

General André LANATA

Chief of Staff of the French Air Force



General André LANATA was appointed Chief of Staff of the French Air Force on September 21, 2015.

He joined the French Air Force Academy in 1981 and graduated with a Master's degree in Aeronautical Science in 1983. Qualified as a fighter pilot in 1984, he acquired extensive experience both as a pilot and as an operational commander, having cumulated 3.300 flying hours on Mirage F1CR and Mirage 2000D aircraft, including 146 combat sorties over Chad, Iraq, the Former Republic of Yugoslavia, and Kosovo.

Both bilateral and multinational engagements have been a constant through his career. In addition, he ran several transformational challenges both in the Air Force and in French armed forces.

After attending the French Joint Staff College, he was appointed commander of the fighter and attack squadron "Champagne". He deployed to NATO Allied Forces South Headquarters in Naples during *Operation Joint Endeavor* in 1997. He also took part in many other NATO or coalition operations and exercises both as a pilot and as a staff officer. He later served as commander of the Djibouti Air Force Base, where he developed his ability to engage and operate with partner nations in projecting stability efforts.

Back in France, he served as chief of plans division in the Air Force Staff, where he was in charge of capability development and transformational issues. Following his nomination as a Brigadier General, he was assigned at the Secretariat for National Defense and Security, where he reported to the Prime Minister, and later, as deputy director for International and Strategic Affairs. He contributed to interagency works and committees relative to national security work strands such as Ballistic Missile Defence requirements, capability studies, pre-crisis analysis documents for Libya or Sahel, and NATO engagements in the context of France's return in the NATO Command Structure.

He joined the Joint Staff in 2011 as Assistant Chief of Staff - Operations, where he oversaw the development of bilateral defence agreements, such as the Combined Joint Expeditionary Force with the UK, while taking part in the transformation efforts of the Ministry of Defence. He assumed a leading role in the preparation, execution, lessons learned and analysis process of several coalition or national operations, in Libya, Mali, and the Central African Republic.

In 2013, he served as Deputy Chief of Staff - Defence Planning, where he was in charge of capability development and force generation for the French Armed Forces.

He became Chief of Staff of the Air Force in September 2015, which strengthened his relationships with Air Chiefs through the Alliance and Partner nations. In this capacity, he implemented an ambitious transformation plan for the French Air Force.

He has been awarded the rank of Commander in the French Legion of Honor and in the French Order of Merit, and earned two War Crosses and the Cross of Military Valor during his operational deployments.

General LANATA is happily married to Christine since 1990 and is a father of five children. He is a keen reader, enjoys fishing, scuba diving, and classical music.