Executive Summary: There has been one significant report in the last 24 hours, civil unrest in Sinoe County, southern Liberia; mistrust toward health care workers continues throughout Liberia. The rainy season continues to hinder logistical movement throughout the JOA. The security situation in Liberia will probably remain stable in the near term. The Guinean prime minister visited Forecariah following recent unrest, to educate and “pardon” their actions against health care workers, with the intent to bring greater understanding of the Ebola response teams.
Liberia:

Civil unrest in Congo town, Monrovia: On 29 September at 0815L, a Liberian civilian was hit and killed by a vehicle on Tubman Blvd (MSR Rams) in the Congo neighborhood of Monrovia. A crowd gathered blocking traffic and throwing rocks at the vehicle. The vehicle was stopped by the Liberian National Police who were on patrol in the local area. The Police apprehended the driver and the crowd were interviewed by police for official statements. By 0900L the crowd dispersed. This is another incident that shows how poor living conditions in Liberia and poor traffic patterns can elevate the populace’s discontent with the government’s ability to maintain civil order. The possibility of additional, swift mobilization of crowds to violence will persist.

Civil Unrest in Sinoe County: On 27 September, UNMIL JOC was informed that over 100 citizens of Unification Town, Sinoe County, threatened to assault 9 health workers, accusing them of spreading EVD and extracting human kidneys for sale in Europe and the U.S. The health workers reportedly escaped through the forest while their host tried to resist the angry crowd brandishing a single-barrel gun. Local authorities responded to the scene to avert further disorder but were also accused of receiving money from the government to support the activities of the “wrongdoers.” No arrest was made and no injuries were reported. As OUA operations move outside of Monrovia, Information Operations will be key to educate the populace outside the main city centers of U.S. support to fight Ebola. Fear and lack of education in the outer counties help fuel an unstable environment. It will be imperative to continue the positive perception of U.S. forces as the mission continues.
(U) Liberian Regional Security Officer (RSO) Update: Currently Liberia is in the middle of its annual rainy season, which coincides with peak criminal activity in Monrovia. The majority of crime is Liberians against Liberians. Due to the low percentage of personally owned weapons, the majority of weapons used in criminal acts are knives and machetes. Ninety percent of the crimes are committed during the hours of curfew. Liberians have high expectations of U.S. Soldiers and are unlikely to steal from them. The outer Monrovia county areas will welcome the U.S. personnel. The U.S. military uniform is a positive image throughout Liberia. OUA Information Operation messaging is key to the continued positive perception of U.S. personnel. As the fear of the populace continues to grow there is a chance this image may degrade absent swift visible progress dealing with the outbreak. The partnership with the Armed Forces of Liberia and U.S. uniformed personnel can help rebuild the nation’s confidence in the government and military.

(U) Barclay Training Facility Initial Risk Assessment: Barclay training ground is located in a low income area that has a high crime rate. The criminal risk will require additional coordination with the host nation security forces. The initial facility assessments identified that some measures are required to address security concerns. These include lack of adequate lighting on the facility and the perimeter wall. Overall the facility did not raise too many unexpected concerns other than its location in a high-crime area. The facility is considered favorable for its initial security risk assessment. Barclay will need only minor adjustments to meet security standards. The AFL does frequent patrols and have been very accommodating in additional U.S. requests for security support. The National Military Response Center (NMRC) is near Barclay, which will add an additional security element to the location and assist in future coordination.
(U) **Road Conditions in Liberia:** On 27 September, UNMIL JOC received a report that the main road from Bopolu (Gbarpolu County) to Tubmanburg (Bomi County) was blocked due to the very poor conditions 47 kms from Bopolu. *As the rainy season continues, road conditions will remain unfavorable. The outer county areas of Liberia lack the infrastructure to maintain and clear the roads. If additional traffic is added to these routes it will further degrade them, resulting in additional roads rendered unusable.*

(U) **JOA (Sierra Leone, Guinea, Senegal, Liberia):**

(U) **Australia Refuses to Send Ebola Doctors to West Africa:** Australia has ruled out sending doctors to West Africa to help fight the Ebola outbreak because of logistical problems should any Australian become infected with the deadly virus and need to be repatriated. *The logistical and health concerns of the Ebola crisis will continue to make some developed countries reticent about sending medical personnel.*

(U) **Head of New UN Ebola Response Mission Arrives in Ghana:** Anthony Banbury, head of the UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER) arrived on Monday in Accra, capital of Ghana, for the official opening of the headquarters. Over the week Anthony Banbury will travel to Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea to open UNMEER’s three regional offices. Banbury, joined an advanced team set up in Accra to ensure rapid, effective, and coherent actions to aid in controlling the outbreak. UNMEER is the first UN health emergency response mission, established the week of 22 September over week ago by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. On 1 October, Banbury is scheduled to give a press conference in Accra. Ban Ki-moon met with Sierrra Leonean Foreign Minister Samura Kamara at the UN Headquarters in New York on 29 September and will also visit the Strategic Health Operations Centre at the Geneva Headquarters of WHO on 2 October to receive a brief by the Ebola Outbreak Response Team. This is to aid in combating the outbreak and trying to dimish its effects.
(U) **Guinean Prime Minister Visits City after Ebola Related Violence; Parsons Offenders:** Guinean Prime Minister, Mohamed Said Fofana, visited Forecariah over the weekend of 27 September, and was accompanied by other members of the government. The objective was to increase awareness of Ebola following a recent protest in mid-September from the residents against methods used by the health workers. The Prime Minister explained the occurrence of the disease and the actions needed to contain it. Government officials insist the population lacked the proper communications, and “pardoned” the incident on the condition it will not happen again. The visit and pardon by the government will likely have a positive effect on the community of Forecariah, as it provides a foundation of trust between the local populace and the government of Guinea. If the residents have faith in the process to eliminate Ebola, it will likely lead to less attacks on health care workers, which would allow aid in the areas that were once dangerous.

(U) **Weather:**

(U) Dakar will see persistent lower ceilings and passing showers after fair weather today with thunderstorms returning on the 3rd and 4th. The thunderstorms and showers will be isolated and should not have impacts outside of delays when actually over the airfield. The 4th will be the peak of the thunderstorm activity in Dakar for this period.

(U) Liberia will see little change to the rain and thunderstorms throughout the country. A slight decrease in thunderstorm activity will be expected on the 30th and 4th. However, rain showers and cloud cover will still be extensive. Rainfall amounts in the capital will still be around 1 to 1.5 inches for today, while southeastern interior locations will see as much as 3 inches.