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GENERAL

CHRISTOPHER G. CAVOLI

Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR) and Commander, U.S. European Command

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General Christopher G. Cavoli assumed duties as Commander, U.S. European Command, July 1, 2022 and Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR), July 4, 2022. Gen. Cavoli previously served as Commander of the consolidated U.S. Army Europe and Africa October 2020 through June 2022. From January 2018 until the consolidation, Gen. Cavoli served as the commander of U.S. Army Europe. Commissioned into the Infantry in 1987, Gen. Cavoli has served in a wide variety of positions throughout the United States, Europe and Asia. He's commanded the 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment; 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division; 7th Army Training Command; and 25th Infantry Division. He also served as the Deputy Commander of Regional Command West in Herat, Afghanistan, and as the Deputy Commanding General for Operations at the 82nd Airborne Division. Gen. Cavoli's staff experience includes service as the Director for Russia on the Joint Staff; Deputy Executive Assistant for the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and Director of the Chief of Staff of the Army's Coordination Group. He has held fellowships at National Defense University, the George C. Marshall Center for European Security Studies and the Army Chief of Staff's Strategic Studies Group. Gen. Cavoli is a Foreign Area Officer with a concentration on Eurasia, and speaks Italian, Russian and French. He holds degrees from Princeton University and Yale University. His awards include the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Ranger Tab and Master Parachutist's wings.

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Supreme Allied Commander Europe

SHAPE coat of arms

Standard

Incumbent

General Christopher G. Cavoli

since 4 July 2022[1]

North Atlantic Treaty Organization

Allied Command Operations (Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe)

Abbreviation SACEUR

Reports to North Atlantic Council,
through NATO Military Committee

Residence Chateau Gendebien

Seat Casteau, Mons, Belgium

Nominator President of the United States,
with Senate advice and consent

Appointer North Atlantic Council

Formation 2 April 1951

First holder General of the Army

Dwight D. Eisenhower

Website shape.nato.int

The Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR) is the commander of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) Allied Command Operations

(ACO) and head of ACO's headquarters, Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE). The commander is based at SHAPE in Casteau, Belgium. SACEUR is the second-highest military position within NATO, below only the Chair of the NATO Military Committee in terms of precedence.

SACEUR has always been held by a U.S. military officer, and the position is dual-hatted with that of Commander of United States European Command.

The current SACEUR is General Christopher G. Cavoli of the United States Army.

Role[edit]

An overview of NATO's military structures:

Liaison: Provides advice and support to the NAC

Political strategic level:

North Atlantic Council

Secretary General of NATO
Brussels, BE International Staff
Brussels, BE

Military strategic level:

Chair of the NATO Military Committee

International Military Staff
NATO HQ, Brussels, BE

Strategic commands:

Supreme Allied Commander Europe
Allied Command Operations,
Mons, BE

Supreme Allied Commander Transformation
Allied Command Transformation
Norfolk, US

ACO commands: ACT commands:

Allied Air Command
Ramstein, DE Joint Warfare Centre
Stavanger, NO

Allied Maritime Command
Northwood, GB Joint Analysis and Lessons Learned Centre

Lisbon, PT

Allied Land Command
İzmir, TR Joint Force Training Centre
Bydgoszcz, PL

Misc.:

Joint Support and Enabling Command Ulm, DE

Operational commands: Communications & Information Systems Group Mons, BE Naval Striking and Support Forces NATO
Oeiras, PT

Joint Force Command Norfolk
Norfolk, US Allied Joint Force Command Naples
Naples, IT Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum
Brunssum, NL

Response Force: Multinational Corps Southeast
Sibiu, RO Multinational Corps Northeast
Szczecin, PL

Other Staffs and Commands Responsible to SACEUR:[2]

NATO Airborne Early Warning Force

References[edit]

[^] "NATO Secretary General at Allied Command Operations change of command". NATO. 1 July 2022. Retrieved 3 July 2022.

[^] "NATO Organization". 4 January 2024. Retrieved 15 January 2024.

