted to the rank of sergeant. Sgt. Marrah died of natural causes at the ATMIS Level-2 Hospital in Mogadishu on April 5, 2022, just a few days, after ATMIS became operational. He was buried at the Kingtom cemetery in Freetown, Sierra Leone.

The late Police Constable 14908 Mabinty Abdul Fofanah (AUPOL 4339) was born on November 9, 1991, and enlisted in the SLP on May 6, 2012. On completion of the training, she was posted to the Harbor Police Division in Freetown to serve in the Operations Wing. Her contribution to the success of most operations undertaken by the division was glaring; thus, she was nominated to be part of a platoon in SLFPU-4, where she served until her death. Back at home, she was eulogised by many, that even in her death, she remains an inspiration to many.

Friends, as you read this, may we not live to only enjoy the pleasures of this life but also worship Him who brought us into existence and serve humanity as our fallen colleagues did. AMEN!

*Our hearts and prayers go out to their families. Your names have been etched in history and in our hearts. We will always remember you.*



## SLFPU-4 FEMALE PEACEKEEPERS AMPLIFY ROLE OF WOMEN IN PEACEKEEPING

BY: IP Phebean Jitta Sandy, Matron



### Introduction

The importance of female peacekeepers in peace support operations like the one in Somalia cannot be over emphasised. In the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS), women make up a small but growing percentage and have been recruited and deployed together with their male counterparts from various countries around the world. Their participation in the Somali-led peace and security process has a range of benefits, both in terms of improving the effectiveness of the peace process as the Mission actualises its mandate and in terms of promoting gender equality and empowerment whilst reducing the spate of all forms of violations/discrimination against women in Somalia.

Furthermore, women involvement in peace support operations speeds up the peace process and leads to a strategic and advanced stability after the conflict. They are key to achieving sustainable peace and development solutions be it peacebuilding, peacekeeping or conflict

response. Thus, their participation in achieving such solutions can improve the outcomes before, during and after the conflict.

### SLFPU female participation in somalia peace process

Sierra Leone, one of the six Police Contributing Countries (PCCs) to ATMIS (then AMISOM) started deploying Formed Police Units (FPU's) in 2018. This contingent is the fourth to be deployed in Somalia; thus, it is referred to as SLFPU-4. Recognising the important role women play in peacekeeping operations, the Sierra Leone Police gradually increased the number of female police officers deployed from 16 in SLFPU-1 to 35 in SLFPU-4. With the involvement of women in all the contingents, Sierra Leone FPUs have been praised for their effectiveness in escort and patrol duties including providing security for VIPs since they play the same role as men.

In their one year and six months of service in Kismayo, the SLFPU-4 female officers have been using their gender-sensitive policing skills to help build trust and support for the Mission among local communities. By joining their male counterparts in escort and patrol duties, the female officers serve as role models to the locals thereby encouraging them to report crimes and violations such as gender-based violence to their national police. This has helped in addressing specific needs and concerns of women and girls in this conflict-affected area in Somalia.

Other than being role models to the locals, SLFPU-4 female personnel participated in promoting gender equality and empowerment in Somalia. The SLFPU-4 female officers helped break down stereotypes about women's roles in Kismayo and influenced activists to challenge traditional gender norms and promote women's participation in public service like serving in the police. Their presence also influenced activists to advocate for policies and practices that promote

gender equality and human rights with the ultimate aim of reducing gender-based violence and other forms of discrimination against women and girls.

Overall, the participation of female police officers in the Sierra Leone FPU is truly an important development in Somalia's struggle for peace.

Their participation has helped improve the effectiveness of the operations and promote gender equality and empowerment. However, much needs to be done to address the barriers limiting their participation and to ensure that their contributions towards the success of the Mission are valued and respected.



## SLFPU-4 takes part in periodic inspections of Contingent Owned Equipment

BY: IP Alimamy Sesay, Logistics Officer



The Sierra Leone Formed Police Unit (SLFPU-4) has taken part in five inspection exercises of its Contingent Owned Equipment (COE) to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), and that the equipment is fit for purpose, with the view of taking corrective action where necessary.

Contingent Owned Equipment (COE) refers to equipment owned by a particular country but deployed to a peacekeeping mission to be reimbursed financially by the United Nations. However, prior to the deployment of the equipment, an MoU is signed between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) in the UN and the country's permanent mission to the UN.

