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1st Woman Lieutenant - 'I Intend To Put Liberia On The Map'**The Analyst** (Monrovia)

NEWS

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Geraldine George has become the first woman in the history of Liberia military to be commissioned 2nd Lieutenant. The honor comes as result of her resolve to serve her country which is ravaged by years of conflict.

"I intend to improve the army standards in my weak way and to put Liberia on the world map." She said she felt so proud about herself because "she now has the opportunity to serve her country."

The uniqueness of the event is that she commissioned as the first woman 2nd Lieutenant by the first female President of Liberia and Africa, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf commissions.

The Liberian leader commanded George and the rest of her colleagues to "go out and do your duty with diligence, with honor, with commitment to country."

The ceremony was held Monday at the Edward B. Kesselley military barracks in Shieffelin.

Those commissioned were Theophilus A. Dana, Jr., Davidson F. Forleh, Geraldine J. George, Oyango M. Kole, and Danicious Kwia.

Others are Benefit K. Mason, Quincy P. Tenny, Jorel S. Toe and Daniel D. Ziankahn, Jr. 2nd Lieutenant George said "I joined the army to help improve Liberia and to work for my country. What I can do for my country now and not what my country can do for me."

She hoped that those commissioned will go out in keeping with the oath they took and make a major contribution to the rebuilding of the country by "protecting the integrity of our borders, to observing the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Liberia, as well as to protecting our citizens."

She urged them to demonstrate to the Liberian people that this army is a new and different army that all Liberians can be proud.

"one that respects the laws, one that takes orders only when those orders comply with the Constitution and laws of our country, one in which not only our citizens, but all of Africa and the world can be proud of.

She indicated that this new army will help bring Liberia the peace, reconciliation and development that it deserves," the Commander-in-Chief promised. Two of the eleven that were to be commissioned were undergoing disciplinary determination and could not be commissioned.

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