List of holders[edit]

Gen. Eisenhower in front of the flag of SHAPE on 8 October 1951

2013 SACEUR change of command at SHAPE

Since 2003 the Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR) has also served as the head of Allied Command Europe and the head of Allied Command Operations. The officeholders have been:[1]

No. Portrait Supreme Allied Commander Took office Left office Time in office Defence branch

1

General of the Army

Dwight D. Eisenhower

(1890–1969) 2 April 1951 30 May 1952 1 year, 58 days United States Army

2

General

Matthew Ridgway

(1895–1993) 30 May 1952 11 July 1953 1 year, 42 days United States Army

3

General

Alfred Gruenther

(1899–1983) 11 July 1953 20 November 1956 3 years, 132 days United States Army

4

General

Lauris Norstad
(1907–1988) 20 November 1956 1 January 1963 6 years, 42 days United States Air Force

5

General

Lyman Lemnitzer
(1899–1988) 1 January 1963 1 July 1969 6 years, 181 days United States Army

6

General

Andrew Goodpaster
(1915–2005) 1 July 1969 15 December 1974 5 years, 167 days United States Army

7

General

Alexander M. Haig Jr.
(1924–2010) 15 December 1974 1 July 1979 4 years, 198 days United States Army

8

General

Bernard W. Rogers
(1921–2008) 1 July 1979 26 June 1987 7 years, 360 days United States Army

9

General

John Galvin
(1929–2015) 26 June 1987 23 June 1992 4 years, 363 days United States Army

10

General

John Shalikashvili
(1936–2011) 23 June 1992 22 October 1993 1 year, 121 days United States Army

11

General

George Joulwan
(born 1939) 22 October 1993 11 July 1997 3 years, 262 days United States Army

12

General

Wesley Clark
(born 1944) 11 July 1997 3 May 2000 2 years, 297 days United States Army

13

General

Joseph Ralston

(born 1943) 3 May 2000 17 January 2003 2 years, 259 days United States Air Force

14

General

James L. Jones

(born 1943) 17 January 2003 7 December 2006 3 years, 324 days United States Marine Corps

15

General

Bantz J. Craddock

(born 1949) 7 December 2006 2 July 2009 2 years, 207 days United States Army

16

Admiral

James G. Stavridis

(born 1955) 2 July 2009 13 May 2013 3 years, 315 days United States Navy

17

General

Philip M. Breedlove

(born 1955) 13 May 2013 4 May 2016 2 years, 357 days United States Air Force

18

General

Curtis Scaparrotti

(born 1956) 4 May 2016 3 May 2019 2 years, 364 days United States Army

19

General

Tod D. Wolters

(born 1960) 3 May 2019 4 July 2022 3 years, 62 days United States Air Force

20

General

Christopher G. Cavoli

(born c. 1965) 4 July 2022 Incumbent 1 year, 201 days United States Army

Deputy[edit]

The position of Deputy Supreme Allied Command Europe (DSACEUR) has been known as Deputy Head of Allied Command Operations since 2003. From January 1978 until June 1993 there were two DSACEURs, one British and one German. From July 1993 this reverted to a single DSACEUR. With a small number of exceptions who were German military officers, DSACEUR is normally a British military officer. The officeholders have been as follows:

No. Portrait Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Start of term End of term Branch Unit of Commission

