



Gen. Stéphane Abrial
French Air Force
North Atlantic Treaty Organization
Supreme Allied Commander Transformation

Gen. Stéphane Abrial received appointment by the North Atlantic Council as Supreme Allied Commander Transformation on 29 July 2009. He is the first European to be appointed permanently as head of a NATO strategic command.

Born in 1954 in the South-West of France, he began his military service in 1972. After one semester in the US Air Force Academy, Gen. Abrial graduated from the French Air Force Academy in 1975. He completed his pilot training in 1976.

Gen. Abrial has extensive experience both as a fighter pilot and an operational commander. He has a wide-ranging background that includes operations in coalition environments, at the tactical, operational and strategic levels.

He served as a flight commander in a unit of the German Luftwaffe from 1981 to 1984 and with a unit of the Greek Air Force in 1988. In 1990 and 1991, he took part in the liberation of Kuwait as commander of the French Air Force's 5th Fighter Wing during Operation Desert Storm. From 1996 to 1999, he served at the NATO International Military Staff in Brussels.

He is a graduate of the U.S. Air War College, Montgomery, Alabama, in 1992, and of the French Institute for Advanced Studies in National Defence (IHEDN) in Paris, in 2000.

He acquired broad experience in political-military matters through several appointments to the private offices of the French Prime Minister and President, and went on to serve as head of the French air defence and air operations command, and finally as Air Force Chief of Staff from 2006 to 2009.

He has, among other distinctions, been elevated to the distinction of Grand Officer in the French Legion of Honour, and was made Commander of US Legion of Merit, and was awarded the German Verdienstkreuz der Bundeswehr (silver).

Gen. Stéphane Abrial and his wife Michaela have two teen-aged children.



**GENERAL
LUÍS EVANGELISTA ESTEVES DE ARAÚJO
PORTUGAL CHIEF OF DEFENCE**

General Luís Araújo was born on the 25 February 1949 in Oporto. In 1966 he joined the Military Academy, having finished the pilot course in 1971.

After a tour of duty in Mozambique between October 1972 and October 1974, where he flew helicopters ALIII, he was posted to Air Base 6 (Montijo), where he was Squadron Commanding Officer for 4 years.

In 1981-1982, he attended the Air Warfare Course at the Air Force Staff College (IAEFA) and the Royal Air Force 75th Advanced Staff Course. From 1983 to 1987 he was a teacher at IAEFA and at the Military Staff College (IAEM).

Between 1987 and March 1990, he was posted to the Operations' Division at the Air Force Central Staff. After that, he was appointed Air Force Assistant of the Minister of Defence. In 1990-1991 he attended the National Defence Course, in the National Defence Institute (IDN), in Lisbon.

From September 1991 to September 1994 he served in the Operations Division at the Supreme Allied Command Atlantic (SACLANT), in Norfolk – USA and in September 1994 he was appointed Deputy Commanding Officer of Air Base 4 (Lajes - Azores) a position he held for a year.

In March 1996 he was appointed Air Force Advisor to the Presidency of the Republic. From October 1997 to October 1999 he was Commanding Officer of Air Base 6 (Montijo) and in June 1998 he commanded the Expeditionary Force that withdrew nationals out of Guinea-Bissau.

After attending the Senior Warfare Course at IAEFA in 1999/2000, he was promoted to Major-General (August 2000) and assumed the post of Assistant of the Chief of the Air Force Staff.

Promoted to Lieutenant-General on 08 January 2004 he served as Director of the Portuguese Air Force Staff College until 4 May 2005 when he was nominated Defence Policy Director at the Ministry of Defence.

He was appointed Chief of Staff of the Portuguese Air Force on the 18 December 2006, post he held until 7 February 2011.

On 7 February 2011, General Luis Araújo became the Chief of Defence. His military decorations include one War Cross, three Gold and two Silver Medals for Distinguished Services, the Navy Cross, The Gold Medal for Military Value (collective) and the Aeronautical Merit Cross of Spain.

