



Lieutenant General Miguel Ballenilla y García de Gamarra

Director of the National Defense Advanced Studies Center

General Miguel Ballenilla was born in Alicante on April 19, 1963. He entered the Spanish Army Officers' Academy (Academia General Militar) in September 1982, and became thus a member of the 42nd graduating class. He was promoted to Infantry lieutenant in July 1987.

He was promoted to captain in 1991, to major in 1999, to lieutenant colonel in 2007, and to colonel in 2014. He became a brigadier general in January 2018, a major general in April 2020, and a lieutenant general in December 2023.

As lieutenant and captain, he was assigned to the Tercio "Gran Capitán" 1^o de la Legión (Regiment "Gran Capitán" No.1 of the Spanish Legion), in Melilla. As a major, he was posted to the Headquarters of the "Rey Alfonso XIII" Legion Brigade, in Almería, where he commanded various sections within the Staff thereof. Once promoted to lieutenant colonel, he was given command of the 10th Battalion of the Legion, "Millán Astray," (Ronda, Málaga). Once his command had ended, he was posted to the Army's Directorate for Education, in Granada. He was then promoted to colonel and commanded the Regimiento de Cazadores de Montaña "América" 66 (66th Mountain Chasseurs Regiment "América") (Pamplona). As a brigadier general, he was the secretary general of the Mando de Adiestramiento y Doctrina (Training and Doctrine Command); and in 2020, he was appointed Director of the Escuela Superior de las Fuerzas Armadas (Spanish Joint Staff College) (ESFAS, as per its abbreviation in Spanish). He was promoted to major general in April of that same year.

He has participated in four international missions: as a captain, he was a member of the Agrupación Táctica "Málaga" ("Málaga" Tactical Group), which was deployed in the former Yugoslavia in 1992 as part of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR); as a major, he served in operation Iraqi Freedom in 2004 as G4 (Logistics Officer) of the Contingente de Apoyo al Repliegue (Withdrawal Support Contingent) (CONAPRE, as per its abbreviation in Spanish); in 2006, he participated in operation Libre Hidalgo as G1 (Personnel Officer) of the Headquarters of the eastern sector of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL); and in 2010, at the lead of the 10th Battalion of the Legion, he was deployed to Afghanistan, where the Badghis Tactical Group in operation Romeo Alfa (ASPFOR XXV) was established.

In December 2023, he was promoted to lieutenant general and appointed Director of the Centro Superior de Estudios de la Defensa Nacional (National Defence Advanced Studies Centre) (CESEDEN, as per its abbreviation in Spanish).

Civilian and Military Courses

General Staff Course of the Armed Forces

Combat Vehicle Specialist course (for officers), Paratrooper Unit Command course, Social Communication course, and basic winter and summer mountaineering courses

PhD in History from the University of Almería

Master's degree in Strategic Studies and International Security from the University of Granada

Most significant awards and decorations

Grand Cross for Military Merit

Grand Cross of the Royal and Military Order of Saint Hermenegildo

Commendation of the Order of Civil Merit

Merit Cross of the Spanish Guardia Civil

Medal for Police Merit

Biographical Details

General Miguel Ballenilla y García de Gamarra is married and has a son.

