

Curriculum Vitae

General Luciano Portolano

Chief of Defence Staff, Italian Armed Forces

Personal Information

- Name: Luciano Portolano
- Nationality: Italian
- Current Rank: General (4 stars)
- Current Position: Chief of Defence Staff (since 4 October 2024)



General Luciano Portolano is a distinguished military leader with a career spanning decades of service in national and international military operations. Renowned for his strategic vision, diplomatic acumen, and leadership in complex military environments, he has played a pivotal role in enhancing global security and stability. His extensive experience in joint and multinational operations, combined with his expertise in crisis management, has made him a key figure in modern military strategy.

Education and Qualifications

- Course 161 ('Esempio'), Modena Military Academy and School of Applied Military Studies, Turin
- Army Staff Course
- Advanced Staff Course
- Joint Staff College
- United States Army Command and Staff College, Kansas, USA
- Degree in Strategic Sciences, School of Applied Military Studies, University of Turin
- Master's Degree in Integrated Management and Development of Human Resources
- Master's Degree in Strategic Sciences

Professional Experience

National Command Assignments

- Platoon and Company Commander, 27th Bersaglieri Battalion, 'Ariete' Armoured Brigade
- Commander, 67th Bersaglieri Battalion, 18th Bersaglieri Regiment, 'Garibaldi' Brigade
- Commander, 18th Bersaglieri Regiment, 'Garibaldi' Brigade

- Commander, 'Sassari' Mechanised Brigade

Army and Joint Staff Assignments

- Staff Officer, Doctrine Section, Military Regulations and Policy Branch
- Staff Officer, Training and Education Section, Training Branch
- Head, Regulations Section, Doctrine, Training and Regulations Branch
- Head, Operations Section, Force Deployment/COE Division
- Head, Operations Division, Joint Operations Headquarters

International and Operational Assignments

- United Nations Missions:
 - UNIMOG, Iran-Iraq Observation Group (1990-1991)
 - UNIKOM, Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (1991-1992)
 - UNIFIL, Lebanon (Head of Mission & Force Commander, 2014-2016)
- NATO Operations:
 - 'Joint Guarantor', Macedonia (1999)
 - 'Joint Guardian', Kosovo (1999)
 - ISAF, Afghanistan (Commander, Regional Command West, 2011-2012)
- Other Key Missions:
 - Operation 'Antica Babilonia 1', Iraq (2003)
 - Chief of Staff & Head, EU Command Element, Allied Joint Force Command Naples (2016-2019)
 - Military Attaché, Italian Embassy in the UK and Ireland (2007-2010)
 - Commander, Joint Operations Headquarters, Italy (2019-2021)
 - Operation 'Aquila Omnia' (Afghanistan Evacuation, August 2021)
 - Secretary General of Defence & National Armaments Director (2021-2024)

Awards and Decorations

- Italian Honors:
 - Officer & Knight of the Military Order of Italy
 - Silver Medal for Valour of the Army

- Two Gold Crosses for Army Merit (2006, 2018)
- Knight of the Grand Cross of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic
- Mauritian Medal of Merit for 50 years of military service
- International Honors:
 - Officer of the Legion of Merit (USA, 2014 & 2019)
 - Officer of the National Order of the French Legion of Honour
 - Commander of the National Order of the Cedar (Lebanon)
 - NATO Medals for Meritorious Service (2012, 2020)
 - UN Medals (UNIFIL, UNIMOG, UNIKOM)

Badges of Honour

- Wounded in Service (Operation 'Joint Guardian', Kosovo 1999)

Languages

- Italian (Native)
- English (Fluent)

Key Skills and Expertise

- Strategic Military Leadership
- International Diplomacy & Negotiation
- Joint & Multinational Operations
- Crisis Management & Conflict Resolution
- Military Training & Development
- Defence Policy & Strategic Planning

A decorated and highly respected military officer, General Luciano Portolano continues to serve with distinction as the Chief of Defence Staff, leading Italy's military efforts in national and international security. His unwavering commitment to service and excellence has made him a key figure in shaping Italy's defence strategy and international military cooperation.