



## Lieutenant General Juan Pablo Sánchez de Lara, Commander Combined Air Operations Center Torrejón

Lieutenant General Juan Pablo Sánchez de Lara is the Commander of NATO's Combined Air Operation Centre at Torrejón Air Base, Spain.

Lieutenant General Juan Sanchez de Lara (Albacete, 14DEC63) graduated from the Spanish Air Force Academy in 1985 and from the Fighter Pilot School in 1986.

His first assignment was the 21<sup>st</sup> Wing (Moron AFB) flying Northrop F-5 until 1987 when he was posted to the 14<sup>th</sup> Wing (Albacete AFB) where he was promoted to Captain, and flew more than 1.000 hours in Mirage F-1, being also flight instructor as well as flight test pilot.

In 1993 he was assigned to the Air Force Academy (San Javier AB) as flight instructor, and from 1995 to 2002 as Fighter Pilot School instructor in the 23<sup>rd</sup> Wing, where he was promoted to Major, becoming Squadron commander and flight test pilot, and finalizing the assignment with a total of 1.700 hours in F-5. Between November 1997 and February 1998 he was appointed Commander of the Spanish Air Control Party Detachment in Bosnia Herzegovina (under NATO SFOR). During the last year of this tour he did the Joint Staff Course.

From 2002 until 2005 he was assigned to the Operations Division of the Air Force Staff as staff officer, where he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in July 2004.

In March 2005, he was selected to serve in the Military Staff of the Household of His Majesty the King until 2007, when he was assigned to SHAPE (Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers in Europe), in the Joint Operations Division (J-3), as air-to-ground operations and targeting staff officer, where he was responsible, amongst others, for the ACO Directive 80-70 (Joint Targeting) and ACO Manual 80-70 (TST), as well as the Bi-SC FAC/JTAC Capability Program.

In 2010, he returned to the Air Force Staff, this time to the Plans Division, where he was promoted to Colonel in July 2013 and became Head of the Plans Section. During this period he also served four months as Chief of the Spanish Detachment in Djibouti for EU Operation Atalanta.

In 2014, took office as Director of the Air Force Academy during three years, in which he achieved the full implementation of a new curriculum for Air Force students. Thereafter, he was briefly posted back as Plans Section Head until his promotion to Brigadier General, in December 2017, and his assignment as Plans Division Chief, where he was national Director of NAEW Program, as well as national representative to Air& Missile Defense Committee (AMDC) and Air C2 Steering Committee.

The 16<sup>th</sup> of June 2020 he was promoted to Major General and took office as the Air Force Canary Islands Air Command. On 28 February 2023 he has been promoted to Lieutenant General and nominated CAOC Torrejón Commander as of 29 March 2023.

General Sanchez de Lara has more than 3.500 flying hours in fighter aircraft.

### Military and civil courses

Spanish Armed Forces General Staff  
International Humanitarian Law  
Officer EM/NATO EW Operations  
NATO Conventional Targeting  
Fighter Pilot Course

### Most recognized awards

Air Merit Grand Cross  
San Hermenegildo's Order Grand Cross  
Four Air Merit Crosses  
Naval Merit Cross  
Gold Medal of the French National Defence

### Biographic data

Lieutenant General Sánchez de Lara is married to Asuncion and has three children.

