



NATO SPECIAL OPERATIONS HEADQUARTERS

QUARTIER GÉNÉRAL DES OPÉRATIONS SPÉCIALES DE L'OTAN

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NATO Special Operations Headquarters Commander

Lieutenant General Frank J. Kisner



Lt. Gen. Frank J. Kisner is Commander, NATO Special Operations Headquarters, Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, Casteau, Belgium. He leads a multinational staff, representing 29 NATO and partner nations, acting as the primary point of direction and coordination for all NATO special operations-related activities in order to optimize employment of NATO special operations forces. The headquarters is responsible for NATO SOF doctrine, operational and higher echelon training and standardization and, when directed by SACEUR, for providing an operational command capability for NATO special operations forces.

General Kisner graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1980. He has held a variety of operational assignments and has commanded at the squadron, group, wing, and geographic combatant command sub-unified command levels. This includes command of a special operations wing, an airlift wing and a Theatre Special Operations Command. Additionally, the General has held staff assignments at Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Joint Special Operations Command, Headquarters Pacific Air Forces, Headquarters U.S. Pacific Command, and Headquarters U.S. Special Operations Command.

General Kisner has significant experience in combat and leadership in major joint contingency operations. He served on a joint special operations task force during Operation Desert Storm, commanded a special operations squadron during Kosovo operations and conducted contingency operations in Africa. From September 2001 to January 2002, he was forward-deployed with Joint Special Operations Task Force-North in Operation Enduring Freedom. From December 2002 to May 2003, he was forward-deployed for operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. From May 2008 until May 2009, he served as commander for forces in Operation Enduring Freedom Trans Sahara.

Lt Gen Kisner is married to Helen, and he has three daughters.