

GENERAL SIMEON HRISTOV SIMEONOV

Chief of Defence



Date and Place of Birth: 25 January 1955, Plovdiv, Bulgaria

Military Career:

- 1979 – 1980 Junior Pilot with the Second Flight of 1st Squadron, 25th Aviation Regiment – Cheshnigirovo Air Base.
- 1980 – 1982 Junior Pilot with the First Flight of squadron with the 19th Fighter Aviation Regiment – Graf Ignatievo Air Base.
- 1982 – 1984 Senior Pilot with the First Flight of First Aviation Squadron, 19th Fighter Aviation Regiment – Graf Ignatievo Air Base.
- 1984 – 1985 Commander of Third Flight of First Aviation Squadron, 19th Fighter Aviation Regiment – Graf Ignatievo Air Base.
- 1985 – 1986 Deputy Commander of First Aviation Squadron, 19th Fighter Aviation Regiment – Graf Ignatievo Air Base.
- 1986 – 1989 Officer Cadet in Y. A. Gagarin Air Force Academy.
- 1989 – 1990 Commander of 2nd Aviation Squadron, 19th Fighter Aviation Regiment – Graf Ignatievo Air Base.
- 1990 – 1991 Deputy Commander responsible for Flight Operations and Safety, 19th Fighter Aviation Regiment – Graf Ignatievo Air Base.
- 1991 – 1992 Deputy Commander for Flight Training, 19th Fighter Aviation Regiment – Graf Ignatievo Air Base.
- 1992 – 1994 Commander of 19th Fighter Aviation Regiment – Graf Ignatievo Air Base.
- 1994 – 1996 Commander of 3rd Fighter Air Base – Graf Ignatievo.
- 1996 – 1998 Training in the General Staff Academy in Hamburg, Germany.
- 1999 – 2000 Commander of 3rd Fighter Air Base – Graf Ignatievo.
- 2000 – 2002 Deputy Commander for Training and Use of Forces, Tactical Aviation Corps – Plovdiv.
- 2002 – 2003 Chief of Staff of the Tactical Aviation Corps – Plovdiv.
- 2003 – 2004 Commander of Tactical Aviation Command – Plovdiv.
- 2004 – 2005 Chief of Staff of the Joint Force Training Centre, a NATO headquarters located in Bydgoszcz, Poland, responsible to Allied Command Transformation.

2005 – 2006
2006 – 2009 Chief of the Air Force Headquarters of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Bulgaria
Commander of the Air Force of the Republic of Bulgaria
2009 Chief of Defence of the Republic of Bulgaria

Education:

1974 Secondary education completed in Kazanlak, Bulgaria.
1974 – 1979 Bulgarian Air Force Academy, Dolna Mitropoliya.
1986 – 1989 Y. A. GAGARIN Air Force Command and Staff Academy, Russia.
1996 – 1998 General Staff Faculty – Fuhrungsakademie der Bundeswehr, Hamburg, Germany

Flight Experience: Pilot First Class with over 2,000 flight hours.
He has flown L-29; MiG-17; MiG-21; MiG-29

Promotions:

1979 Lieutenant.
1982 First Lieutenant.
1986 Captain.
1991 Major.
1992 Lieutenant Colonel.
1996 Colonel.
2003 Brigadier General
2005 Major General.
2007 Lieutenant General
2009 General

Awards and Decorations:

Commendation Medal “For Meritorious Service Under the Colours” – First Grade; other medals, cold weapons, monetary rewards and other awards.

Military Decoration of the United States armed forces “Legion of Merit”, awarded by the President of the United States.

Foreign Languages: English, Russian, and German

Marital Status: Married.