



General Patrick de Rousiers

Chairman of the European Union Military Committee

General Patrick de Rousiers was born on the 11th of May 1955 in Dijon (France).

He joined the French Air Force Academy in September 1975, was awarded his fighter pilot wings in Tours on January 1979 and was then posted to Tactical Fighter Squadron 01/008 "Saintonge" at Cazaux AFB, where he attended the operational fighter course, flying Mystere IV A.



In June 1979, he joined Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron 01.033 "Belfort" stationed at Strasbourg AFB, flying Mirage III R. Upon completion of all professional qualifications, he was appointed as flight commander (scheduler) to TRS 02.033 "Savoie", which was about to be converted to Mirage F1 CR.

In August 1986, he was posted to TFS 02.004 "La Fayette", operating Mirage III E/AN52, then took command of the squadron in August 1988, and was in charge of its conversion to Mirage 2000 N/ASMP.

From August 1989 to June 1990, he attended the Command and Staff Course of the Canadian Forces in Toronto. Upon completion of the course, he joined 33rd Tactical Reconnaissance Wing in Strasbourg, as Chief Operations and Commander on August 1992.

From September 1993 to summer 1994, he attended the National War College in Paris. He was then posted to the Air Force Staff, General Plans, "Planning" office. He was appointed head of this office on September 1996.

On the September 1999, he took command of Nancy AFB that operates the three Mirage 2000 D squadrons of the French Air Force, in particular.

In September 2002, he left Nancy AFB and was promoted to Brigadier General. He joined MOD/General Staff in Paris as Assistant to the Vice-Chief of Defence and headed the General Military Strategy office where he chaired a working group tasked by the Minister on Military Reserve.

In September 2004, he was Head, Euro-Atlantic Division in the Defense Staff in Paris in charge of EU, NATO and UN relations as well as bilateral relations with northern hemisphere countries let aside Asia. He was promoted to the rank of Major General on September 1, 2005.

From 2006 to 2008 he was appointed Air Defense and Air operations Commander in chief, at Taverny, Paris and Lyon, France. Under the authority of the prime minister, he was then responsible for air policing and also for controlling rescue operations in the French Airspace.

In June 2008 he was posted to Brussels as French military representative to the European Union Military Committee at the time of the French Presidency of the EU. In 2009 he was "dual-hatted" as French military representative to both the European Union and NATO Military Committees in Brussels.

From September 2010 to November 2012, he worked for the Minister of Defence as General inspector of the armed forces. He was promoted to the rank of General on September 1, 2010.

The Foreign Affairs Council, based on the proposal of the EU CHODs, appointed him as Chairman of the EU Military Committee. He took up his new position on 6 November 2012.

General Patrick de Rousiers logs a total of 3,094 flying hours, among which 2,600 on jet engined fighter aircraft. He participated in 76 war missions.

He was awarded a Commander in the Legion of Honor, a Commander in the National Order of Merit, the French Medal of Aeronautics and the German Ehrenkreuz der Bundeswehr in gold.

He is married to Bénédicte and is the father of five.