



EU MILITARY ASSISTANCE MISSION IN MOZAMBIQUE



Mission Force Commander **Brigadier General Sérgio Estrela**

Brigadier General Sérgio Lino de Almeida Estrela was born in Porto, Portugal, on 10 September 1973.

He joined the Portuguese Air Force Academy in 1992 and graduated as an Aeronautical Pilot in 1997.

Between September 1997 and October 1998, he attended the Advanced Fighter Pilot Training and Operational Conversion Course on the Alpha-Jet aircraft.

From 1998 to 2003, he was assigned to Squadron 101 “Rencos” at Air Base No. 11 in Beja, where he performed several duties, including Flight Instructor, Test Pilot, Academic Instructor, Planning Officer, and Standardization and Evaluation Officer. During this period, he accumulated more than 1,300 flight hours on the TB-30 Epsilon aircraft.

In 2001, he completed the Basic Command Course at the Portuguese Air Force Institute for Advanced Studies in Sintra.

Under the framework of Technical and Military Cooperation with the Portuguese-Speaking African Countries (PALOP), he served in 2002 as an advisor for the restructuring and operation of the military aviation training school in Lobito, Angola.

Between 2003 and 2008, he was assigned to Squadron 103 “Caracóis” at Air Base No. 11 in Beja, where he held various ground duties, earned all flight qualifications, and accumulated more than 1,600 flight hours on the Alpha Jet aircraft. Between 2005 and 2007, he was a member of the Portuguese Air Force aerobatic display team “Asas de Portugal” (Wings of Portugal), becoming its Leader in 2007.

From October 2007 to June 2008, he completed the Senior Officer Promotion Course at the Institute for Higher Military Studies in Pedrouços, Lisbon.

From June 2008 to March 2010, he was assigned to Squadron 504 “Linces” at Air Base No. 6, Montijo. Following qualification on the Dassault Falcon 50 aircraft, he assumed the position of Squadron Operations Officer.

Between 2010 and 2012, he served as Aide-de-Camp to His Excellency the President of the Portuguese Republic. He subsequently returned to Squadron 504 from 2012 to 2014, serving as Squadron Commander and accumulating more than 2,000 flight hours on the Falcon 50 aircraft.

In August 2014, he was appointed Air Force Military Assistant at the Office of the Chief of the General Staff of the Portuguese Armed Forces, a position he held until June 2017.

Between June 2017 and September 2019, he served as Commander of Operational Group 61 at Air Base No. 6, Montijo.

From October 2019 to January 2023, he served as National Liaison Representative at the Headquarters of the Supreme Allied Commander Transformation (SACT), NATO, in Norfolk, United States of America.

Between January and November 2023, he served as Head of the Air Operations Centre at the Portuguese Air Command Headquarters in Monsanto, Lisbon.

He was appointed Commander of Air Base No. 8 in Maceda, Ovar, a position he held from 24 November 2023 to 27 November 2025.

Between October 2025 and July 2026, he attended the Flag Officer Promotion Course in the Military University Institute, Lisbon.

Brigadier General Sérgio Estrela accumulated approximately 5,000 flight hours across multiple aircraft types.

His decorations include the rank of Officer of the Military Order of Aviz, the Silver Medal for Distinguished Services, and the 2nd Class Military Merit Medal, among several other commendations and military awards recorded throughout his career.

Brigadier General Sérgio Estrela is the Mission Force Commander of European Union Military Assistance Mission in Mozambique since September 14, 2026.

Brigadier General Sérgio Lino de Almeida Estrela is married to Sónia and is the father of two children, Rafael and Lara.