



JOINT FORCE COMMAND LISBON

**Lieutenant General
Manuel Mestre
Spanish Air Force**

Commander

Lieutenant General Manuel Mestre was commissioned Second Lieutenant in 1973 from the Spanish Air Force Academy.

Over the course of his career, he held several assignments, constantly alternating between operational, logistical, Air Force and Joint Staff positions. During this time he developed a broad knowledge of Joint Military Capabilities and Procedures, and had the opportunity to operate in very demanding theatres like Afghanistan, Kuwait and Bosnia-Herzegovina. Because of this, he was selected as one of the drafters of the Basic Air Doctrine currently in use in the Spanish Air Force.

His NATO experience has involved participating in operative, planning and staff functions for multiple NATO exercises, and he has been involved in NATO Working Groups since 1986, as the Spanish national representative.

In the past few years he has held positions as the Deputy for Personal Air Command (AF HQ Madrid), Assignments Branch, the Commander of the 31st Transport Wing at Zaragoza AFB, Chief of the Force Planning Branch Joint Defense Staff, Plans Division of the Force Planning Branch, and Chief of the SAF Cabinet. Most recently he was the Commander of the Canary Islands Air Force Operational Command (MACAN) which was involved in Operation Nobel Sentinel taking responsibility to control illegal immigration coming into Canary Island coasts.

He has attended such courses as the USAF Flight Safety Officer course at the University of Southern California, USAF Navigator course at Mather AFB, California, Spanish Air Force Staff Course at the SAF War College, Madrid, the Air War College at Maxwell AFB, Alabama, the HRR Management Course at the National Defense Studies Centre, Madrid, the International Conflicts Law course at the Law Military School, Madrid, the International Relations course at the Ortega y Gasset Institute, Madrid, and the NATO Staff Officers Orientation Course at the NATO School in Oberammergau, Germany.

Serving in JFC Lisbon since September 2009, Lt Gen Mestre has served as the Chief of Staff and Deputy Commander before assuming the post of Commander on 31 July 2012. Lieutenant General Mestre is married and has two children.