

UNITED NATIONS



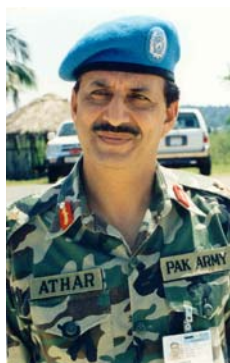
NATIONS UNIES

UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SIERRA LEONE
(UNAMSIL)

PRESS RELEASE

6 November 2002

UNAMSIL CHIEF MILITARY OBSERVER APPOINTED
NEW DEPUTY FORCE COMMANDER



Freetown – The Chief Military Observer of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), Maj. Gen. Syed Athar Ali, has been appointed by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan as UNAMSIL's Deputy Force Commander, replacing Maj. Gen. Martin Luther Agwai who recently left Sierra Leone to take up a new appointment with the UN Headquarters in New York.

Prior to his new appointment, which took effect on 1 November, Maj. Gen. Athar served as UNAMSIL's Chief Military Observer, a position he still retains.

Maj. Gen. Athar was commissioned in 1971 in the Pakistan Army, before joining an old and traditional infantry battalion, the 8th Battalion of the Punjab Regiment. He then served in the Regiment in different ranks and appointments, including Adjutant, Company Commander and Second in Command, and had the honour of commanding the same Regiment from 1988 to 1989. He also commanded another infantry battalion, before being promoted to the rank of brigadier, where he commanded an infantry brigade for two and a half years. Before joining UNAMSIL in July 2001, Maj. Gen. Athar was commanding an Infantry Division of Strike Corps in Pakistan.

Having done War Course from National Defense College, he held the prestigious appointment of Director Military Operation (Plans) in Military Operations Directorate at General Headquarters in Pakistan.

Apart from his duties as a commander, Maj. Gen. Athar also has vast experience in instructional and staff assignments. He is a graduate from the Command and Staff College Quetta and did a masters degree in war studies from the National Defense College in Islamabad. He also holds a Masters Degree in International Relations from the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) at Columbia University, New York.

UNAMSIL Headquarters, Mammy Yoko, P. O. Box 5, Freetown, Sierra Leone
Tel: 232-22-273-183/4/5 Fax: 232-22-273-189