

# General Thierry BURKHARD

## French Chief of Defence



General Thierry BURKHARD was born on July 30, 1964 in Delle (90). Graduated from the Saint-Cyr Military Academy (Class “Cadet de la France libre” 85-88), he chose to serve in the infantry. After training as a platoon leader in Montpellier, he was posted to the 2nd Foreign Parachute Regiment (2e REP) in Calvi, Corsica, where he was appointed head of the parachute commando platoon. Promoted to captain in 1992, he was successively deputy officer and company commander. He was deployed in French Guyana, Iraq, former Yugoslavia, Chad and Gabon.

In 1996, he joined the Joint Staff as a watch officer at the Joint Operations Centre (CPCO). Promoted to major in 1997, he graduated from the joint defence college in 2000.

He was then posted to the 4th Foreign Regiment (4e RE), in Castelnaudary, as head of the Training and Doctrine office.

Promoted to lieutenant-colonel in 2001, he was posted to South America in Cayenne (French Guyana) in 2002 as head of the operations division of the French Regional Joint Staff . He returned to the Joint Staff in Paris in 2004 as staff officer and then deputy to the J3 EUROPE cell of the CPCO. He was promoted to colonel in 2005.

He was then assigned for a year to the Republic of Ivory Coast as military assistant to the general commanding the “Licorne operation”. From 2007 to 2008, he was deputy communication advisor to the Chief of Defence. During that time, he carried out two missions in Afghanistan.

In 2008, he was selected to take command of the 13th Foreign Legion Half-Brigade (13e DBLE) in Djibouti and was subsequently sent to the Horn of Africa. From August 2010, he was communications advisor to the French Chief of Defence.

In September 2013, he became advisor to the national intelligence coordinator to the Presidency of the Republic. Promoted to brigadier general in 2014, he was then assigned in August 2015 as Chief of Current Operations at the Joint Operations Centre (CPCO), before taking command of the JOC in August 2017. He was appointed Major General the same year.

Lieutenant General in 2018, he became Inspector of the Army.

He was appointed Chief of Defence Force of the French Army on 31 July 2019, and was promoted to the rank and title of General on the same day.

On 7 July 2021, General Thierry Burkhard was appointed as French Chief of Defence with effect from 22 July 2021.

General Thierry Burkhard is *Commandeur de la Légion d’Honneur*, *Commandeur de l’ordre National du Mérite*, and was awarded the French War Cross (*Croix de Guerre*) for overseas Operations and the French Distinguished Service Cross (*Croix de la Valeur Militaire*).

He is married and father of three.