



Lieutenant General Miguel Ballenilla y García de Gamarra. Director of the Centre for National Defence Studies (Ceseden).

General Miguel Ballenilla was born in Alicante on April 19, 1963. He joined the General Military Academy in September 1982, becoming a member of the XLII promotion. He obtained the Royal Commission as Lieutenant of infantry in July 1987.

He was promoted to Captain in 1991, to Major in 1999, to Lieutenant Colonel in 2007 and to Colonel in 2014. In January 2018, he was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General, to Major General in April 2020 and to Lieutenant General in December 2023.

He has been appointed as Lieutenant and Captain in the Tercio "Gran Capitán" 1st of the Legion in Melilla. As Commander in the Brigade Headquarters of the Legion "Rey Alfonso XIII" in Almería, where he was in charge of various sections of the Staff. After his promotion to Lieutenant Colonel, he was given command of the "Millán Astray", X of the Legion troops, in Ronda (Malaga) after completing his command, he was assigned to the Directorate of Army Education in Granada. He was promoted to Colonel, a rank in which he was in command of the "America" 66th Mountain Hunters Regiment in Pamplona. After his promotion to Brigadier General, he was appointed Secretary General of the Training and Doctrine Command in Granada. In March 2020, he was appointed Director of the Armed Forces Staff College (ESFAS) and promoted to Major General in April 2020.

General Ballenilla has significant operations experience. He served as Captain, as part of the Tactical Group "Malaga", which deployed in the former Yugoslavia in 1992, integrated into the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR). As a Commander in the operation "Iraqi Freedom" in 2004, as G4 of the Deployment Support Contingent (CONAPRE). In 2006 in the operation "Libre Hidalgo" as G1 of the Eastern Sector Headquarters of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). In 2010, and at the head of the X Legion Troops, he deployed to Afghanistan, forming the Tactical Group "Badghis" in the operation "Romeo Alfa" (ASPFOR XXV).

In December 2023, he was promoted to Lieutenant General and appointed Director of the Centre for National Defence Studies (CESEDEN).

Civilian and military courses

FAS General Staff Diploma

Specialist Tank Officer, Parachute Unit Command, Winter and Summer Mountain Basics and Social Communication Course

PhD in History from the University of Almería.

M Master's Degree in Strategic Studies and International Security from the University of Granada.

Most significant decorations

Grand Cross of the Army Merit

Grand Cross of the Royal and Military Order of St Hermenegildo

Commendation of the Order of Civil Merit

Cross of Merit of Guardia Civil

Police Merit Medal

Personal details

Lieutenant General Miguel Ballenilla y García de Gamarra is married with one son.

