

**General  
Zsolt SÁNDOR**

Chief of Defence Staff  
Hungarian Defence Forces



**Date of rank:** 2026

**Studies**

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1989	Lajos Kossuth Military (Army) Academy
1997	United Nations Military Observer Course in Austria
1998	NATO Staff Officer Orientation Course Germany
2001	Airborne qualification
2003	Peace Operation Planning Course Monterey Cal. USA
2004	Miklós Zrínyi National Defence University
2007	United States National Defence University National War College Washington DC

**Military Career**

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1986	Join the Army as a Cadet
1989 – 1990	Platoon leader at the 1 <sup>st</sup> Mech. Inf. Bn. 5 <sup>th</sup> Brigade
1990 – 1993	Chief of Staff of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Mech. Inf. Bn. 5 <sup>th</sup> Brigade
1993 – 1994	Acting Battalion Commander 2 <sup>nd</sup> Mech. Inf. Bn.
1994 – 1995	Senior operation officer 66 <sup>th</sup> HQ Battalion of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Division
1995 – 2000	Operation officer at the 88 <sup>th</sup> Airmobile Battalion
2000 – 2004	Deputy Commander of the 1 <sup>st</sup> Light Mixed Regiment (SOC)
2004 – 2009	Commander of the 25/88 <sup>th</sup> Light Mixed Battalion (SOC)
2009 – 2010	Chief of NATO Training Group in Norfolk VA

2010 – 2014	Brigade Commander 25 <sup>th</sup> György Klapka Infantry Brigade
2014 – 2017	Defence Attaché to Washington
2017 – 2018	Deputy Chief of Staff Operations, HDF JFC
2018 – 2019	Chief of Land Forces (Deputy Commander) JFC HDF
2019 – 2020	Deputy Chief of Staff Operations HDFC
2020 – 2021	Commander, HDF TDSC
2021 – 2023	Deputy Chief of Defence Staff (DCHOD)
2024 – 2026	Ambassador of Hungary to Athens, Greece
2026 –	Chief of Defence Staff

### **Deployments**

2000 – 2001	United Nations Iraq Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM)
2008 – 2009	Commander Hungarian PRT Afghanistan

### **Medals and Decorations**

Legion of Merit (Degree of Officer)  
 Order of Merit of the Hungarian Knight 's Cross  
 Merit of Service Medal "Bronze Grade"  
 Merit of Service Medal "Silver Grade"  
 Merit of Service Medal "Gold Grade"  
 Merit of Service Medal "Gold with Laureate"  
 Officer's Service Sign 3<sup>rd</sup> Class (10 years)  
 Officer's Service Sign 2<sup>nd</sup> Class (20 years)  
 UN Peacekeeping Medal with number 2 for UNIKOM  
 NATO Medal for Afghanistan  
 NATO Medal for NTG chief  
 Medal for Peace Operations 2 times  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Airborne qualification badge

## Foreign Languages

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English	Advanced level, interpreter
Spanish	Intermediate level
Greek	Basic level