



**Major General Santiago A Ibarreta,  
Head of the ESP Joint Staff Plans Division.**

Born in San Javier (Murcia) in 1966, his first commission was in 1989, following graduation from the Spanish Air Force Academy, as a parachuting instructor at Spanish Military Jump School (Alcantarilla AFB, Murcia), where he qualified in all military parachuting techniques (static line, free fall, HALO, HAHO, etc.).

Being promoted to Captain in 1992, and after completing his pilot training, he was assigned in 1994 to the Spanish Air Force Academy as instructor pilot.

As Major, he attended the Spanish Joint War College (2001-2002) and upon graduation, was commissioned to Joint Staff HQ (Madrid), Operations Division, Operational Planning Branch.

Since 2005 until 2008, he completed his Squadron Command Tour in the 31st Airlift Wing in Zaragoza A.B. where he qualified as a rated C-130 pilot.

From 2008 until 2011, he was reassigned as Staff Officer to Joint Operations Command HQ, J-34 Current Operations Branch, Madrid, where was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel.

From 2011 to 2014, he completed a NATO tour as Joint Operations Officer at the Comprehensive Crisis and Operations Management Centre (CCOMC) at SHAPE, Allied Command Operations (ACO), NATO, Casteau (Mons), Belgium.

From 2014 to 2016, he was assigned as staff officer at the Spanish Air Force Staff (AF HQ Madrid), Plans and Acquisitions, assisting in the development of staff requirements and acquisitions of air systems.

From 2016 to 2019, as Colonel, he was Program Manager of the MQ-9 Predator B and the Euro MALE RPAS programs at the SP MOD National Armaments Directorate.

From 2019 to 2022, as Colonel, 35<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing and Base Commander, Getafe Air Base, Madrid.

On 19<sup>th</sup> April 2022, he was promoted to Brigadier General and took office as Zaragoza Air Base Commander, until 29<sup>th</sup> August 2024. Previously to his current assignment, until 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025, he has been Head of the ESP Joint Staff Force Development Division.

MG. Ibarreta has served and deployed in support of numerous contingency operations including Operations DELIBERATE GUARD and DELIBERATE FORGE as Forward Air Controller (FAC) in Bosnia-Herzegovina (SFOR), ISAF as Detachment Commander in Manas Transit Center in Kyrgyzstan, and EU Operation ATALANTA as MPA Detachment Commander in Djibouti.

MG Santiago A Ibarreta has logged 2,000 flying hours as command pilot in various types of aircraft.

He has been awarded with several international decorations, such as the NATO medal and the Common Security and Defence Policy Service (CSDP) (U.E.). He also has been awarded, among others, with the Great Cross and four Crosses of Air Merit, Cross of Military and Naval Merit, Silver Cross and Cross of Guardia Civil Merit.

MG Ibarreta is married and has one son and one daughter.

