

General Thierry BURKHARD



Born on 30th July 1964, General Burkhard is married and father of three.

After graduating from the Saint-Cyr Military Academy (Class “Cadet de la France libre” 85-88) followed by the School of Infantry, General Burkhard was then posted to the 2nd Foreign Legion Airborne Regiment (2e REP) in Calvi (Corsica). His service at Regimental Duty, as combat platoon leader, pathfinder platoon leader, Company Commander and Operation’s Officer, included several operational deployments in French Guyana, Iraq, Ex-Yugoslavia, Chad and Gabon.

In 1996, he was posted to the French Joint Staff in Paris as Staff Officer in the Joint OpCentre (CPCO).

Upon graduation from the Advanced Staff Course and the Joint War College in 2000, he was assigned to the 4th Foreign Legion Regiment (4e RE) in Castelnaudary as S3 from 2000 to 2002.

Promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel in 2001, he was posted in 2002 to Cayenne (French Guyana) for two years as Head of the Operational Branch in the Joint HQ. In 2004, he moved back to Paris as the Deputy of the J3 EUROPE cell in CPCO. He was promoted to Colonel in 2005.

He was then deployed for one year in Côte d’Ivoire as Military Assistant of the General Officer Commanding the French Operation “Licorne”. From 2007 to 2008 he was Deputy Director Joint Staff / Communication and deployed twice to Afghanistan.

In 2008 he was selected to command of the 13th Foreign Legion Half-Brigade (13e DBLE) in Djibouti. In August 2010 he took over the post of Director Joint Staff / Communication for three years.

In September 2013, he was appointed National Intelligence Advisor to the President of the French Republic. Promoted to Brigadier General in 2014, he was posted in 2015 as Deputy Director and subsequently Director of CPCO in August 2017 and promoted to the rank of Major General.

He was appointed Army Inspector in August 2018 and promoted to the rank of Lieutenant General.

He took over as Chief of the French Army (CEMAT) on 31st July 2019 and has been promoted to the rank of General the same day.

On July 22, 2021, he was appointed as French Chief of Defense Staff.

General Thierry BURKHARD is Grand Officer of Legion of Honor (grand officier de la Légion d’honneur, and commander of the National Order of Merit (commandeur de l’Ordre national du Mérite), and was awarded the French War Cross (Croix de Guerre) for overseas Operations and the French Distinguished Service Cross (Croix de la Valeur Militaire).

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