

GENERAL KNUD BARTELS CHIEF OF THE DANISH ARMED FORCES

General Knud Bartels was appointed Chief of Defence 16 November 2009, the highest ranking officer in the Danish Armed Forces and the principal military adviser to the Danish Government.

Prior to assuming command as Chief of Defence Denmark, General Bartels served as Denmark's Military Representative to NATO Military Committee and EU Military Committee from 2006 to 2009.

As Chief of Defence he is responsible for the implementation of the Danish Defence Agreement 2010-2014 in a time where balancing the finances, while at the same time ensuring that Danish Defence remains an up-to-date and efficient political instrument, constitutes one of the challenges. This continues to require strict prioritizing; particularly given Denmark's involvement in missions in Afghanistan, Libya, and The Bay of Aden.

General Bartels started as a soldier in 1972, and soldiering has to a large extent remained at the core of his career. His rise through the ranks from junior to general officer is dominated by operational duty at home and in missions, ranging from company to ultimately division commander, interrupted only by courses at Ecole Supérieure de Guerre in Paris and US Army War College in Carlisle. He has furthermore held postings as instructor at both the Army Combat School and the Royal Danish Defence College, including an appointment as Director Army Command and General Staff Course.

In addition, General Bartels has held his share of positions in both national and international joint staffs, including Assistant Chief of Staff Plans, Danish Defence Command, and Director for Operations, NATO's International Military Staff in Brussels. He is a convinced advocate for the need to apply a joint and holistic approach across the military service branches.

The general believes in transparency and openness while observing operational and political considerations. He is an exponent of the principle of leadership by example and holds the same high demands to his own performance as he does to those working under his command. He believes that a commander must never forget he is dealing with people who are entitled to be treated with respect and dignity.

General Bartels is married to Mrs. Inge Vansteenkiste and in their marriage they have brought together four adult children; two sons and two daughters. The general and his wife have their home in Brussels, where Mrs. Vansteenkiste also works. The general has an interest in history and in particular military history as well as an interest in art and music.

General Bartels is fluent in English and French.

[Curriculum Vitae](#)