

Jean-Louis Georgelin

Former Grand Chancellor of the Legion of Honor



Born August 30, 1948, in Aspet, France, he was admitted to the Ecole Spéciale Militaire de Saint-Cyr in September 1967. He then chose to serve in the infantry and joined the Ecole d'application de l'infanterie (Infantry School) in Montpellier.

In the summer of 1970, Lieutenant Georgelin was assigned to the 9th Parachute Chasseur Regiment as Chief of Section. He returned to Montpellier in 1973 as an instructor at the Ecole d'application de l'infanterie. Three years later, he served as a Captain in the 153rd Infantry Regiment in Mutzig, where he took command of a company.

At the end of his command, he spent a year at the military intelligence processing center before joining the Defense Staff as aide-de-camp to the Chief of Staff. Promoted to Major, he went to study at the United States Army Command and General Staff College in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, then joined the Paris Ecole supérieure de guerre (Staff College).

Transferred in 1985 to the Ecole Spéciale Militaire de Saint-Cyr, Lieutenant-Colonel Georgelin commanded a battalion for three years before returning to the Staff of the Army, where he headed the 'Studies and forecasting' section of the 'Planning and Finance' Office.

From 1991 to 1993, he took command of the 153rd Infantry Regiment in Mutzig before spending a year at CHEM (Center for Advanced Military Studies) and IHEDN (Institute of Advanced Studies in National Defense). He then became deputy chief of the military cabinet of the Prime Minister from 1994 to 1997.

Promoted to Brigadier General in 1997, he was appointed Assistant General to the 11th Airborne Division and joined the SFOR (Stabilization Force) as Head of the "Plans and Policy" Office in the former Yugoslavia.

He was then assigned to the Defense Staff, first as head of the "plans and programs" division and then as Deputy Chief of Staff of "Plans". He was promoted to Major General (*général de division*) in August 2000, and Lieutenant General (*général de corps d'armée*) in October 2002.

He became personal chief of staff of the President of the Republic in 2002. He was promoted to Army General on October 3, 2003, and then appointed Chief of the Defense Staff of the French Army on October 4, 2006. He was admitted to the second section of warrant officers (*officiers généraux*) on February 28, 2010.

He holds a Grand Cross of the Legion of Honor and a Grand Cross of the National Order of Merit. On June 9, 2010, Army General Jean-Louis Georgelin was appointed Grand Chancellor of the Legion of Honor and Chancellor of the National Order of Merit.