

**CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE STAFF  
GENERAL ADMIRAL FERNANDO GARCÍA SÁNCHEZ**



General Admiral Fernando García Sánchez was appointed Chief of the Defence Staff and promoted to General Admiral on 30 December 2011.

He entered the Naval Academy in August 1971 and rose to the rank of Second Lieutenant in 1976. Since then, he has spent most of his career serving on different ships, with more than 2,000 days at sea. He captained the fast patrol boat 'Villaamil', the corvette 'Infanta Elena' and the fleet oil tanker 'Marqués de la Ensenada'. He also held the post of Chief of Staff of the Escort Group and 41<sup>st</sup> Squadron of the Fleet and Chief of Staff of the Alfa Group.

Ashore, his most important posts have been lecturer in tactics and operations at the Naval Warfare College and the Spanish Joint Staff College. As a Captain, he was the commanding officer of the Combat Operational Qualification and Assessment Centre and head of the Strategic Planning section of the Navy Planning division.

Since 2005, having risen to the rank of Admiral, he was Chief of Staff of the Maritime Action Force and Deputy Chief of Naval Staff.

General Admiral García Sánchez holds the Naval Staff diploma, specialising in submarines and is a qualified combat diver. He speaks English and French.

He has been awarded with several medals, including the *Gran Cruz de San Hermenegildo* and the *Gran Cruz del Mérito Naval*.

He is married with M<sup>a</sup> Jesús Tobío and has three children.