

Lieutenant General Atanas Samandov

Commander of Joint Operational Command



Lt.Gen. Samandov is born on September 17th, 1955 in Gotse Delchev, Blagoevgrad Region.

Education:

1973 – Secondary education completed in Yane Sandanski Polytechnic School, Gotse Delchev;
1973 - 1977 – “Vasil Levski” National Military University, Veliko Tarnovo;
1983 - 1985 – “G. S. Rakovski” National Defence Academy;
1995 - 1996 – General Staff Academy – Russia.

Military Career:

1977 - 1979 – Platoon Commander;
1979 - 1983 – Company Commander;
1985 - 1987 – Battalion Commander;
1987 - 1991 – Deputy Regiment Commander;
1991 - 1994 – Regiment Commander;
1994 - 1995 – Deputy Division Commander;
1996 - 1998 – Brigade Commander;
1998 - 2001 – Division Commander;
2001 - 2004 – Commander of the Special Operations Forces Command;
2004 - 2006 – Commander of the Operational Forces Command;
2006 - 2008 – Land Forces Chief of Staff;
2008 - 2009 – Deputy Land Forces Commander;
2009 – Commander of Joint Operational Command.

Promotions:

1977 – Second Lieutenant;
1979 – Lieutenant;
1983 – First Lieutenant;
1986 – Captain;
1991 – Major;
1993 – Lieutenant-Colonel;
1996 – Colonel;
2002 – Brigadier General;
2006 – Major-General;

2009 – Lieutenant-General.

Awards and Decorations:

Order of Honours of the Bulgarian Armed Forces;

Order of Merit of the Bulgarian Armed Forces;

Commendation Medal “For Meritorious Service under the Colours” – II class;

Commendation Medal “For Meritorious Service under the Colours” – I class;

Inscribed personal weapon and other decorations.

Languages: Russian and English.

Divorced, has two children.