



**Hulusi AKAR / General
Chief of General Staff**

General Hulusi AKAR graduated from the Turkish Military Academy as an infantry officer in 1972 and from the Infantry School in 1973.

Following tours as a Platoon Leader and Company Commander between 1973 and 1976, he was assigned to the Turkish Military Academy as a Cadet Platoon Leader and Data Processing Officer for four years.

He graduated from the Army Command and Staff College in 1982, from the Armed Forces College in 1985 and from the U.S. Armed Forces Staff College in 1987.

He served as a company commander, section chief and branch chief at various units and headquarters including the Turkish General Staff. He also served as an instructor at the Army Command and Staff College and was posted abroad as a staff officer in the intelligence division in HQ AFSOUTH / Naples, Italy between 1990 and 1993. From 1993 to 1994, he was the Military Assistant to the Land Forces Commander, also served as the Chief Public Information Officer. Later on, he continued this assignment for the Commander of the Turkish Armed Forces between the years of 1994-1997. He was subsequently posted as the Commander of the Turkish Brigade - Zenica / Bosnia from 1997 to 1998.

Upon his promotion to Brigadier General in 1998, he commanded the Internal Security Brigade for two years, and then served as the Chief of Plans and Policy in Headquarters AFSOUTH / Naples, Italy between 2000 and 2002.

Following his promotion to Major General in 2002, he assumed the command of the Military Academy for three years and was subsequently the Commander of the Army Command and Staff College for two years until 2007.

After his promotion to Lieutenant General, he was the commander of Land Forces Logistics and then the Commander of NRDC-T and the 3rd Turkish Corps between 2009 and 2011.

Subsequent to his promotion to the rank of General in 2011, he served as the Deputy Chief of the Turkish General Staff from 2011 to 2013, and the Commander of the Turkish Land Forces from 2013 to 2015.

Afterwards, he assumed his current post as the Commander of the Turkish Armed Forces on 18 August 2015.

He was awarded the Courage and Self-Sacrifice Medal by the Turkish General Staff due to his outstanding achievements in internal security operations, Turkish Armed Forces Medal of Service and Medal of Honor for his exceptional service. He was also awarded the NATO Medal and Legion of Merit in Bosnia-Herzegovina during SFOR Operation, the NATO Medal during KFOR operation, Korean National Security Legion of Merit, the United States Legion of Merit, Kazakhstan Armed Forces' 20th Anniversary Medal, Kyrgyzstan Armed Forces General Staff Distinguished Service Medal, Republic of Azerbaijan Distinguished Service in Military Cooperation Medal, Azerbaijan Border Security 95th Anniversary Medal and Pakistan Nishan-ı Imtiaz Medal.

His military and professional education includes a number of academic studies at the Middle East Technical University, Political Sciences Faculty of Ankara University and Boğaziçi University.

General Hulusi AKAR is married to Şule AKAR, with two children. He speaks English.



Salih Zeki ÇOLAK / General
Commander of Turkish Land Forces

General Salih Zeki ÇOLAK was born in Akçaabat, Trabzon in 1954. He graduated from the Turkish Military Academy in 1974 and from the Artillery and Missile School in 1975.

He served as Battery Officer and Battery Commander in the 6th Corps Artillery Regiment (Adana, 1975-1977); as Platoon Commander in the Turkish Military Academy Cadet Regiment 4th Battalion 22nd Platoon (1977-1980); as Battery Commander in the 12th Infantry Division Artillery Regiment (Ağrı/Patnos, 1980-1983) and as an instructor in the Tactical Board at the Artillery and Missile School (Polatlı, 1983-1986). During these assignments, he completed Mountain Ranger Special Training Course (Eğirdir, 1976) and Advance English Course (Ankara, 1978).

In 1986, he was selected to attend the Army War College. After his graduation from the Army War College in 1988, he attended the Armed Forces College and graduated in 1989.

As a staff officer, he served as Chief of the Operations and Training Branch in the 4th Mechanized Infantry Division (Edirne/Keşan, 1988-1990), as Battalion Commander of the 49th Infantry Regiment of Cyprus Turkish Peace Forces (1990-1992), as Defense Industry Project Officer in the General Plans and Policies Directorate of Turkish General Staff (1992-1995), as Military Representative of Western European Union in NATO Turkish Military Delegation (Brussels/Belgium, 1995-1998), as Commander of the 108th Artillery Regiment (Muş/Malazgirt, 1998-2000), and as Head of the Office of Secretary General, Public Relations Department of Turkish General Staff (2000-2001).

