



COMMANDING GENERAL

Lieutenant General Pedro PITARCH (Spanish Army)



Commanding General from 21.09.07 to 25.09.09.

Lieutenant General Pitarch graduated from the Military Academy of Zaragoza as a First Lieutenant of Infantry in 1968. His first assignments include: platoon leader and company commander in the Infantry Regiment "Aragón", teacher at the Army NCO School, Chief of Logistics and Chief of Maintenance (4th Helicopter Battalion) and action officer in the Defence Staff (OPS Division), in charge of programming joint and combined military exercises.

From March 1990 until October 1994 he was adviser to the Prime Minister for international defence and security issues. Later, after two years as DACOS OPS in the Army Staff, in June 1996 he took command of the (twobattalion) Mechanized Regiment "La Reina". In September 1998 he was appointed advisor to the Minister of Defence for the planning and implementation

of the full professionalisation of the Spanish Armed Forces.

Promoted to Brigadier General in 1999 he was appointed ACOS for Strategy and Military Cooperation in the Defence Staff, therefore responsible of the international relations and activities with NATO, WEU, EU and OSCE, including the function as Eurocorps "General Correspondant". In July 2002 he was promoted to Major General and appointed ACOS Logistics at SHAPE. In July 2004 he returned to Madrid after having been appointed Policy Director of the Spanish MOD. In April 2005 he was promoted to Lieutenant General. In January 2006 he was appointed CINC Spanish Land Force.

Besides the Army General Staff College, from which he graduated as the first of his class in 1986, LTG Pitarch's education includes the following courses: Helicopter Pilot (SP), Armour Officer (SP), Aircraft Maintenance Officer and Repair Technician (US), Test Flight Pilot (US), Armour Officer Advanced (US), Air Support (SP), Joint Warfare (UK), NATO Defence College (Rome) and Higher Military Studies (SP). He also holds a M.A. degree in International Relations (Madrid).

Lieutenant General Pitarch completed three tours in Bosnia-Herzegovina as COS Sector SW UNPROFOR in 1995, Deputy Commander SPBRI (SFOR) in 1998 and DACOS OPS HQ SFOR in 1999.

Lieutenant General Pitarch's personal awards include: the Grand Cross of St. Hermenegildo Order; the Grand Cross of Military Merit; Placa, Commendation and Cross of St. Hermenegildo Order; Silver Cross of the Merit Order of the Guardia Civil, five Crosses of Military Merit; Cross of Police Merit; Commandeur of the Legion of Honour (France); D. Alfonso Enriques Medal 1st Class (Portugal); St. Jorge Cross 1st Class (Portugal); Army Commendation Medal (United States); Legion of Honour (Slovakia); Minerva Medal (Chile); Officer of the National Order of Merit (France); UN Medal; NATO Medal; Great Officer of the Order of the Crown of the Belgian Kingdom (Belgium) and Golden medal of the German Armed Forces (Germany).

Lieutenant General Pitarch and his wife, María Pronk, have three children.

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