1. Field Marshal

The Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, KG GCB DSO PC DL

2 April 1951 23 September 1958 British Army Royal Warwickshire Regiment

2. General

Sir Richard Gale, GCB KBE DSO MC

23 September 1958 22 September 1960 British Army Worcestershire Regiment

3. General

Sir Hugh Stockwell, GCB KBE DSO*

22 September 1960 1 January 1964 British Army Royal Welch Fusiliers

4. Marshal of the Royal Air Force

Sir Thomas Pike, GCB CBE DFC* DL

1 January 1964 1 March 1967 Royal Air Force N/A

5. General

Sir Robert Bray, GCB KBE DSO*

1 March 1967 1 December 1970 British Army Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment

6. General

Sir Desmond Fitzpatrick, GCB GCVO DSO MBE MC

1 December 1970 12 November 1973 British Army 1st The Royal Dragoons
7. General

Sir John Mogg, GCB CBE DSO*

12 November 1973 12 March 1976 British Army Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry
8. General

Sir Harry Tuzo, GCB OBE MC DL

12 March 1976 2 November 1978 British Army Royal Artillery
9. General

Gerd Schmückle

3 January 1978 1 April 1980 German Army -
10. General

Sir Jack Harman, GCB OBE MC

2 November 1978 9 April 1981 British Army 2nd Dragoon Guards (Queen's Bays)
11. Admiral

Günter Luther

1 April 1980 1 April 1982 German Navy N/A
12. Air Chief Marshal

Sir Peter Terry, GCB AFC

9 April 1981 16 July 1984 Royal Air Force N/A
13. General

Günter Kießling

1 April 1982 2 April 1984 German Army -
14. General

Hans-Joachim Mack

2 April 1984 1 October 1987 German Army Bundesgrenzschutz
15. General

Sir Edward Burgess, KCB OBE

16 July 1984 26 June 1987 British Army Royal Artillery
16. General

Sir John Akehurst, KCB CBE

26 June 1987 17 January 1990 British Army Northamptonshire Regiment
17. General

Eberhard Eimler

1 October 1987 2 October 1990 German Air Force N/A
18. General

Sir Brian Kenny, GCB CBE

17 January 1990 5 April 1993 British Army 4th Queen's Own Hussars
19. General

Dieter Clauss

2 October 1990 1 July 1993 German Army -
20. General

Sir John Waters, GCB CBE

5 April 1993 12 December 1994 British Army Gloucestershire Regiment
21. General

Sir Jeremy Mackenzie, GCB OBE DL

12 December 1994 30 November 1998 British Army Queen's Own Highlanders

22. General

Sir Rupert Smith, KCB DSO* OBE QGM

30 November 1998 17 September 2001 British Army Parachute Regiment
23. General

Dieter Stöckmann

17 September 2001 18 September 2002 German Army Panzergrenadier
24. Admiral

Rainer Feist

18 September 2002 1 October 2004 German Navy N/A
25. General

Sir John Reith, KCB CBE

1 October 2004 22 October 2007 British Army Parachute Regiment
26. General

Sir John McColl, KCB CBE DSO KStJ

22 October 2007 March 2011 British Army Royal Anglian Regiment
27. General

Sir Richard Shirreff, KCB CBE

March 2011 March 2014 British Army 14th/20th King's Hussars
28. General

Sir Adrian Bradshaw, KCB OBE

March 2014 March 2017 British Army 14th/20th King's Hussars
29. General

Sir James Everard, KCB CBE

March 2017 April 2020 British Army 17th/21st Lancers
30. General

Sir Tim Radford, KCB DSO OBE

April 2020 July 2023 British Army The Light Infantry
31. Admiral

Sir Keith Blount, KCB OBE FRAeS

July 2023 Incumbent Royal Navy Fleet Air Arm
Role in intra-European defence integration[edit]
See also: European Union–NATO relations and Common Security and Defence Policy
SACEUR's planned role for the European Defence Community[edit]
Further information: Treaty establishing the European Defence Community

If the treaty founding the European Defence Community (EDC) had not failed to acquire ratification in the French Parliament in 1954, the EDC would have entailed a pan-European military, divided into national components, and had a common budget, common arms, centralized military procurement, and institutions. The EDC would have had an integral link to NATO, forming an autonomous European pillar in the Atlantic alliance. The following chart illustrates the role of SACEUR in such an arrangement.

Diagram showing the functioning of the institutions provided for by the Treaty establishing the European Defence Community (EDC), the placing of Member States' armed forces (European Defence Forces) at the disposal of the Community, and the link between the EDC and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).

DSACEUR's role in European Union missions[edit]

Under the 2002 Berlin Plus agreement, SHAPE may take part in the European Union's (EU) command and control structure as an operational headquarters (OHQ) for EU missions. In such an instance, the Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe (DSACEUR), who is always a European, would serve as Operation Commander (OpCdr). This use of SHAPE by the EU is subject to a "right of first refusal", i.e. NATO must first decline to intervene in a given crisis,[2][3] and is contingent upon unanimous approval among NATO states, including those outside of the EU.[4]

See also[edit]

Supreme Allied Commander Transformation

Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers

Supreme Allied Commander

Secretary General of NATO

Chairman of the NATO Military Committee

Supreme Commander of the Unified Armed Forces of the Warsaw Treaty Organization

References[edit]

^ List of Former SACEURs

^ "EU Operations Centre".

^ The Heritage Foundation report, March 24, 2008. [1]

^ Bram Boxhoorn, Broad Support for NATO in the Netherlands, 21-09-2005, "Article". Archived from the original on 18 February 2007. Retrieved 19 August 2007.

External links[edit]

Wikimedia Commons has media related to NATO Supreme Allied Commanders.

