



## Biography of Army General François Lecointre Grand Chancellor of the Legion of Honor

Born on 6<sup>th</sup> February 1962 in Cherbourg, he graduated from the Ecole spéciale militaire de Saint-Cyr (Général Monclar year), and chose to serve in the Infantry Marine troops, continuing his training at the Infantry School in Montpellier.

As a section leader from 1988 to 1991 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Marine Regiment in Vannes, he was engaged in the Central African Republic in 1989 and during the Gulf War in 1991. He then joined the 5<sup>th</sup> Overseas Interarms Regiment in Djibouti from 1991 to 1993. He took part in Operation Iskoutir and Operation Oryx in Somalia.

He continued his career in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Marine Regiment as Company Commander from 1994 to 1996, engaged with his men in Gabon, then Rwanda in 1994 and Sarajevo in 1995. Finally, as Commanding Officer from 2005 to 2007, during which time he was deployed with his regiment in the Ivory Coast during Operation Unicorn during the winter of 2006.

He graduated from Staff College in 2001 and worked for four years in a staff job, as editor of the Chief of Staff's speeches then at the office in charge of conceiving system forces. After commanding the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Marine Regiment in 2007, he was a trainee officer at the Centre for Advanced Military Studies and an auditor at the Institute of Advanced Studies in National Defense from 2007 to 2008. He directed the 58<sup>th</sup> session at the Centre for Advanced Military Studies. From 2009 to 2011 he served in the military office of the French Secretary of State for Defence.

On 1<sup>st</sup> August 2011, he was promoted to Brigadier General and took over the 9<sup>th</sup> Marine Infantry Brigade in Poitiers for two years. He was appointed as Commander of the first European Union Training Mission in Mali from January to July 2013.

Deputy Chief of Staff of the Army from 2014 to 2016, he was then appointed Head of the Prime Minister's military cabinet.

Raised to the rank and title of Army General on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2017, he was appointed as Chief of Defence Staff until his farewell to arms on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021.

On 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2023, General François Lecointre took up the duties of Grand Chancellor of the Legion of Honor and Chancellor of the National Order of Merit.

He was awarded the Croix de Guerre for his role in overseas operations and the Croix de Valeur Militaire with four commendations, the Grand' Croix of the Legion of Honor and the Grand' Croix of the National Order of Merit.