

General Pierre de VILLIERS

French Chief of Defense Staff



PERSONAL DATA

Born on July 26th, 1956 in Boulogne (Vendée)
First names: Pierre, François, Marie

MARITAL STATUS:

Married and father of 6 children

SERVICE: Army

ORIGIN: Saint-Cyr Military Academy

SUCCESSIVE RANKS:

2 nd Lieutenant:	1 st August	1977
Lieutenant:	1 st August	1978
Captain:	1 st August	1982
Major:	1 st July	1988
Lieutenant-Colonel:	1 st July	1992
Colonel:	1 st December	1997
Brigadier General:	1 st December	2005
Major General:	1 st July	2008
Lieutenant General:	1 st November	2009
General:	11 th March	2010

CERTIFICATES AND DEGREES:

- Parachute wings	1976
- Staff College graduation	1991
- Higher Command and Staff Course - College of Higher Defence Studies	2004

Pierre de VILLIERS joined the Saint-Cyr Military Academy in 1975 and, upon graduation, he chose to serve in the Armour Branch.

Between 1978 and 2003, he assumed several appointments in armoured regiments: AMX 30 tank troop leader at the 2nd *Régiment de dragons* in Haguenau (Bas-Rhin), Captain commanding the reconnaissance squadron of the 7th Armoured Division in Valdahon (Doubs), Colonel Commanding Officer of the 501st-503rd Combat Tank Regiment in Mourmelon-le-Grand (Marne).

In June 1999, he took command, for 5 months, of the Mechanised infantry battalion of the Leclerc Brigade, for a first entry operation into Kosovo, within KFOR.

He served three times as instructor of NCOs and Lieutenants in Saumur (Maine-et-Loire).

He then was appointed for twelve years in Paris, at the Army Staff, the Army Inspectorate and the Finances Directorate of the Ministry of Defence.

Between September 2003 and June 2004, he attended the 53rd Class of the Higher Command and Staff Course (CHEM) and the 56th Class of the College of Higher Defence Studies (IHEDN).

He became deputy to the head of the Prime Minister's military staff on July 1st, 2004, and was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General on December 1st, 2005. He assumed command of the 2nd Armoured Brigade and became Military governor of Orléans on August 1st, 2006.

Between December 2006 and April 2007, he commanded the *Regional Command – Capital*, one of the five regional commands of NATO in Afghanistan, in the framework of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF). He commanded 2,500 soldiers from 15 different countries.

He became head of the Prime Minister's military staff on September 15th, 2008. He remained defence and military advisor to the head of government until March 11th, 2010, when he was appointed *Major général des armées* (Vice Chief of Defence Staff).

On February 15th, 2014, he becomes *Chef d'état-major des armées* (Chief of Defence Staff).

General Pierre de VILLIERS has been awarded *Grand officier* of the *Légion d'Honneur* and *Officier* of the *Ordre National du Mérite* and, among several other medals the *Croix de la Valeur Militaire* with citation.

He is married and has six children. A genuine football fan, he has played football during his whole career.