

General François Lecointre

French Chief of Defense Staff



François Lecointre joined the Saint-Cyr Military Academy in 1984, and upon graduation, he chose to serve in the Marine Infantry Branch.

From 1988 to 1991, he was a combat platoon commander at the 3rd Marine Infantry Regiment in Vannes (Morbihan) and was deployed in Central African Republic and Gabon. He was also involved in Opération Daguet during Desert Storm.

In 1991, he joined the Republic of Djibouti to serve at the 5th Overseas Combined Arms Regiment for two years. He was deployed in Somalia during Opération Oryx.

Back to Vannes in 1993 as a combat company commander, he was involved in Rwanda in 1994 during Opération Turquoise. In 1995, he took command of a company under the command of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) during the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

He served as an instructor at the Saint-Cyr Military Academy (tactics) from 1996 to 1999 then attended the War College in Paris.

From 2001 to 2005, he was appointed in Paris as the speechwriter of the French Army Chief of Staff then as a desk officer (program) at the French Army Headquarters.

In 2005, he took command of the 3rd Marine Infantry Regiment and was involved in Opération Licorne in Ivory Coast.

From 2007 to 2009, he attended the 57th class of the Higher Command and Staff Course and the 60th class of the College of Higher Defense Studies. Then, he joined the office of the Minister of Defense, in charge of the “activities-employment” cell.

On August 1st, 2011, he was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General and assumed command of the 9th Marine Infantry Brigade in Poitiers. In 2013, he took command of the European Union Training Mission (EUTM) in Mali.

Back to Paris in 2013 at the French Army Headquarters, he was in charge of coordination and performance and was promoted to the rank of Major General on January 1st, 2015.

In 2016, he became head of the Prime Minister’s military staff and was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-General on March 1st, 2017.

On July 20th, 2017, he was appointed as French Chief of Defense Staff and was promoted general.

General François Lecointre has been awarded commander of the *Legion of Honor* and commander of the *National Order of Merit*. He has been cited several times with *War Cross for foreign operational theatres* and *Cross for military valor*.

General Lecointre is married and has 4 daughters

PERSONAL DATA:

Born on February 6th, 1962 in Cherbourg (Manche)
First names : François, Gérard, Marie

MARITAL STATUS:

Married and father of 4 daughters

SERVICE: Army

ORIGIN: Saint-Cyr Military Academy

SUCCESSIVE RANKS:

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2 nd Lieutenant : | 1 st Aug 1986 |
| Lieutenant: | 1 st Aug 1987 |
| Captain: | 1 st Aug 1991 |
| Major: | 1 st Dec 1996 |
| Lieutenant-Colonel: | 1 st Dec 2000 |
| Colonel: | 1 st Dec 2003 |
| Brigadier General: | 1 st Aug 2011 |
| Major General: | 1 st Jan 2015 |
| Lieutenant General: | 1 st Mar 2017 |
| General: | 20 th Jul 2017 |

CERTIFICATES AND DEGREES:

| | |
|--|-----------|
| War College: | 1999-2001 |
| Higher Command and Staff Course/ College of Higher Defense Studies | 2007-2009 |