He is married to Mrs. Maria Manuela Benevides Araújo and has two daughters.



Lieutenant General Karlheinz Viereck **German Air Force**

Headquarters
Supreme Allied Commander Transformation
Deputy Chief of Staff for
Joint Force Training

Lieutenant General Viereck was born 9 March 1951 in Kassel (Germany).

Lieutenant General Viereck started his military career with the Bundeswehr in 1970. In 1974 he completed his pilot training at Sheppard AFB, USA.

Back in Germany, he served with 2nd Flying Squadron of Reconnaissance Wing 52 in Leck, first as a combat pilot, then as operations staff officer.

In 1982 he began his General Staff Officer Course at the Bundeswehr Command and Staff College in Hamburg and consequently attended the General Staff Officer Course at the Danish Defense College in Copenhagen.

In 1985 he was assigned General Staff Officer to NATO Headquarters AIR BALTOP in Denmark. After 2 years he returned to Germany to become at first Deputy Commander, then Commander of the Flying Group of Fighter Bomber Wing 36 "Westfalen" in Hopsten. From 1990 to 1994, he held several assignments at the Federal Ministry of Defense in Bonn. After commanding Fighter Bomber Wing 34 "Allgäu" in Memmingen for 2 years, he returned to the Federal Ministry of Defense in 1996 where he became Chief of Branch III 1, Air Staff, in Bonn.

From 1998 to 2000 he served at the Federal Ministry of Defense in Berlin, Armed Forces Staff as Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff, III Branch, Military Policy and Arms Control. This was followed in 2000 by an assignment as Deputy Chief of Staff and Director Operations at the NATO Joint Command HQ Northern Europe in Stavanger, Norway.

In 2003 he returned to Germany to become Commander of the 4th Air Division in Aurich.

In 2005 he initially became Deputy Commander of the Bundeswehr Operations Command in Potsdam and later, on 16 March 2006, its Commander.

From April 2006 to February 2007 Lieutenant General Viereck had the command of the EUFOR mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo as appointed EU Operation Commander.

His military decorations include the Bundeswehr Cross of Honor in Silver and Gold, the European Security Defense Policy Service Medal, the Commander of the National Order of Merit (France), Cross of Merit 2nd Class of the Estonian Ministry of Defense and the National Defense Medal France.



Major General Jaap Willemse

*Assistant Chief of Staff
Command, Control, Communication, Intelligence
(ACOS C4I)*



Major General Jaap Willemse graduated in 1979 from the Royal Military Academy, majoring in Business Economics. He received his flying training at Sheppard AFB, USA, and became an operational NF-5 pilot with the 316th Squadron at Gilze-Rijen Air Base and 314th Squadron at Eindhoven Air Base.

Following his conversion to the F-104G in 1983 he was posted to Volkel Air Base. After converting to the F-16 in 1984 he became a weapons instructor and flight commander. From 1989 till 1992 he was stationed at Sheppard AFB, USA, as instructor pilot on the T-38.

After a tour in 1992 at the Fighter Branch at the RNLAF Headquarters, he was appointed commander of the 306th Reconnaissance Squadron and was involved in the deployment of the 306th as part of the Royal Netherlands Air Force detachment at Villafranca Air Base, Italy, during Operation "Deny Flight".

He attended the Advanced Staff Officers' Course in 1995 at the Netherlands Defence College and was appointed as a faculty member, teaching Air Power. He subsequently became the course director of the Advanced Staff Officers' Course.

At the end of 1997, he was appointed commander of the 312th Fighter-Bomber Strike Squadron, and was tasked with the command of the combined Dutch/Belgium Deployable Air Task Force operating from Villafranca Air Base, Italy. During his command, the unit was joined by Norwegian and Danish F-16s for Operation "Determined Falcon".

As of August 1998 Major General Willemse was promoted to Colonel and appointed commanding officer at Leeuwarden Air Base and was responsible for the deployment of the Leeuwarden F-16-AM detachment for Operation "Allied Force".

