



## **General Stéphane ABRIAL** **Chief of Staff of the French Air Force**

Born on 7 September 1954 in Condom (Gers)  
Married, two children

French Air Force Academy in 1973 (exchange cadet, US Air Force Academy, 1974)

Fighter pilot's wings in 1976

- 1977 ♦ Pilot, 3/12 Fighter Squadron "Cornouaille", Cambrai AFB
- 1981 ♦ Pilot then flight commander, 742 Fighter Squadron "Zapata", 74<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing "Mölders", Neuburg an der Donau, Germany
- 1984 ♦ Deputy commander, 1/2 Fighter Squadron "Cigognes", Dijon AFB
- 1985 ♦ Deputy commander then commander, 2/2 Fighter Squadron "Côte d'or", Dijon AFB
- 1988 ♦ Detachment commander, first Mirage 2000 conversion, 11 4<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, Tanagra, Greece
- ♦ Chief of operations, deputy commander then commander, 5<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, Orange AFB
- 1991 ♦ Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Montgomery, Alabama, USA
- 1992 ♦ Assistant executive officer to the Chief of staff of the Air Force, Paris
- 1995 ♦ Assistant executive officer to the Chief of the Joint Staff, Paris
- 1996 ♦ NATO international military staff, Brussels, Belgium
- 1999 ♦ Auditor at the Center for Advanced Military Studies and at the Institute of Advanced National Defense Studies, Paris
- 2000 ♦ Deputy chief of the personal military staff to the President, Paris
- 2002 ♦ Chief of the military executive office and defence adviser to the Prime minister, Paris
- 2005 ♦ Commander, Air Defense and Air Operations Command, Taverny AFB
- 2006 (July 16<sup>th</sup>) ♦ Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Paris

### **Promotion :**

July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2006                      General

### **Decorations and awards :**

Grand officier de la Légion d'Honneur  
Officier de l'Ordre National du Mérite  
Croix de guerre des théâtres d'opérations extérieures  
Médaille de l'aéronautique

Germany                      : Verdienstkreuz der Bundeswehr (argent)  
Saoudia Arabia            : King Abdulaziz Order, Superior class