

## General Pierre de VILLIERS



### PERSONAL DATA

Born on July 26<sup>th</sup>, 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 <sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant:	1 <sup>st</sup> August	1977
Lieutenant:	1 <sup>st</sup> August	1978
Captain:	1 <sup>st</sup> August	1982
Major:	1 <sup>st</sup> July	1988
Lieutenant-Colonel:	1 <sup>st</sup> July	1992
Colonel:	1 <sup>st</sup> December	1997
Brigadier General:	1 <sup>st</sup> December	2005
Major General:	1 <sup>st</sup> July	2008
Lieutenant General:	1 <sup>st</sup> November	2009
General:	11 <sup>th</sup> 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 began his military career at the Saint-Cyr Military Academy in 1975 and, upon graduation, he chose to serve in the Armoured Corps.

Between 1978 and 2003, he assumed several appointments in armoured regiments: AMX 30 tank troop leader at the 2<sup>nd</sup> *Régiment de dragons* in Haguenau (Bas-Rhin), Captain commanding the reconnaissance squadron of the 7<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division in Valdahon (Doubs), Colonel Commanding Officer of the 501<sup>st</sup>-503<sup>rd</sup> 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 an instructor of NCOs and Lieutenants in Saumur (Maine-et-Loire).

He then spent 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 53<sup>rd</sup> Class of the Higher Command and Staff Course (CHEM) and the 56<sup>th</sup> Class of the College of Higher Defence Studies (IHEDN).

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

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

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

On January 15<sup>th</sup> 2014, general de Villiers is appointed *Chef d'état-major des armées* (Chief of Defence Staff) by presidential decree, with effect on February 15<sup>th</sup> 2014.

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 lifelong football fan, he has played football throughout his career.