In July 2001, he became Deputy Director of Material for Projects and Weapon systems at the RNLAF Headquarters, responsible for the major investment projects of the RNLAF (such as F-16 replacement) and the maintenance policy of all RNLAF systems.

As of June 2004, he was appointed Deputy Commander of the Combined Air Operations Centre 2 Germany. From August 2005 till February 2006 he was deployed to Kabul, Afghanistan, as the Deputy Commander of the NATO led ISAF mission.

In September 2006, he took up the position of Vice Chairman to the NATO Air Defence Committee and the NACMO Board of Directors, responsible for the oversight of NATO Air Defence Policy and the execution of the NATO Air Command and Control System program.

As of July 2009, Major-General Willemse is assigned as Assistant Chief of Staff Command, Control, Communication, Intelligence (ACOS C4I) at Allied Command Transformation, Norfolk, VA, USA.

Major General Willemse, call sign 'Grey', is a Command Pilot with a total of more than 2500 flying hours on T-38, NF-5, F-104G and F-16AM aircraft.

He is married to the former José van Dijk, a teacher, and they presently live in Virginia Beach, USA. They have two grown up children, a son Jaap jr. and a daughter Ellen.



Major General Mark A. Barrett

*Deputy Chief of Staff
Strategic Plans and Policy
(DCOS SPP)*

Maj. Gen. Mark A. Barrett is Deputy Chief of Staff, Strategic Plans and Policy, North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Allied Command Transformation, Norfolk, Va. He is responsible for supporting the development of emerging, and the revision of current, NATO strategic-level concepts by promoting innovation through the implementation of the strategic issues program of work.

General Barrett was commissioned in 1979 through the ROTC program at North Carolina State University, graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering. His commands include the 493rd Fighter Squadron, Royal Air Force Lakenheath, England; the 325th Operations Group, Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla.; and the 1st Fighter Wing, Langley AFB, Va. General Barrett has served as an operations officer on the Joint Staff and executive officer to the Air Force Vice Chief of Staff. He has also served as Chief of the Combat Forces and Program Integration divisions, Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans and Programs, Headquarters U.S. Air Force. Prior to his current assignment, he was the Air Combat Command Inspector General.

EDUCATION

- 1979 Bachelor of Science degree in engineering, North Carolina State University, Raleigh
- 1984 Squadron Officer School, by correspondence
- 1989 Master's Degree in aeronautical science technology, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, Fla.
- 1994 Air Command and Staff College, by seminar
- 1996 Air War College, by seminar
- 1999 National War College, Fort Lesley J. McNair, Washington, D.C.
- 2009 Joint Force Air Component Commander Course, Maxwell AFB, Ala.
- 2010 Black Sea Security Program, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.
- 2011 Joint Flag Officer Warfighter Course, Air University, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

ASSIGNMENTS

- 1. April 1980 - April 1981, student, undergraduate pilot training, Reese AFB, Texas
- 2. May 1981 - October 1984, T-33 instructor pilot and flight commander, 95th Fighter Interceptor Training Squadron, Tyndall AFB, Fla.
- 3. November 1984 - April 1985, student, F-15 training, Luke AFB, Ariz.
- 4. May 1985 - October 1986, F-15 flight lead, 53rd Tactical Fighter Squadron, Bitburg Air Base, West Germany
- 5. November 1986 - February 1988, fighter liaison officer, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, Merrell Barracks, Nuremberg, West Germany
- 6. March 1988 - January 1991, F-15 instructor pilot and flight commander, 59th Fighter Squadron, Eglin AFB, Fla.
- 7. February 1991 - January 1993, F-15 flight commander, assistant operations officer and Director of Exercises, Air Forces Iceland, Naval Air Station Keflavik, Iceland
- 8. February 1993 - January 1995, F-15 Realistic Training Manager and executive officer to the Vice Commander, Headquarters Air Combat Command, Langley AFB, Va.
- 9. February 1995 - February 1996, F-15 assistant operations officer, 94th Fighter Squadron, Langley AFB, Va.
- 10. March 1996 - July 1998, operations officer and Commander, 493rd Fighter Squadron, Royal Air Force Lakenheath, England
- 11. August 1998 - June 1999, student, National War College, National Defense University, Fort Lesley J. McNair, Washington, D.C.
- 12. July 1999 - April 2001, operations officer, U.S. European Command Division, Operations Directorate (J3), Joint Staff, the Pentagon, Washington, D.C.
- 13. May 2001 - December 2001, Deputy Commander, 1st Operations Group, Langley AFB, Va.
- 14. January 2002 - August 2003, Commander, 325th Operations Group, Tyndall AFB, Fla.
- 15. September 2003 - August 2004, Chief, Combat Forces Division, Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans and Programs, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C.
- 16. September 2004 - June 2005, Chief, Program Integration Division, Deputy