Official website

vte

North Atlantic Treaty Organization

Symbols

Animus in consulendo liberFlag of NATO"The NATO Hymn"NATO DayNATO MedalNATO Star

History

North Atlantic TreatySummitsOperationsList of exercisesEnlargement potential withdrawalOpposition to NATO.nato Internet domain

Structure

NATO headquartersCouncilInternational StaffInternational Military StaffSupreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe Air CommandLand CommandMaritime CommandJFC BrunssumJFC NaplesJFC NorfolkJoint Support and Enabling CommandSTRIKFORNATOAllied Command TransformationParliamentary AssemblyStandardization agreement

People

Secretary GeneralChair of the Military CommitteeSupreme Allied Commander EuropeSupreme Allied Commander Transformation

Members

AlbaniaBelgiumBulgariaCanadaCroatiaCzech RepublicDenmarkEstoniaFinlandFranceGermanyGreeceHungaryIcelandItalyLatviaLithuaniaLuxembourgMontenegroNetherlandsNorth MacedoniaNorwayPolandPortugalRomaniaSlovakiaSloveniaSpainTurkeyUnited KingdomUnited States

Multilateral relations

Atlantic Treaty AssociationEuro-Atlantic Partnership CouncilMediterranean DialogueIndividual Partnership Action PlanIstanbul Cooperation InitiativeMajor non-NATO allyNATO global partnersOpen door policyPartnership for PeaceRelationship with the European UnionRelationship with Russia eastward NATO expansion issues

See also

Baghdad Pact (METO/CENTO)Balkan PactSoutheast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO)Suwa?ki Gap Authority control databases

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Germany
Category: NATO Supreme Allied Commanders
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This article is about the commander of Allied forces in Europe. For the general concept of a supreme military commander, see Commander-in-chief.

Supreme Allied Commander is the title held by the most senior commander within certain multinational military alliances. It originated as a term used by the Allies during World War I, and is currently used only within NATO for Supreme Allied Commander Europe and Supreme Allied Commander Transformation.

Historical titles[edit]

World War I[edit]

On 26 March 1918, the French marshal Ferdinand Foch was appointed Supreme Allied Commander, gaining command of all Allied forces everywhere, and coordinated the British, French, American, and Italian armies to stop the German spring offensive, the last large offensive of the German Empire.[1] He was the one who accepted the German cessation of hostilities in his private train.

On 16 April 1918, at his own request, Foch was appointed "Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Armies". Despite his promotion 19 days earlier, and the subsequent Beauvais Conference of 3 April 1918, he was not provided a title. He remedied this by making up his own title and by writing to Prime Minister Georges Clemenceau to request it, which was immediately granted. This is important because the Doullens Conference of 26 March was kept a secret until 30 March, and still not known to most of the army once it was published.[citation needed]

World War II[edit]

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During World War II, the Allied leaders appointed Supreme Allied Commanders to manage the multi-nation, multi-discipline fighting forces for a particular theater of war. These Supreme Allied Commanders were given operational control over all air, land, and sea units in that theatre. In other cases, senior commanders were given the title Commander-in-Chief.

These Supreme Allied Commanders were drawn from the most senior leaders in the British Armed Forces and United States Armed Forces. These commanders reported to the British/American Combined Chiefs of Staff, although in the case of the Pacific and South East Asia, the relevant national command authorities of the American Joint Chiefs of Staff or the British Chiefs of Staff Committee had responsibility for the main conduct of the war in the theatre, depending on the Supreme Commander's nationality.

General of the United States' Army Dwight D. Eisenhower served in successive Supreme Allied Commander roles. Eisenhower was the Commander-in-Chief, Allied Force for the Mediterranean theatre. Eisenhower then served as Supreme Commander Allied Expeditionary Force (SCAEF) in the European theatre, starting in December 1943 with the creation of the command to execute Operation Overlord and ending in July 1945 shortly after the End of World War II in Europe. In 1951, Eisenhower would again be a Supreme Allied Commander, the first to hold the post for NATO (see next section).

Field Marshal Henry Maitland Wilson succeeded Eisenhower in the Mediterranean theatre, given the title Supreme Allied Commander Mediterranean. Wilson was succeeded by Field Marshal Harold Alexander, who continued in charge of those Allied forces until the end of the war.

Admiral of the Fleet Lord Louis Mountbatten was Supreme Allied Commander South East Asia (SACSEA) throughout most of its existence. He replaced General Archibald Wavell.

Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek was named the Supreme Commander of Allied forces in the China war zone (CBI) on 1942.[2] However, US forces in practice were usually overseen by General Joseph Stilwell, the Deputy Allied Commander in China and South East Asia Command (SEAC). Until late 1944 that the land forces chain of command was clarified, after Stilwell was recalled to Washington.[clarification needed] His overall role, and the CBI command were then split among three people: Lt Gen. Raymond Wheeler became Deputy Supreme Allied Commander South East Asia; Maj. Gen. Albert Wedemeyer became Chief of Staff to Chiang, and commander of US Forces, China Theater (USFCT). Lt Gen. Daniel Sultan was promoted, from deputy commander of CBI to commander of US Forces, India-Burma Theater (USFIBT) and commander of the NCAC.

General of the Army Douglas MacArthur was appointed Supreme Allied Commander, South West Pacific Area (SWPA) on 18 April 1942.[3] However, he preferred to use the title Commander-in-Chief. During the Allied occupation of Japan following the war, MacArthur held the title of Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers (SCAP). The Pacific Ocean Areas (POA), divided into the Central Pacific Area, the North Pacific Area and the South Pacific Area,[4]: 652–653 were commanded by Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, Commander-in-Chief Pacific Ocean Areas.

Although not bearing any official title of Supreme Allied Commander, the commanders of the 1st Belorussian, 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Ukrainian Fronts of the Soviet Red Army - Zhukov, Rokossovsky, Konev, Malinovsky, Tolbukhin, Sokolovsky, Yerenenko, Petrov, Vatutin, etc. - acted in de facto capacity of

Supreme Allied Commanders in that units of foreign Allied armies were incorporated into the fronts' order of battle and fought against the European Axis powers under their command during the Great Patriotic War: The Polish Armed Forces in the East, 1st Czechoslovak Army Corps, French Normandie-Niemen Fighter Regiment and Romanian Tudor Vladimirescu Division from 1943 onwards, then from 1944 onwards until the end of the war the Romanian Army, Bulgarian Army and Yugoslav National Liberation Army.

After the end of the Soviet Union's European theater of World War II, during the Soviet-Japanese War, the commanders of the Red Army's 1st and 2nd Far Eastern fronts and Transbaikal Front - Vasilevsky (in overall command of all three fronts), Malinovsky, Meretskov and Purkayev - once again acted in de facto capacity of Supreme Allied Commanders as the Mongolian People's Army and partisans of the Chinese Northeast Anti-Japanese United Army and Korean People's Revolutionary Army were incorporated into their order of battle for the liberation of Northern China, Northeastern China and northern Korea from Japanese imperialist occupation.

Cold War-era to present-day titles[edit]

Main articles: Supreme Allied Commander Europe, Supreme Allied Commander Transformation, and Supreme Commander of the Unified Armed Forces of the Warsaw Treaty Organization

The term came into use again with the formation of NATO in 1949. In 1952, Allied Command Europe was established, led by Eisenhower. He became the Supreme Allied Commander (SACEUR). Soon afterwards, Allied Command Atlantic was established, at Norfolk, Virginia, under Lynde McCormick, a U.S. Navy admiral. His title was Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic (SACLANT), and the entire command was usually known as SACLANT. Both Supreme Commanders have, until 2009, been American, with a deputy commander from another NATO member, though only British and Germans have held the post.

Responding to the establishment of NATO, the Warsaw Pact was established in 1955 along with their own posts of United Armed Forces Supreme Commander and Chief of Combined Staff. Until the disbandment of the Warsaw Pact in 1991, both posts had always been held by a Marshal of the Soviet Union or Army General due to their expertise in commanding and coordinating forces of enormous sizes in the Soviet Armed Forces.

In June 2003, the commands were reshuffled. One command was given responsibility for operations, and one for transforming the military components of the alliance to meet new challenges. In Europe, Allied Command Operations was established from the former Allied Command Europe, and given responsibility for all NATO military operations worldwide. However, for legal reasons,[further explanation needed] SACEUR retained the traditional title including Europe.[5] In the United States, SACLANT was decommissioned and Allied Command Transformation established. The headquarters of ACT is at the former SACLANT headquarters in Norfolk, Virginia, USA. Each has a Supreme Allied Commander as its commander.

Allied Command Operations (ACO) has its headquarters at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE), at Mons, Belgium. It is headed by the

Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR), a U.S. four-star general or admiral also heading U.S. European Command. The current Commander is General Christopher G. Cavoli (Army), who succeeded General Tod Wolters (Air Force).

