



## Lieutenant General Fernando García González-Valerio, Chief of the Spanish Joint Defence Staff

Lieutenant General Fernando García González-Valerio was born in Barbastro, Huesca. He was promoted to Infantry Lieutenant in July 1984, being assigned to the III Parachute Battalion, in Alcalá de Henares.

Once promoted to Captain, he was posted to the 3rd Tercio "Don Juan de Austria" of the Legion, in Fuerteventura. He completed his parachuting skills during his stay at the Parachute Military School "Méndez Parada", as a parachute instructor. Subsequently, he returned to the III Parachute Battalion as a Company commander.

After obtaining the Military Staff Diploma, already as a Major, he carried out his duties in the Land Operations Centre within the Operations Division of the General Staff of the Army. In this rank he began his international experience, serving for three years in the NATO Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) in Rheindahlen, Germany.

As a Lieutenant Colonel, he was appointed III Parachute Battalion commander. In December 2008 he was assigned to de Studies Unit of the Second Chief of the General Staff of the Army. As a Colonel, he took over the command of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Light Infantry Regiment "Príncipe", stationed at Oviedo. In January 2014 he was again assigned to the Operations Division of the General Staff of the Army as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Chief of the Army Situation Centre.

In July 2014 he was promoted to Brigadier General and assumed the command of the Operations Division of the General Staff of the Army. In 2017, he was promoted to the rank of Major General and appointed Chief of the "Castillejos" Division.

He has an extensive experience in international missions, both under the mandate of the United Nations (ONUMOZ) and NATO (SFOR, ISAF), having served as an observer for the UN, in Multinational Headquarters and in Afghanistan. In his second tour in Afghanistan he was Chief of the Spanish Force in the Badghís province.

In August 2020 he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant General, and appointed Chief of the Spanish Joint Defence Staff.

### Military courses and civil studies

Paratrooper Unit Command.  
General Staff Course.  
Advanced Logistical Management.  
National Defence Course.  
Physical Training teacher.  
NATO Operational Planning.

### Relevant decorations

Grand Cross of the Royal and Military Order of Saint Hermenegild.  
Grand Cross of Military Merit.  
Bronze Medal of the French Defence.  
Order of Civil Merit.

### Personal details

Lieutenant General García González-Valerio is married with three children.