Chief of Staff for Plans and Programs, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C.

- 17. July 2005 - April 2007, executive officer to the Vice Chief of Staff, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C.
- 18. April 2007 - May 2009, Commander, 1st Fighter Wing, Langley AFB, Va.
- 19. May 2009 - June 2010, Inspector General, Headquarters Air Combat Command, Langley AFB, Va.
- 20. July 2010 - present, Deputy Chief of Staff, Strategic Plans and Policy, North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Allied Command Transformation, Norfolk, Va.

SUMMARY OF JOINT ASSIGNMENTS

- 1. November 1986 - February 1988, fighter liaison officer (forward air controller), 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, U.S. Army, Merrell Barracks, Nuremberg, West Germany, as a captain
- 2. July 1999 - April 2001, operations officer, U.S. European Command Division (J33), Operations Directorate (J3), Joint Staff, the Pentagon, Washington, D.C., as a lieutenant colonel
- 3. July 2010 - present, Deputy Chief of Staff, Strategic Plans and Policy, North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Allied Command Transformation, Norfolk, Va., as a brigadier general

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: Command pilot
Flight hours: More than 4,500
Aircraft flown: T-33, T-37, T-38, F-15C/D and F-22A

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters
Defense Meritorious Service Medal
Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters
Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters
Joint Service Commendation Medal
Air Force Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters
Army Commendation Medal

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant April 22, 1980
First Lieutenant April 22, 1982
Captain April 22, 1984
Major Jan. 1, 1990
Lieutenant Colonel Dec. 1, 1996
Colonel May 1, 2002
Brigadier General Nov. 9, 2007
Major General Dec. 13, 2010

(Current as of August 2011)

Colonel Franck Desit



Colonel Franck Desit is Special Assistant to the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability Development, and Head of the ACT Team on Smart Defence and Capability Development through Multinational Approaches, HQ Supreme Allied Command Transformation, Norfolk, USA.

Colonel Franck Desit was born on 31 March 1969. He is an engineer of the French Armament Corps, graduated from ENSIETA Armament Engineering School in 1993.

He was first assigned to the Armament Directorate of French Ministry of Defense (Delegation de l'Armement – DGA) where he served in different occupations until 2006. After having been in charge of Hydrodynamics research & technology programs for four years, he served as a naval architect for Navy shipbuilding programs. In 1998 he became a program manager of patrol boats, LPD Siroco and LHD Mistral programs.

In 2006, he was appointed Head of the Command Group of the Technical Director of the Armament Directorate.

In 2007, he graduated from the French Joint Defense College and then was assigned to joint Center for Concepts, Doctrines & Experimentations where he was responsible for the amphibious and littoral warfare domains. He was also responsible for the French experimentations conducted in liaison with ACT on planning processes and tools within the comprehensive approach and EBAO concept.

In 2009, he came back to the Armament Directorate where he served as a Secretary of the College of Senior Architects for Systems of Forces.

Colonel Franck Desit is married and has two sons.

