

Biography of Air Force General Fabien Mandon

Chief of the Defence Staff



Married and father of three children, Fabien Mandon was born on October 19, 1969, in Montmorency (95).

He entered the 1990 class of the French Air Force Academy, class “Lieutenant Poznanski,” from which he graduated as a certified fighter pilot.

In 1994, he joined Fighter Squadron 3/13 “Alsace,” based in Colmar, flying Mirage F1CT. During this assignment, he took part in air defense missions and was deployed six times in operations in the Central African Republic and Chad. Promoted to captain in 1996, he took command of the “Colmar” flight in 1999.

Promoted to major in 2001, he joined Paris in 2002 as an aerospace advisor within the Delegation for Strategic Affairs (DAS).

In 2004, he attended the War College at the Higher School of the Spanish Armed Forces (ESFAS) in Madrid.

In 2005, after being promoted to lieutenant colonel, he was assigned to Air Base 133 at Nancy-Ochey within Fighter Squadron 2/3 “Champagne,” equipped with Mirage 2000D, which he would later command. Over these three years, he participated in operations in Afghanistan in 2006, then set up the first French fighter detachment at Kandahar Air Base in 2007.

In 2008, he joined the “Plans” office of the Air Force Staff before being promoted to colonel in 2009. In the summer of 2011, he served within NATO’s Air Component Command for Operation Unified Protector in Libya, as deputy for the air strategy of the campaign.

In 2012, he assumed command of the nuclear-capable Air Base 702 at Avord and of the Bourges-Avord Defense Base.

In 2014, he attended the 64th session of the Centre for Advanced Military Studies (CHEM) and the 67th session of the Institute for Advanced National Defense Studies (IHEDN).

He joined the Directorate General for International Relations and Strategy (DGRIS) in 2015, where he was responsible for the Ministry of Defense’s international relations with North America, Europe, and Russia, as well as developing France’s positions within NATO, the EU, and the UN.

In July 2017, he was appointed “Air Deputy” to the Chief of the Private Military Staff of the President of the Republic, a position in which he was promoted to brigadier general in June 2018.

In September 2019, he became head of the “Capability Coherence” division of the Armed Forces Staff, responsible for future equipment and capabilities of the French Armed Forces.

On September 1, 2020, after being promoted to major general of the air force, he was appointed Chief of the Minister of Armed Forces’ Military Cabinet. One year later, he was elevated to the rank and title of lieutenant general of the air force.

On May 1, 2023, he was appointed Chief of the Private Military Staff of the President of the Republic and elevated to the rank and title of General of the Air Army.

On July 23, 2025, General of the Air Army Fabien Mandon was appointed by the Council of Ministers as Chief of the Defence Staff, effective September 1, 2025.

General Fabien Mandon has completed 144 combat missions. A Commander of the Legion of Honour and Officer of the National Order of Merit, he also holds the Cross of Military Valour with two citations.