The MoU specifies the type of equipment, personnel, and self-sustainment services the country is expected to provide to the peacekeeping mission and for which it will be financially reimbursed.

In the case of the SLFPU-4, the inspections were conducted over a space of 18 months, from April 2022, when the contingent commenced full operations to October 2023.

Prior to the commencement of the inspections of the COE, a team from the AU Police COE office, led by Inspector Samuel Nderitu, conducted an in-house COE Inspection Awareness Training with the Senior Leadership Team of the contingent to equip them with the requisite knowledge, to

know the requirements of the inspections.

The training sessions were interactive and productive as they helped shed light on a number of areas where the participants sought clarity. During the inspections, some of the areas in which the contingent scored highly include the medical laboratory, kitchen, stores, sanitation, mess and communications.

At the end of every exercise, the Head of the team shared their findings and pointed out areas in need of improvement. On his part, at the end of each exercise, the Contingent Commander CSP Mohamed Kugba Allieu, always appreciated the feedback from the team and reiterated the commitment of the leadership to make improvements where necessary.

Sierra Leone is one of the six Police Contributing Countries to the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS), with a contingent of the Formed Police Unit (FPU) and Individual Police Officers (IPOs).

The Sierra Leone FPU (SLFPU) has major/minor equipment (ME) and self-sustainment (SS) capabilities in accordance with the standards established by the UN General Assembly, thus requirement to take part in the COE inspection exercise.

COE inspections are either Periodic Inspections (PI) or Operational Readiness Inspections (ORI); often determined by the inspectors in their quarterly inspection schedule. Normally, PI is conducted by a few COE inspectors, while ORI often requires a larger number of inspectors.





## SLFPU-4 IN CAMP BEAUTIFICATION INITIATIVE

BY: Sgt. Johnny Christopha Merriman, Civil Engineer



Sixty personnel of the Sierra Leone Formed Police Unit-4 (SLFPU-4) in May completed a six-day intensive training on Environmental Management, to create awareness on the need to protect the environment while executing the mission mandate.

The training, conducted in two separate sessions and graced by the commander of SLFPU-4, Chief Superintendent of Police (CSP) Mohamed Kugba Allieu, was facilitated by the UNSOS Environment Officer, Richard Oyoo.

The training covered several topics which included the five pillars of environmental management and the benefits of proper environmental management by security personnel to avert negative environmental impacts, among others.

In his remarks, CSP Allieu encouraged the participants to take the training seriously and apply the knowledge acquired in the training during their duty tour and in their private lives in the future.

The SLFPU-4 commander, noted that it was incumbent on the contingent's Senior Leadership Team (SLT) to ensure the wellbeing of every personnel, through maintaining a clean and beautiful environment, creating a shade for staff to relax and cool off, and increasing access to water within the camp.

Following the training, the contingent's Civil Engineer, Sgt. Johnny Christopha Merriman and team commenced a camp beautification project aimed at leaving an environmentally friendly footprint.

Additionally, the contingent undertook a number of projects which included monthly general cleaning, tree and flower planting, electrification of strategic areas within the camp, installation of a water tank at the main entrance to the camp, paving of assembly points, tiling of the front view of the prefabs and the creation of a "Peace Zone" at the SLFPU garden.

On his part, the Deputy Contingent Commander, Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), Kabba Julius Koroma urged the contingent personnel, led by Sgt. Merriman, to continue the good work.



Consequently, the contingent started undertaking weekly and monthly general cleaning exercises around their accommodations, ablutions, kitchen, gym, garage, the Level-1 hospital, offices, sentry posts and other parts of the camp.

## THE CONTRIBUTION OF SLFPU-4 BRASS BAND

BY: Sgt. Mohamed Alieu Deen, Head of Band



The fourth Sierra Leone Formed Police Unit to deploy on the AU Mission in Somalia has pulled off a first. It is the first Formed Police Unit to deploy on the mission with a brass band.

The band comprised six members, all with the unique ability of playing various instruments, including percussion and wind section.

The performers comprised soloist Mohamed Alieu Deen and Safea Amara, altoist Winifred Benita Taylor, tenor Jabez Daniel Williams, side drummer Patrick Bayoh Samura, and bass drummer Dauda Sinnah.

Apart from music, the band members also took part in other contingent related tasks, such as providing armed escorts and security coverage.

Based in Kismayo, the administrative capital of Jubaland State, the band participated in guard-of-honor parades to welcome high profile guests from Mogadishu and occasionally supplied buglers for quarter guard parades.

