

Academy from October 1983 until April 1987, commissioned as Ensign.

From 1988 until 1990 he was the Navigator on board the Destroyer ARDITO. In 1990 he joined ITN MW community where, afterwards, he carried out several duties, including:

- MWO of MHC LERICI (1991-1992)
- XO of MHC LERICI and ALGHERO (1992-1994)
- CO of MHC NUMANA (1995-1996) participating to Operation “Decisive Enhancement” in Adriatic Sea focused to the mine clearance of former Yugoslavian harbours and approach routes
- SOO of the MCM SQN 54 (COMSQUADRAG 54)
- SOO of COMFORDRAG CEB Dept. (Combat Readiness “Mareval” Test)
- Chief of COMFORDRAG OPS Dept.

After attending Italian Military Joint Staff College in 2001 and obtaining a Masters Degree in International Military Strategic Studies, R. Adm. Battista Piegaja returned to active duties as Executive Officer of a Soldiers-class Frigate (ITS BERSAGLIERE) until 2003. In this role, he participated in several patrolling missions in Sicily Strait and in Operation “Active Endeavour” in MEDOR.



R. Adm. Giovanni Battista Piegaja (ITA-N)

In 2003-2004 he commanded MCM SQN 53 (COMSQUADRAG 53). From 2004 until July 2006 he was the Director of COMFORDRAG CEB Dept. From September 2006 until October 2009 he served as MWO at the ITN General Staff – Rome. From November 2009 until May 2014 he took the duty of MW courses coordinator and MW Teacher at the ITN Naval Academy – Livorno. From June 2014 until May 2015, in the rank of Captain, he commanded the Standing NATO Mine Countermeasure Group Two (COMSNMCMG2).

In regards to National duties, in June 2015, R. Adm. Battista Piegaja firstly was Head of R&D bureau. Then, in December 2015, he became the Chief of Staff (COS) at ITN Mine Warfare Forces Command – La Spezia. During this same period, he was the COS of Operation “Mare Sicuro” in MEDCENT four different times.

Besides his National duties, R. Adm. Battista Piegaja has been involved in the organising processes of NATO Harbour Protection Trials

of NATO Harbour Protection Trials 2008 (Eckernfoerde – Germany, September 2008) as Vice-Chairman of the related NATO “Quick Response Team.”

Among other different courses attended by Capt. Piegaja, some of the most significant are:

- MCOC (MCMV Commanding Officers Course) at EGUERMIN Ostend (BE);
- IMWOC (International MW Officers Course) at MWTC Ingleside (Texas- USA);
- ITN Staff Officers Course at Naval War Institute (Livorno – IT).

In 2009 he was awarded Knight for the merit of Italian Republic by President Napolitano.

Rear Admiral Battista Piegaja lives in Lucca with his wife, Paola and they have two sons: Federico (29) and Alessandro (27). A former Baseball player at a good level, his spare time is now dedicated to the family, but he also enjoys swimming and cycling. His preferred book author is Patrick O’Brian.

**Read more at:** <https://eunavfor.eu/deputy-commander-r-adm-xavier-larreur-de-farcy-de-pontfarcy-hands-over-command-to-r-adm-giovanni-battista-piegaja/>



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