



Brigadier General Javier Betolaza Méndez, DCOS Support of the Joint Operations Command Spain.

Born on January 30, 1969 in Vitoria (Alava), he joined the Army Officers College in 1988 and he was promoted to Lieutenant in 1993.

Among his assignments, between 1993 and 1995 as Lieutenant Platoon Commander in the “Fuerzas Regulares de Ceuta” Regiment, also as Lieutenant between 1995 and 1997 as Platoon Commander in the “Roger de Flor” Parachute Battalion; as Captain between 1998 and 1999 as Company Commander in the Jarama Cavalry Brigade and between 1999 and 2004 as Company Commander in the Parachute Brigade.

After being promoted to Mayor and after completing the General Staff Course, he returned to the Parachute Brigade and between 2006 and 2013 he remained in its General Staff. From 2013 to 2016, as Lieutenant Colonel, he was Chief of Staff of the Medical Brigade and between 2016 and 2020 he was of CUROPS Chief in the Spanish Joint Operations Command.

Being Colonel, he was appointed as Parachute Regiment Commander for two years and finishing this period, he joins the Army General Staff as Military Assistant of the Army Deputy Chief of Staff. Then, he joined the Royal College of the Defence Studies in London, for one year, to complete the Global Strategy Program.

After being promoted to Brigadier General, he was appointed as Advisor to the Army Human Resources Director, and in September 2024 he was appointed as DCOS Support in the Spanish Joint Operations Command.

He has participated in different international missions in Kosovo, Lebanon, Afghanistan, as well as in USCENTCOM (USA) for Operation Inherent Resolve.

Civilian and military courses

General Staff Course

Global Strategy Program at the Royal College of Defence Studies (UK).

Command of Parachute Units; Free Fall and HALO-HAHO

NATO Regional Cooperation (NADEFCOL)

PRT ISAF

C-IED NATO Operational Course Plaque

Combined Joint Operations Centre

Postgraduate degree in “Security and Strategy For Global Leaders” by King College London

Most significant awards

Medal, Commendation and Cross of the Order of San Hermenegildo

5 Military Merit Crosses

ISAF and Kosovo NATO Medals

United Nations Medal of Lebanon

US Joint Service Achievement Medal

2 mentions and 5 commendations

Biographical data

General Betolaza Méndez has three children, speaks English and is a national athletics instructor.

