

**SECRETARY-GENERAL APPOINTS MAJOR GENERAL MUHAMMAD IQBAL ASI OF  
PAKISTAN AS FORCE COMMANDER FOR UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN COTE  
D'IVOIRE**

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon has appointed Major General Muhammad Iqbal Asi of Pakistan as Force Commander of the United Nations Operations in Cote d'Ivoire (ONUCI). Major General Iqbal has replaced Major General Gnakoude Berena of Togo, whose tour of duty ended on 11 May 2012. The Secretary-General is grateful to Major General Berena for his exemplary service and contribution to the work of ONUCI.

Major General Iqbal brings to this position a distinguished military career. Since joining the Pakistan Army in 1983, he has served on various command, staff and instructional assignments. He has commanded two Infantry Battalions (1999-2000 and 2003-2004), a deployed brigade in mountains (2005-2007), and served as Director General Security and Counter Terrorism (S&CT) from 2011 to 2012. His staff appointments include Brigade Major of an Infantry Brigade, General Staff Officer (Grade-1) at General Headquarters (2004-2005) and Chief of Staff of a deployed Corps (2008-2010). His instructional assignments include Directing Staff at Pakistan Military Academy (1993) and Command & Staff College (2000-2002).

Major General Iqbal has also served as MILOB in United Nations Iraq Kuwait Observation Mission (1996-1997).

He has attended Command and Staff Course and Armed Forces War Course from Pakistan and National Defence Course from Bangladesh. He holds two Master of Science degree in War Studies, Master of Arts in Political Science and International Relations.

The General Officer is an occasional contributor in various professional journals, magazines and publications.

Major General Iqbal was born in 1962 in Gujranwala, Pakistan. He is married and has been blessed with two sons and two daughters.