Additionally, the band also actively participated in celebrations and processions in the sector and played a critical role in activities aimed at reducing stress among the personnel.

Also, the SLFPU-4 band provided musical support to other mission components during their celebrations, for example, during Ethiopia's ADWA Day celebration, Kenya's Madaraka Day celebration, and the World Environment Day and International Women's Day commemoration.

At these functions, the band provided background music and fanfare, lending colour to the occasions.

The SLFPU-4 band played a crucial role in the celebration of Sierra Leone's 61st and 62nd independence anniversaries in Mogadishu in 2022 and 2023, respectively.

At both events, the band welcomed the guests in style and played both the AU and the Sierra Leone anthems.





# SLFPU-4 PICTORIAL





























## SLFPU-4 Management Team (Portraits)



**CSP Mohamed Kugba Allieu**  
*Contingent Commander*



**DSP Kabba Julius Koroma**  
*Deputy Contingent Commander*



**DSP Abass Y Bangura**  
*Operations Officer*



**ASP Abdulai Momoh Kamara**  
*Admin Officer,*



**CIP Salieu Kanu, Liaison**  
*Officer,*



**IP Alimamy Sesay**  
*Logistics Officer*

# ENTIRE CONTINGENT PORTRAITS



CSP Mohamed Kugba Allieu,  
SLFPU-4 Contingent



DSP Kabba Julius Koroma  
Deputy Contingent Commander



DSP Abass Y Bangura  
Operations Officer



DSP Baimba Daffay Turay,  
SLFPU-4, Trainer



ASP DR. Yayah Munu,  
SLFPU-4 Contingent Doctor



ASP Abdulai Momoh Kamara,  
SLFPU-4 Admin Officer



ASP ABDUL NABIEU BANGURA,  
DUTY OFFICER



ASP PETER KAKU KOROMA,  
CHARLIE PLATOON COMMANDER



ASP EDWARD MARK KOROMA,  
ALPHA PLATOON COMMANDER



ASP MOMOH KENNEH,  
CHARLIE PLATOON



ASP AMADU TARAWALLIE,  
HEAD OF DISCIPLINE



ASP YAHYAH GIBATEH,  
DTO



CIP SALIEU KANU,  
LIAISON OFFICER



CIP KABBA CONTEH,  
ALPHA PLATOON



ALIMAMY SESAY,  
LOGISTICS OFFICER



IP EMMANUEL TURNER,  
CHARLIE PLATOON





**IP ALPHA MORLAI KAMARA,**  
HEAD OF AVIATION SECURITY/  
CONTINGENT IMAM



**IP TOMMY RAY JAMES,**  
ELECTRICIAN



**IP HAMUSA CONTEH,**  
DRIVER



**IP MUSTAPHA KOVOMA,**  
DRIVER



**IP SORIE KAMARA,**  
TRAINER



**IP PHEBEAN JITTA SANDY,**  
MATRON



**IP STEVEN SAFFA TEJAN,**  
DRIVER



**IP REBECCA KADI BANGURA,**  
ALPHA PLATOON



**IP ERNEST YAJAH, BRAVO**  
PLATOON



**IP ISHMEAL KEIFALA,**  
BRAVO PLATOON COMMANDER



**IP ALLEN MOHAMED KOROMA,**  
DEPUTY CHARLIE PLATOON COMMANDER



**SUB- IP PATRICK VICTOR**  
COKER, ARMOURER



**SUB- IP PETER SAHR SHEKU**  
KEIMBAY, MTO



**SUB-IP WINIFRED BENITA**  
TAYLOR, CHEF



**SUB -IP DAVID BOBOR**  
CHARLES, ICT/ DATA OFFICER