In 2001, he was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General and assigned to the Turkish Land Forces Command, where he served as the Head of Assignment Department (2001-2003). Later, he commanded the 19th Infantry Brigade (Balıkesir/Edremit, 2003-2005).

In 2005, he was promoted to the rank of Major General and assigned as the Chief of Personnel Division of the Turkish Land Forces Command (2005-2006). Later he served as Secretary General of Turkish General Staff (2006-2008) and as Commander of the Armored Forces School and Training Division (2008-2009).

In 2009, he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant General and served as Commander of the 7th Corps (2009-2011) and as Chief of Staff of the Turkish Land Forces Command (2011-2013).

In 2013, he was promoted to the rank of General. He assumed the command of the Turkish Land Forces Training and Doctrine Command, where he served until 2014 and then commanded the 1st Army located in İstanbul (2014-2015). He has been the Commander of Turkish Land Forces Command since 17 August 2015.

General Salih Zeki ÇOLAK has been awarded the Turkish Armed Forces Medal of Distinguished Service, the Nishan-e-Imtiaz Medal of Pakistan and Wazir Mohammad Akbar Khan High State Medal of Afghanistan. He is married to Mrs. Melek ÇOLAK with two children. He is fluent in English and French.



Bülent BOSTANOĞLU / Admiral
Commander of Turkish Naval Forces

Admiral Bostanoğlu was born in Karadeniz Ereğli in 1953. He graduated from the Naval High School in 1970 and the Naval Academy in 1973. After completing his Fundamental Officers Training, he began to serve as the Communications Officer onboard TCG Tinaztepe.

During his sea tour from 1975 to 1980 he assumed a variety of duties, respectively as the Division Officer and Department Head, onboard the patrol boat TCG SULTANHISAR and the destroyers TCG Tinaztepe, TCG Berk and TCG Adatepe. Graduating from the Turkish Naval War College in 1982, he served onboard TCG Anittepe as the Navigation and Operations Officer.

From 1983 to 1989, he was assigned as the NATO Exercise Planning Officer in Turkish Navy Headquarters and graduated from the Turkish Armed Forces College in 1989. From 1989-1991, Admiral Bostanoğlu served as Executive Officer onboard the destroyer TCG Savaştepe. During this period, he graduated from the US Naval War College in 1990. He then commanded destroyer TCG Savaştepe from 1991-1993 and frigate TCG Muavenet from 1993-1994.

After his sea tour, he was assigned as Branch Head of Plans & Organization Division in the Turkish Fleet Headquarters from 1994-1995. In 1995, he was appointed to Athens/Greece for 3 years as the Naval Attaché. Before his promotion to the flag ranks, he commanded Destroyer Division Four from 1998-1999 and served as Chief of Operations Directorate in the Turkish Fleet Headquarters till 2000.

After being promoted to Rear Admiral (Lower Half) in 2000, he served in Plans&Policy Directorate in the Turkish General Staff Headquarters. Admiral Bostanoğlu commanded the Turkish Escort and Patrol Boats Flotilla from 2002-2003 and assumed his duty as the commander of Southern Task Group in 2003.

Having been promoted to Rear Admiral (Upper Half) in 2004, he served as the Commander of Turkish Naval War College till 2005, Chief of Operations Directorate at the Turkish Navy Headquarters from 2005-2007, Commander of the Surface Action Group & Northern Task Group till 2008 and Chief of Staff of the Fleet Command from 2008 to 2009.

Upon his promotion to Vice Admiral in 2009, he assumed Chief of Communications, Electronics & Information Systems Directorate in the Turkish General Staff Headquarters from 2009 to 2010. He subsequently commanded Naval Training and Education Command until August 2011 and Northern Sea Area Command from August 2011 to January 2013. He was assigned to the Turkish Fleet as the Commander in January 2013.

Admiral Bostanoğlu was promoted to the rank of Admiral in 2013, and was assigned as the 25th Commander of the Turkish Naval Forces on 23 August 2013. His decorations include Turkish Armed Forces Medal of Honor, Turkish Armed Forces Distinguished Service Medal, NATO Medal for the former Yugoslavia, the United States Legion of Merit and The Nishan-i Imtiaz Medal of Pakistan.

Admiral Bostanoğlu is married to Mrs. Belgin Ergenç Bostanoğlu, has a son named Mert and a daughter named Deniz. Admiral Bostanoğlu knows English.



