



**Lieutenant General Constantin Popov**

**Chief of Defence**

**Date and place of birth:** 28 August, 1961, Sofia, Bulgaria

**Education:**

1979 – “G.S. Rakovski” High School, Sofia

1979-1984 – “G. Benkovski” Air Force Academy, Dolna Mitropoliya

1990-1992 – “G.S. Rakovski” National Defence College, Sofia

1999 – English Language Training Course in the Canadian Forces Language School Borden, Canada

2000-2001 – Master’s Degree in Strategic Studies, Air War College, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, USA

2005 – NATO School, Oberammergau, Germany

2010 – PhD in Organisation and Management of the Armed Forces, “G.S. Rakovski” National Defence College, Sofia

2010 – Member of the Union of Scientists in Bulgaria

**Military career:**

1984-1985 - Junior Pilot in 3rd flight wing, 2nd fighter squadron, 19th fighter regiment, Graf Ignatievo

1985-1986 - Senior Pilot in 3rd flight wing, 1st fighter squadron, 19th fighter regiment, Graf Ignatievo

1986-1987 - Deputy Commander of 3rd flight wing, 1st fighter squadron, 19th fighter regiment, Graf Ignatievo

1987-1988 - Commander of 3rd flight wing, 1st fighter squadron, 19th fighter regiment, Graf Ignatievo

1988-1990 - Deputy Commander of 1st fighter squadron, 19th fighter regiment, Graf Ignatievo

1990-1992 - Student at “G.S. Rakovski” National Defence College, Sofia

1992-1994 - Commander of 1st fighter squadron, 19th fighter regiment, Graf Ignatievo

1994-1996 - Deputy Commander for Combat Training of 3rd Fighter Air Base, Graf Ignatievo

1996-1999 - Commander of 3rd Fighter Air Base, Graf Ignatievo  
1999-2000 - Chief of Flight Safety Department in the Air Defence Corps, Sofia  
2000-2001 - Air War College, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, USA  
2002-2005 - Commander of 3rd Fighter Air Base, Graf Ignatievo  
2005-2006 - Chief of Staff, NATO Joint Force Training Center, Bydgoszcz, Poland  
2006-2008 - Deputy Chief of Staff of the Allied Air Component Command Headquarters, Izmir, Turkey  
2008-2009 - Deputy Commander of the Bulgarian Air Force  
2009-2010 - Chief of Staff for Training, Bulgarian Air Force HQ  
2010-2011 - Chief of the Bulgarian Air Force  
2011-2014 - Commander of the Bulgarian Air Force  
2014-2016 - Deputy Chief of Defence of the Republic of Bulgaria

**Flight Experience:**

Lieutenant General Popov has flown L-29, MiG-15, MiG-17, MiG-21, MiG-29 and has more than 1200 flight hours.

**Promotions:**

1984 - Lieutenant  
1987 - 1-st Lieutenant  
1991 - Captain  
1996 - Major  
1999 - Lieutenant Colonel  
2002 - Colonel  
2005 - Brigadier General  
2008 - Major General  
2015 - Lieutenant General

**Awards and Decorations:**

Commendation Medal for Meritorious Service under the Colors  
Commendation Medal for Contribution to the Ministry of Defence  
Gold medal of the Polish Armed Forces  
US Air University International Honor Roll Inductee

**Foreign Languages:**

Lieutenant General Popov is fluent in English.

**Marrital Status:**

Married, with three children.