

**LIEUTENANT GENERAL SPANISH MARINES  
FRANCISCO BISBAL PONS**



Lieutenant General Francisco Bisbal Pons was born in Palma de Mallorca, 8<sup>th</sup> January 1959. He grew up and attended school in San Fernando (Cadiz).

He joined the Naval Academy in 1979, being commissioned as a 1<sup>ST</sup> Lieutenant in 1984.

**Assignments:**

1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant:

- Special Operations Unit (Amphibious Marine Brigade) San Fernando (Cadiz), 1984-85.
- Naval Aviation School, Rota (Cadiz), 1986.
- 6<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Helicopter Squadrons, Naval Aviation Wing, Rota (Cadiz), 1986-87.

Captain:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Helicopter Squadron, Naval Aviation Wing, Rota (Cadiz), 1987-1991.
- Amphibious Warfare School (student), Quantico (USA), 1991-1992.
- Amphibious Marine Brigade, (Battalion S-1 and S-3), San Fernando (Cadiz) 1992-93.
- HQ and Sv Company Commander, Amphibious Marine Brigade, San Fernando (Cadiz) 1993-1995.

Major:

- Marines School (teacher in Amphibious Operations), San Fernando (Cadiz), 1995-1997.
- Naval War College (student), Madrid, 1997-98.
- Amphibious Marines Brigade (Chief of Operations) San Fernando (Cadiz), 1998-1999.
- Maritime Component Commander NATO HQ (Plans and Policy Division) Northwood (UK). 1999-2002.

Lieutenant Colonel:

- Navy General Staff (Plans and Policy Division), Madrid, 2002-2004.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Amphibious Mechanized Battalion Commander (Amphibious marine Brigade), San Fernando (Cadiz), 2004-06.
- Spanish Marines HQ (Plans Branch), Madrid, 2006.
- Spanish High Readiness Force Maritime Headquarters (Assistant Chief of Staff for Plans and Policy), Rota (Cadiz), 2006-09.
- Spanish Marines Headquarters (Plans and Policy branch), San Fernando (Cádiz), 2009-10.
- Chief of Staff at the Spanish High Readiness Force Maritime Headquarters, Rota (Cadiz), 2010-11.

Colonel:

- Chief of Staff in the Spanish Marines Headquarters, San Fernando (Cadiz), 2011-13.
- Spanish Joint Staff College, (Head of the Strategy and International Relations Department), Madrid, 2013-15.

Brigadier General:

- Director of Academics at the Spanish Joint Staff College, Madrid, 2015-2017.

Major General:

- Commandant of the Spanish Joint Staff College, Madrid, (Current position).

Lieutenant General:

- Director Spanish National Defence Studies Centre (CESEDEN).

Lieutenant General Bisbal is married to Begoña and they have three children.

### **Main Courses Attended**

- Naval War College, Madrid, 1998
- Amphibious Warfare School, Quantico (USA), 1992
- Naval Aviation Military Speciality, Rota, 1986
- Amphibious Operations Course, San Fernando 1994
- Helicopter Basic Course, Armilla, 1986
- Naval Aviation speciality, Rota, 1986
- Helicopter Instrumental Flight Course, Armilla, 1987
- Peace Support Operations Course, NATO School Ogerammenrgau (Germany), 1999.
- NATO Operational Planning Course, Delft (The Netherlands), 2000
- Parachute School, Alcantarilla, 1984
- Forward Air Controller, Tablada, 1983
- Peace Support Operations Course, Spanish Army War College, 2007
- Flag Officers qualification Course. Joint Staff College, Madrid, 2013.
- National Defence Course, CESEDEN, Madrid, 2016.
- Generals, Flag Officers and Ambassadors Course (GFOAC), NADEFCOL, Rome, 2018.

### **Language Profile**

English, NATO, SLP, 4, 4, 4, 4

### **Operational experience**

- OPERATION "IRAQI FREEDOM" (JUL 03-JAN 04). He was assigned to the Coalition Provisional Authority in Baghdad (Iraq) as a Military Advisor in the Coalition Military Assistance Training Team (CMATT). He was assigned as acting Chief of Plans in the CMATT and he bore the responsibility as Project Officer for the creation of the first 3 battalions in the NIA and the new Joint Headquarters. He was awarded an Army Cross Medal by the Spanish Secretary of Defence and the US Bronze Star by the US Secretary of the Army, for his achievements in his participation
- OPERATION "MAR CARIBE" (MAR 05- JUL 05). He held the position of Spanish contingent commander and Spanish-Moroccan multinational battalion commander, under the framework of the UN Military Mission for the Stabilisation of Haiti (MINUSTAH).
- OPERATION "ALTHEA" (NOV 08- MAY 09), as the JOC DIRECTOR in EUFOR HQ, in Sarajevo (Bosnia Herzegovina)

### **Military Awards**

- 1 St. Hermenegildo Grand Cross
- 1 Navy Merit Grand Cross
- 1 St. Hermenegildo Plaque
- 1 St. Hermenegildo Commendation Medal
- 1 St. Hermenegildo Cross Medal
- 6 Navy Merit Cross Medals
- 1 Army Merit Cross Medal
- 1 Commendation Medal of the Spanish Order "Isabel la Católica"
- 1 US Bronze Star (Iraqi Freedom)
- 1 Naval Medal Rep of Chile
- 1 UN Medal MINUSTAH (Haiti)

- 1 European Security and Defence Policy Medal (OP ALTHEA)
- 1 Mariscal Trompowsky Medal (Brasil)
- 1 Guardia Civil Silver Cross
- 2 Navy Commendations

### **Other information**

Lt. Gen Bisbal has published several articles in professional magazines, related to operational experiences, leadership, strategy and international relations.

He has been guest lecturer on operational, leadership and Geopolitics at the following institutions: NATO School (Oberammergau, Germany), the Army War College (Madrid), the Spanish Naval Academy (Marín), the Spanish Marines School (Cartagena), the Amphibious Warfare School (USA), the Army War College (Madrid), the Joint Staff College (Madrid), the Portuguese Institute for Military Studies (Lisbon), the Diplomatic School (Madrid), NATO Northwood HQ (United Kingdom), NATO Joint HQ Brunssum (The Netherlands), NATO Joint HQ Naples, NATO School Oberammergau (Germany) and the Ortega-Marañón Foundation (Madrid).