**Abidin ÜNAL / General
Commander Turkish Air Force**

General Abidin ÜNAL, Commander TurAF, was born in 01 January 1953 in Pınarbaşı-KAYSERİ. After completing his high school education, he joined the Air Force in 1972 and graduated from the Turkish Air Force Academy in 1975.

Upon graduating from 2nd Main Jet Base (MJB) Flight Training School as fighter pilot in 1977, he was assigned to 3rd MJB and served as instructor Pilot until 1982. He attended Air War College in 1982, graduated in 1984 and assigned to Air Force Academy as Division Commander. With first F-16 activation in 1987, first he was assigned to Öncel (143th) Squadron as Operations Officer and Instructor Pilot, then in 1989 upon activation he was transferred to 142nd Squadron. In 1990 he became a project officer in MOD System Management Division, later in 1991 he was assigned to 162nd Squadron as Operations Officer. In 1992 he attended UK Royal Air Force College and assigned to 192nd Squadron as Squadron Commander in 1993.

In 1994 he assumed the duty of Project Officer at General Staff Plans and Policy Division Disarmament and International Relations Branch and in 1995 assigned as Military Advisor of Turkish Permanent Representative of OSCE in Vienna.

He became Operations Commander of 5th Main Jet Base Command in September 1998, promoted to the rank of Brigadier General in 30 August 2000 and he was assigned as the Head of Scientific Decision Support Center. During this duty, he was a senior member of NATO Research and Technology Board.

He was 5th Main Jet Base Commander between 03 August 2002 and 04 August 2003. In 2003, he was assigned to Air Force HQ as the Head of Project Management Division. He promoted to the rank of Major General in 30 August 2004 and assumed the duty of Chief of Plans and Policy Division at Headquarters in 17 August 2004. He was assigned as the Commander of Air Force Academy in 04 August 2006.

He was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant General in 30 August 2008. Between 15 August 2008 and 12 August 2009 he was the Head of General Staff Inspection Division. He was the Deputy Commander of the Air Force between 14 August 2009 and 09 August 2011. In 2011, Lieutenant General ÜNAL was assigned as the Commander of 1st Air Force and 6th CAOC. He was promoted to the rank of General in 30 August 2014 and assigned to Air Combat and Air Defense Command as the Commander.

General ÜNAL is the Turkish Air Force Commander since 14 August 2015.



**Yaşar GÜLER / General
Commander of Turkish Gendarmerie**

General Yaşar GÜLER was born in Ardahan in 1954. He graduated from the Army Academy with the rank of Signaling Second Lieutenant.

Having served as the Signaling Platoon and Company Commander at various units between the years of 1975 and 1984, General GÜLER graduated from the Army War College in 1986 and from the Armed Forces College in 1988.

As staff officer, he served as the Chief of Operations at the Internal Regional Command between 1986 and 1988, as the Planning Officer at the Evaluation and Inspection Division of the Army, as the Chief of the Operations and Training Branch at the 12th Infantry Division between 1991 and 1992, as the Internal Security Battalion Commander between 1992 and 1994 in Silopi, as the Turkish Deputy Brigade Commander in Bosnia-Herzegovina between 1994 and 1995, as the Project Officer at the Office of Military Senior Counsellor of the Presidency between 1995 and 1997, as the Deputy Chief of Signals at the NATO Regional Command South situated in Napoli/Italy between 1997 and 1999, as the Commander of the Partnership for Peace Training Center Command between 1999 and 2000, as the Chief of the Exercise Branch of the Turkish General Staff between 2000 and 2001 and he was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General in 2001.

As Brigadier General, he served as the 10th Infantry Brigade Commander between the years of 2001 and 2003, as the Chief of the Communications, Electronics and Information Systems Plan and Coordination Department of the Turkish General Staff between 2003 and 2005 and was promoted to the rank of Major General in 2005.

As Major General, he served as the Commander of the Communications, Electronics and Information Systems School and Training Center Command between 2005 and 2007 and as the Head of Training Department of the Turkish General Staff between 2007 and 2009 and he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant General in 2009.

As Lieutenant General, he served as the Commander of General Command of Mapping between 2009 and 2010, as the Commander of the 4th Corps between 2010 and 2011, as the Chief of the Intelligence of the Turkish General Staff between 2011 and 2013 and he was promoted to the rank of General through the decisions of Supreme Military Council in 2013 and carried out his duty as Deputy Chief of the Turkish General Staff and was appointed as the Gendarmerie General Commander with the decision dated July 28, 2016 and numbered 2016/508 of the Ministry of Interior.

General Yaşar GÜLER is married to Mrs. Demet GÜLER with one child. He knows English.