**SUB-IP BINTU TOMMY,**  
DEPUTY CHEF



**SUB-IP SHEKA JAMES**  
KAMARA, ALPHA PLATOON



**SUB-IP TAMBA BUNDOR,**  
DEPUTY BRAVO PLATOON COMMANDER



**SUB-IP SORIE DANIEL CONTEH,**  
BRAVO PLATOON



**SUB-IP MICHAEL ALHAJI**  
SESAY, BRAVO PLATOON



SUB-IP JUMA SWARAY, ALPHA PLATOON



SUB-IP ADAMA MANSARAY, BRAVO PLATOON



SUB-IP AUGUSTINE GIBSON, CHARLIE PLATOON



SUB-IP ALEX DUMBUYA, PLUMBER



SUB-IP OLIVIA KONOBOY, NURSE



SUB-IP TAMBA JAMES JABBA, NURSE



SUB-IP LAHAI JOSIE VANDY, ALPHA PLATOON



SUB-IP AMADU JOE SILLAH, BRAVO PLATOON



SUB-IP MUSA GANAH JEIGULAH, ALPHA PLATOON



SUB-IP ISHMAEL KARGBO, BRAVO PLATOON



SUB-IP EMMANUEL SAHR SANSIE, BRAVO PLATOON



SUB-IP AIAH FENGAI, PA TO CONTINGENT COMMANDER



SUB-IP OSMAN KANU, ALPHA PLATOON



SM ALPHA ABDUL KARGBO, COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER



SM ALUSINE KALIE CONTEH, BRAVO PLATOON



SM JUMA BAH, BRAVO PLATOON/CAMP SERGEANT MAJOR



SGT JOHNNY CHRISTOPHA MERRIMAN, CIVIL ENGINEER



SGT KELLY JALLOH, CLINICAL OFFICER



SGT SALIA ANSUMANA, DRIVER



SGT SAMPHA KAMAR, AUTO MECHANIC





SGT FATMATA WARRITAY,  
TAILOR



SGT SOLOMON KAMARA,  
DEPUTY ALPHA PLATOON



SGT FRANCIS YIGIBA SESAY,  
AVIATION SECURITY OFFICER



SGT IBRAHIM FOFANAH,  
ALPHA PLATOON



SGT JOHN TEPIAN TURAY,  
ALPHA PLATOON



SGT JOSEPH ANKAR  
MANSARAY, BRAVO PLATOON



SGT HAWA STEVENS BRAVO  
PLATOON



SGT KANKU SESAY, BRAVO  
PLATOON



SGT PATRICK BAYOH SAMURA,  
MESS OFFICER



SGT MOHAMED ALIEU DEEN,  
ALPHA PLATOON/HEAD OF BAND



SGT JOSEPH BORNOH  
FORNAH, BRAVO PLATOON



SGT MELVIN SCOTLAND,  
ALPHA PLATOON



SGT BABATUNDE AJALA,  
DRIVER



SGT MOMOH KANU, BRAVO  
PLATOON



SGT OSMAN SESAY, CHARLIE  
PLATOON



SGT FORAY MANSARAY,  
DRIVER



SGT JABEZ DANIEL WILLIAMS,  
BRAVO PLATOON



SGT ABUBAKARR CONTEH,  
TRAINER / AVIATION SECURITY OFFICER



SGT ALICE ABIE MONDEH,  
ALPHA PLATOON



SGT SARIAN FORNAH,  
AVIATION SECURITY OFFICER



SGT ALHAJI JAYAH SAMAI,  
ALPHA PLATOON



SGT BURAH SWARD CONTEH,  
CHARLIE PLATOON



SGT MOHAMED SANDY, BRAVO  
PLATOON



SGT EVELYN FINDA KANGBAL,  
BRAVO PLATOON



SGT FATMATA MUM BANGURA,  
CONTINGENT PASTOR



SGT AMINATA SANDY, ALPHA  
PLATOON



SGT JESTINA NGOBEH, BRAVO  
PLATOON



SGT PRINCE ANDREW  
ANSUMANA, BRAVO PLATOON



SGT FODAY BASSIE KAMARA,  
CHARLIE PLATOON



SGT VERONICA WAINDAY  
SESAY, CHARLIE PLATOON



SGT HANNAH KAMARA,  
AVIATION SECURITY OFFICER



SGT MOMOH JOSEPH KONNEH,  
BRAVO PLATOON



SGT ARUNA NALLO, CHARLIE  
PLATOON



SGT JOSEPH BOBOR GARBA,  
ALPHA PLATOON



SGT IBRAHIM CONTEH,  
CHARLIE PLATOON



SGT ALIMAMY SESAY, BRAVO  
PLATOON



SGT BUNDU DUMBUYA,  
CHARLIE PLATOON



SGT CHRISTIAN GBONDO,  