Biography



Jonathan M. Handley

Commodore, UK MA Royal Navy

Deputy Director Combined Joint Operations from the Sea Centre of Excellence

Commodore Jonathan Handley is the Deputy Director of the Combined Joint Operations from the Sea (CJOS) Centre of Excellence (COE) in Norfolk, Virginia. He is responsible for a multi-national staff from 13 sponsoring nations that provides innovative and transformational solutions to improving allied operations from the sea. In conjunction with United States Fleet Forces Command (USFFC), Allied Command Transformation (ACT), and other COEs, CJOS has recently produced numerous leading documents on counter piracy, a concept for a global maritime security network, a NATO guidance paper on Maritime Unmanned Systems as well as contributing to the newly published Alliance Maritime Strategy and NATO's Maritime Security Operations Concept. Interoperability between NATO units and coalition partners is a central theme of CJOS work, and together with Strike Force NATO and chairmanship of the Maritime Operations Working Group, CJOS is promoting best practises and promulgating lessons identified. The comprehensive approach is also another key work strand, central to which is the coordination of military and civilian humanitarian efforts during Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief events. CJOS is liaising with various International organisations, including the United Nations and International Committee of the Red Cross to further mutual cooperation and understanding.

Commodore Handley joined the Royal Navy as a Warfare Officer, spending his early years in submarines before qualifying as a Principal Warfare Officer. His most recent sea assignments include Operations Officer of HMS SHEFFIELD, Executive Officer of the HMS LONDON and Commanding Officer of the Type 23 frigate, HMS PORTLAND. Operational assignments have included Deputy UK Maritime Component Commander in Bahrain, DACOS (O6 level) at UK's Permanent Joint Headquarters where he had operational oversight of UK activity in Afghanistan, the Balkans and 7 UN operations. During this latter appointment, he also had responsibility for UK's support to the Tsunami relief effort in SE Asia, the Pakistan Earthquake and the evacuation of British nationals from Beirut. Commodore Handley has also completed Staff appointments in the Ministry of Defence's Strategic Planning Directorate and as Assistant Chief of Staff Warfare (O7 level) in Navy Command Headquarters where he had responsibility for naval capability generation. He has completed the Higher Command and Staff Course and has an MA in Defence Studies.



Commander

Major General
Jean Fred Berger
French Army

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Major General Jean Fred Berger was born on 25 December 1957. His military career started at the Saint Cyr Coëtquidan Military Academy in 1978.

Two years later, he was commissioned into the Engineer Branch and fulfilled command and staff appointments in the Engineer Branch and the Army Staff until 1990. He was stationed in Saudi Arabia 1990-1991 as part of Opération DAGUET and subsequently attended the General Staff Officers Course at the German Command and Staff College in Hamburg (1993-1995) and the French War College in Paris (1995-1996).



He was assigned to HQ EUROCORPS as Chief Engineer (1996-2000), deploying to Bosnia and Herzegovina as J2/Chief Assessment at HQ SFOR in Sarajevo (1998) and to Kosovo as Deputy Chief Engineer at HQ KFOR in Pristina (2000).

In 2000, he became Commanding Officer of the 17th Airborne Engineer Regiment, an appointment he held during his deployment to KFOR Novo Selo, Kosovo, in 2002. His next appointment was Military Assistant to the Inspector of the Army (2002-2004).

Auditor at the French Centre for Advanced Military Studies (CHEM) and the Institute for Advanced Studies in National Defence (IHEDN), Paris (2004-2005), he subsequently became Head of the Office for General Studies, Plans and Policies, at the Army HQ in Paris (2005- 2008). In August 2008, the General was posted to 1 (German/Netherlands) Corps as Deputy Chief of Staff Support. In this position, he completed a tour of duty as Chief CJ5 to HQ ISAF (April 2009-February 2010) and was then assigned as General Officer for International Relationships at the Army Staff HQ in Paris. He was promoted to the rank of Major General on 1 June 2011.

