



# MISSION COMMANDER

## Major General Fernando García Blázquez



Major General Fernando García Blázquez was born in Madrid (Spain) on the 24th February 1962.

He joined the Military Academy in 1979 and after completing his studies he was commissioned as an Artillery Officer with the rank of 1st Lieutenant in 1984. His first assignment was the twelfth Artillery M-109 Self-propelled group.

In 1986, he completed his training as a Helicopter Pilot and was subsequently assigned to perform duties as an UH-1H / BO 105 helicopter pilot and intelligence officer with the Spanish Army aviation Helicopter Battalion in the Canary Islands. In 1988, he was promoted to the rank of Captain and moved to the Army Aviation HQ in Madrid, Spain. In 1990, he was reassigned

to the 3rd Helicopter maneuver Battalion in Logroño.

In 1991, after completing the Instructor Pilot Course, Test pilot course and the Helicopter Maintenance Manager's course, he was assigned to Command the AVUM unit in BHELMA III for more than five years. His AVUM years were highlighted by additional contributions as a general flights' instructor pilot, mountain flight trainer and Night Vision Devices (NVD) flights.

In 1997, after graduating from the Spanish Army Staff College, he was promoted to the rank of Major and appointed as Chief of Staff (COS) of Transportation, Directorate of Army Logistic Command, Madrid. In 2000, he deployed as a chief G5 branch of the HQ of French Salamadre Division in Mostar-Ortiges Bosnia-Hertzevovina.

At the end of 2000, he took over the command of the Army Aviation Combat Service support Group in Madrid (Spain). In summer 2002, he was transferred to NATO Joint Command South in Verona (Italy) as Executive Officer in COS JCS office. In summer 2004 after his promotion to Lieutenant colonel, he moved to Eurocorps (Strasbourg) as G7 Exercises chief. In 2005, he was redeployed to Madrid and joined Defense Joint Staff as COS of Military Transformation Unit, being nominated as Spanish national director of Multinational Experiment 5.

In September 2007 he took over command of 3rd Maneuver helicopter Battalion again in Logroño (Spain). During this period he was deployed in Herat (Afghanistan) as Commander of Spanish Army Helicopter task group ASPHUEL XVII, flying as tactic pilot in combat area for more than 200 FH.

In 2010 he was assigned to Training and Doctrine Command in Granada (Spain) as Army Lesson Learned Responsible.

He was promoted to Colonel in 2011 being assigned as Deputy Commander of Spanish Army aviation Brigade.

He returned again to Afghan scenario in 2013, in this case as Chief of Staff of ISAF Regional Command West, where among other duties he was responsible for Afghan presidential election (first round) and transition from ISAF to Resolute Support Mission in RCWest, serving until 2014 with Italian Aosta and Sassari Brigades in Herat.

After coming back from Herat, he was designated as Army responsible for NH90 Caiman Helicopter Program and Helicopters assessor to Army commander. During this period he was promoted to Brigadier General in February 2015.

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From June 2015 to May 2017 he was the Commander of Spanish Army Aviation. He is promoted to Major General in 2017 and being assigned as Chief of Staff of Eurocorps in Strasbourg, France. He is also assigned as Mission Commander of European Union Training Mission in Centre African Republic (EUTM CAR)

MG Blázquez has been honored with many National and international decorations.

Among them the Great cross of Spanish Military merit and San Hermenegildo Order, different Spanish Military merit crosses, Naval merit, Guardia Civil and National Police Merit, Non article 5 NATO BiH mission medal, two NATO ISAF mission medals, O'higgins medal from Chile, Peace commemoration medal from Italy, etc.

MG Blázquez flew more than 4000 FH in AB206, AB 205, AB212, BO105, Cougar, EC135 and other in more than 20 years as active helicopter pilot.

He speaks fluently English, French and Italian.

He is married to Carmen Gonzalez, and the proud father of Fernando (Software engineer) and Santiago (Sp AF Captain Helicopter Pilot).

Current as of 31 May 2017

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