BRAVO PLATOON



SGT ABDUL AZIZ BARRIE,  
CHARLIE PLATOON



SGT ALIEU SANDY BAIU,  
CHARLIE PLATOON





SGT SAIO CONTEH, CHARLIE PLATOON



SGT PRINCE JOE KPANDIWA JABATI, CHARLIE PLATOON



SGT AMADU GBASSAY, ALPHA PLATOON



SGT SAUDATU SHERIFF, CHARLIE PLATOON



SGT CHRISTIAN DOMINIC GRAY, CHARLIE PLATOON



SGT SAFFIA KOROMA, ALPHA PLATOON



SGT ALPHA PAPANIE CONTEH, MECHANICAL ENGINEER



SGT SULAIMAN KANNEH, CHARLIE PLATOON



CPL GEORGE THULLAH, CHARLIE PLATOON



CPL SIA ELIZABETH ALLIEU, NURSE



CPL ELIZABETH CONTEH, NURSE



CPL LANSANA KOROMA MANSARAY, MECHANIC/ BURNER



CPL ALEXтина MASARA SANKOH, AVIATION SECURITY



CPL WINIFRED KANU, CHARLIE PLATOON



CPL ALPHA KAMARA, CHARLIE PLATOON



CPL ABASS ALHAJI BANGURA, ALPHA PLATOON



CPL HASSAN THULLAH, AVIATION SECURITY OFFICER



CPL DAVID PARKER, CHARLIE PLATOON



CPL SANTIGIE SESAY, DRIVER



CPL ABDUL RAHMAN KAMARA, ALPHA PLATOON



CPL PRINCE CONTEH,  
AVIATION SECURITY OFFICER



CPL ABU KAMARA, BRAVO  
PLATOON



CPL ANDREW GBORIE, CHARLIE  
PLATOON



CPL ALIE PEWA, BRAVO  
PLATOON



CPL ABU BAKARR KOROMA,  
ALPHA PLATOON



CPL DAUDA SINNAH,  
CARPENTER



CPL KABBA SESAY, BRAVO  
PLATOON



CPL CHARLES YALLAH DAVID  
KANU, CHARLIE PLATOON



PC AUGUSTUS MANSARAY,  
DRIVER



PC JOHN MOJU BROWNE,  
HEAD OF COMMUNICATIONS



PC SAÏDU BAI SULLAIMAN  
KAMARA, PHARMACIST



PC YANKUMBA MAMMY,  
ALPHA PLATOON



PC ALHAJI DAUDA SANDI,  
BRAVO PLATOON



PC ABUBAKARR SANKOH,  
CHARLIE PLATOON



PC ABU SAMA CONTEH,  
MECHANIC



PC IBRAHIM FOFANAH,  
MECHANIC



PC JOHN MOMODU BANGURA,  
LAB TECHNICIAN



PC YASSIE MANSARAY,  
NURSE



PC IDRISSA KARGBO,  
VULCANIZER



PC SULAIMAN JUMU, ALPHA  
PLATOON





PC ALHAJI BANGURA, ALPHA PLATOON



PC FATMATATA PABAI, BRAVO PLATOON



PC ABU BANGURA, ALPHA PLATOON



PC POSSEH MANSARAY, ALPHA PLATOON



PC TAIBIE DAVIES, ALPHA PLATOON



PC SAFIATU HAWANATU KAMARA, SANITARY OFFICER



PC ISHA MAKAPRI SESAY, BRAVO PLATOON



PC ABIBATU SANKOH, CHARLIE PLATOON



PC KATUMU CONTEH, BRAVO PLATOON



PC ALIE KOROMA, CHARLIE PLATOON



PC BINTU VANETTA COLE, COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER



PC BINTY KAMARA, ALPHA PLATOON



PC SAFEA AMARA, BRAVO PLATOON



PC SARAH MEMUNATU LAMIN, ALPHA PLATOON



PC MOHAMED ALIE KAMARA, DRIVER



PC YUSUFU ALHASSAN KARGBO, CHARLIE PLATOON



PC UMARU SESAY, CHARLIE PLATOON



PC KEITU SMITH, DRIVER



PC YANKUBA ANSUMANA, SANITARY OFFICER



PC SAMUEL THORONKA, ALPHA PLATOON



PC EMMANUEL FOSTER  
DAVIES, BRAVO PLATOON



PC MOHAMED NABIEU  
KAMARA, TRAINER



PC ABDUL KALILU KAMANDA,  
ALPHA PLATOON



THE LATE PC MABINTY ABDUL  
FOFANA



THE LATE SGT ABDULLAHI BORBOR  
MARRAH