Major General Jean Fred Berger became Commander of the Joint Warfare Centre on 17 June 2011. He is married and has three children.

20 June 2011



Chairman of the Military Committee

Admiral Giampaolo DI PAOLA

Born in 1944, Admiral Giampaolo Di Paola joined the Italian Navy in 1963 and graduated from the Naval Academy in 1966. Soon after the graduation in 1967 he attended the Submarine School and underwent fleet training onboard submarines.

He served in junior officer appointments in conventional submarines and commanded the submarines "Cappellini" (1974-75) and "Sauro" (1980-81).

In 1981 he attended the NATO Defense College in Rome. From 1981 to 1984 Giampaolo Di Paola served as Anti Submarine Warfare and Undersea Warfare Program Officer, Long Term Planning Branch, in the Supreme Allied Command Atlantic in Norfolk, Virginia (USA).

In 1984 he assumed command of the frigate "Grecale". Thereafter, in 1986, he was appointed to the Navy Staff in Rome as Plans and Programs Branch Chief in the Directorate of Financial Planning.

From 1989 to 1990, as a Captain, he commanded the aircraft carrier "Garibaldi".

In 1990 he returned to the Navy Staff and was appointed as Executive Assistant to the Deputy Chief of Staff (1990-91), then as Chief of Naval Plans and Policy Branch (1991-92), and finally as Assistant Chief of Staff for Plans and Operations (1993-94). During this period the Italian Navy was involved in supporting NATO arms embargo operations (Operation Sharp Guard) to contain the conflict in the former Yugoslavia, and in the U.N. operation Restore Hope in Somalia.

With the rank of Rear Admiral (lower half) in 1994 he was assigned to the Defence Staff in the Ministry of Defence where he became Chief of the Directorate of Defence Policy (1994-98). In this position he took active part as far as the planning of the Italian contribution to the NATO effort for the stabilization of the Balkans and for the Italian-led Operation in support of Albania in 1997. As Polmil Advisor to the Minister of Defence and to the Italian Chod he was actively engaged in NATO PfP initiative and in the Mediterranean Dialogue. He was also the Italian Representative to the HLG on nuclear and proliferation issues.

From 1998 to 2001, with the rank of Rear Admiral, he assumed the position of Chief of the Cabinet Office of the Ministry of Defence. On the 1 of January 1999 he was promoted Vice Admiral. In this position he took active part in supporting the political decision making for the Italian contribution to the NATO initiative in Kosovo, the NATO enlargement process and outreach policy and in the development of the ESDP and NATO-EU relationship.

In March 2001 he was appointed Secretary General of Defence / National Armaments Director. In this capacity he held national responsibility for major NATO programmes such as AGS, ALTBMD, NATO Airlift Capability, NATO SATCOM Post 2000 and MEADS.

He was promoted Admiral on 10 March 2004 on becoming Chief of Defence. In this capacity he had the overall responsibility for the policy and planning of the Italian Armed Forces and - as CINCFOR - he did hold planning and command responsibility for Italian Forces participation in NATO, EU and Coalition operations conducted in Afghanistan, Iraq, the Balkans, the Mediterranean, Pakistan and in the United Nations Operation in Lebanon.

As of 27 June 2008, he is the Chairman of the NATO Military Committee.

Admiral Di Paola holds a degree in Strategic and Military Sciences and an "ad honorem" Masters degree in Sciences. His military decorations and awards include the Knight Grand Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Italy, Meritorious Service Medal for distinguished military service, Commander of Legion of Merit (USA), Commandeur de l'Ordre de la Legion d'Honneur (FR), Commandeur de l'Ordre National du Mérite (FR), Grand Officer of the Order of Infante Don Enrico (PO), Grand Officer of military virtue with war insignia (RO), UN Medal for UN Peacekeeping Mission in Kosovo.

Admiral Di Paola is married to Roberta and they have two daughters. He speaks fluently English, French and Spanish. His interests include fine arts, literature and classical music, the practice of skiing and mountain climbing.