

Major General Antonio Planells Palau

General Planells was born in Madrid on August 16th 1959. He joined the Navy in August 1978 and was promoted to Marine Corps Lieutenant in July 1983, to Captain in 1986, to Major in 1995, to Lt-Colonel in 2001, to Colonel in July 2009 and to Brigadier General on March 22nd 2014.

Key assignments include: the Royal Guards as Lieutenant and member of the Fire Support and Target Acquisition Team. As Captain he commanded the 1st and 2nd MC Security Companies in Madrid; he was also posted to the operations platoon of the Reinforced Landing Group and 1st Landing Battalion. He was also a Staff officer of the Landing Flotilla and of the attack transport ship 'Aragón'.

As Major, he was in the Spanish Navy Studies Commission, the Marine Corps Headquarters and Chief of Logistics of the MC Brigade. As Lt-Colonel he was advisor to the Inner Cabinet of the Chief of the Defense Staff, Chief of Staff of the 'Tercio de Armada' and liaison officer with the U.S. Marine Corps in the United States (Virginia). When promoted to Colonel, he was posted to the Staff of the MC Force as Chief of the Plans Section. He was subsequently appointed Chief of AJEMA's Inner Cabinet.

In March 2014 he was promoted to Brigadier General and the following year took command of the Marine Corps' Tercio de Armada. In May 2017 he was appointed President of the Tactics Board of the Fleet, and in July took command of the Spanish-Italian Landing Force (SILF).

Abroad, General Planells was an observer of the first UN Contingent in Central America (ONUCA) in 1990. In 1999 he commanded the MC Tactical Subgroup during the SFOR mission in Bosnia Herzegovina.

Major General Planells is a Combat Diver, a specialist in Tactical Communications, has an Army Staff Diploma and has attended several courses like the NATO Defense Course (NADEFCOL) in Rome and the SHAPE College.

Major General Antonio Planells has been awarded the following national and international decorations: Grand Cross, Cross, Badge and Commander of the Royal and Military Order of 'San Hermenegildo'; Army Merit Cross; 4 Naval Merit Crosses; Air Force Cross; Civil Guard Cross; Spanish Police Merit Medal; UN Medal (ONUCA); NATO Medal (SFOR/BIH); BiH French Medal and the Republic of Chile Naval Academy Medal.