



Lieutenant General José Antonio Herrera Llamas, Chief of the Spanish Joint Defence Staff

Lieutenant General José Antonio Herrera Llamas was born in Málaga on August the 22nd of 1963. He joined the Air Force in 1980, and was commissioned first lieutenant on July the 16th of 1985, upon graduation from the ESP Air Force Academy.

He was further promoted to Captain in 1988, to Major in 1997, to Lieutenant Colonel in 2005 and to Colonel in 2013. In February 2018 is promoted to Brigadier General and in June 2020 to Major General.

Throughout his career he served as a teacher and flight instructor at the Military Air Transport School (Matacán Air Base, Salamanca), pilot of the 31st Wing (Zaragoza Air Base), pilot and squadron commander of the 47th Group (Torrejón Air Base), and commanded the 45th Group (Torrejón Air Base). From an operational perspective, MG Herrera has

participated in several missions (Namibia, the Gulf War, Former Yugoslavia, Afghanistan and Atalanta), being awarded the badges of UNPROFOR, IFOR, PERSIAN GULF, ADRIATIC, PROVIDE CONFORT, ISAF and ATALANTA. Between September 2009 and April 2010, he was appointed Air Operations Chief of the NATO KAIA (Kabul International Airport), as part of the ISAF mission. MG Herrera has flown a total of 9.122 flight hours in the following aircraft: Bücker, T-34 "Mentor", C-101 "Aviojet", A-36 "Bonanza", C-212 "Aviocar", C-130 "Hercules", Dassault Falcon 20, Boeing B-707, Dassault Falcon 900B and Airbus 310.

He has also served as head of the Joint Centre for Concept Development, Chief of the Logistics Branch in the Operations Command, Chief of the Coordination Section of the Air Staff General Secreteriat, and analyst in the Programmes Section of the Air Staff Plans Division. In these staff positions he had an intense involvement in requirements definition and follow-up of several acquisition and modernisation programmes (such as: C-130 upgrade, Airbus C-295, Airbus A-310, Dassault Falcon 900, A-400M multinational Programme, F/A-18 Electronic Warfare Suite upgrade, etc.); other areas of expertise are force and resources planning, budgeting, programmes development, operational logistics and force development.

In February 2018, he was promoted to Brigadier General and appointed Head of the Joint Concept Development Centre of CESEDEN.

In June 2020, he was promoted to Major General and took command of the Force Development Division of the Joint Defence Staff (EMACON).

In March 2022, he was appointed Head of the Plans Division of EMACON.

In July 2024, he is promoted to Lieutenant General and becomes Chief of the Joint Defence Staff.

Most relevant courses

Air Staff Diploma
NATO Defence College Senior Course
Electronic Warfare Officer
Licentiate graduate at Law (University of Zaragoza)

Most relevant awards

Great Cross for Aeronautical Merit
Great Cross of the Royal and Military Order of Saint Hermenegildo
Special Award of the Royal and Civil Order of Charles the Third
Kuwait Liberation Campaign Medal

Lt.Gn. Herrera Llamas is married and has two children.

