



## **Major-General Alberto Asarta Cuevas**

On 28 January 2010, Major-General Alberto Asarta Cuevas of Spain assumed command as Force Commander and Head of Mission of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), succeeding Lieutenant-General Claudio Graziano of Italy.

Major-General Asarta was commissioned as an Infantry Officer in 1975 and brings with him extensive and wide-ranging experience, including significant command expertise and prior experience with United Nations peacekeeping.

He was promoted to Major-General in September 2009 and had been serving as the Advisor to the Chief of Staff of the Spanish Army before his appointment to UNIFIL. Prior to that he served as UNIFIL Sector East Commander from December 2008 to April 2009.

During 1975 to 1988, he served as platoon and company commander in the paratrooper forces, the Spanish Legion and the “Canarias 50” Infantry Regiment. He also taught at the Paratrooper Training School.

Besides UNIFIL, his other foreign assignments were as Military Information Officer with the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA) in 1991 and with the NATO Stabilisation Force (SFOR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1997 and again during 2001-02. As Commander of the Infantry Mechanised Regiment “Castilla 16” during 2003-05 he deployed to Iraq. Earlier in 1993, he was assigned to EUROCORPS HQ in Strasbourg, France.

Major-General Asarta attended the Army Staff College in Spain and earned a degree in National Defence from the Argentine National Defence School. He also holds a degree in Physical Education, and completed military courses in various institutions, including the United States Naval Postgraduate School and the NATO School in Germany.

A native of Zaragoza, Spain, Major-General Asarta is fluent in English and French as well. Major-General Asarta is married to Clara Eugenia Pedraza and has a son, a daughter and five grandchildren.