Allied Command Transformation (ACT) is located in Norfolk, Virginia, USA. It is headed by the Supreme Allied Commander Transformation (SACT), a four-star general or admiral. General Stéphane Abrial, the commander from 2009 until 2012, was the first non-American to hold a supreme commander role within NATO. Since then this position has been held by a French Air Force officer. The commander of the organization is currently General Philippe Lavigne.[6]

See also[edit]

Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force

Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe

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^ Potter & Nimitz (1960).

^ Pedlow, Evolution of NATO's Command Structure 1951-2009.

^ "NATO - Who's who?".

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ACO/SHAPE homepage

ACT homepage

vte

Highest military ranks

General officerFlag officerAir officer

Ancient

AutokratorBeylerbeyGrand Constable of FranceDomestic of the SchoolsDux bellorumGrand DomesticImperatorIspahsalarMagister militumMegas douxPolemarchRigsmarskSardarSh?gunSpahbedSparapetHetman

Modern

Admiral of the fleetAdmiral of the NavyAlufDayuanshuaiDai-gensuiFirst marshal of the empireGeneral of the Air ForceGeneral of the ArmiesGeneralfeldmarschallGeneralissimoSoviet Union GeneralissimusMarshalGrand marshalChom Thap ThaiHetmanJenderal besarMarshalMare?alMarshal

of ItalyMarshal of the air forceMarshal of the Mongolian People's RepublicMarshal of PeruMarshal of PolandMarshal of the Russian FederationMarshal of the German Democratic RepublicField marshal (Uganda)Marshal of YugoslaviaVojvoda (Serbia and Yugoslavia)MushirReichsmarschallSeraskerSupreme Allied CommanderTaewonsuWonsuYuanshuai

vte

Star officer grades

General officerFlag officerAir officer

By star ranks

Six-star rank (proposed) Five-star rank Four-star rank Three-star rank Two-star rank One-star rank

By titles

GeneralissimoGeneralissimus of the Soviet UnionSupreme Allied CommanderAdmiral of the NavyGeneral of the ArmiesGeneralfeldmarschallField marshalMareʻalMarshal of the air forceMarshal of the Russian FederationMarshal of the Soviet UnionMushir/MüʻirCaudilloMagister militumSpʻhbedIspahsalarBeylerbeyConstable of FranceGrand DomesticDux bellorumGrand marshalHetmanJenderal besarReichsmarschallSardarSeraskerStrategos autokratorFirst marshal of the empireDai-gensuiTaewonsuWonsuYuan shuai / Da yuan shuaiField Marshal / Marshal of Yugoslavia

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CHRISTOPHER G. CAVOLI

Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR) and Commander, U.S. European Command

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Christopher G. Cavoli

Born Würzburg, West Germany (now Germany)

Allegiance United States

Service/branch United States Army

Years of service 1987–present

Rank General

Commands held

United States European Command

Supreme Allied Commander Europe

United States Army Europe and Africa

25th Infantry Division

7th Army Joint Multinational Training Command

3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division

1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment

Battles/wars

Gulf War

War in Afghanistan

Awards

Army Distinguished Service Medal (2)

Defense Superior Service Medal

Legion of Merit (3)

Bronze Star Medal (2)

Alma mater

Princeton University (BA)

Yale University (MA)

Christopher G. Cavoli's voice

Cavoli's opening statement at his confirmation hearing before the Senate Armed Services Committee to be commander of U.S. European Command

Recorded 26 May 2022

Christopher Gerard Cavoli^[1] is a general in the United States Army who serves as the commander of United States European Command since 1 July 2022 and Supreme Allied Commander Europe since 4 July 2022. He previously served as the commanding general of United States Army Europe and Africa from October 2020 to June 2022, and before that as the commanding general of United States Army Europe from January 2018 to September 2020.

Commissioned into the infantry from the Reserve Officers' Training Corps, Cavoli served in the War in Afghanistan and commanded a brigade of the 1st Armored Division, the 7th Army Joint Multinational Training Command, and the 25th Infantry Division before assuming command of USAREUR in January 2018.

Early years^[edit]

Born to an Italian-American army officer during the Cold War in Würzburg, West Germany, Cavoli grew up in Rome, Verona, Vicenza, and Giessen.^[2] He graduated from Princeton University with an A.B. in biology in 1987. As part of his undergraduate degree, Cavoli completed a 22-page senior thesis titled "The Effect of Earthworms on the Vertical Distribution of Slime Molds in the Soil."^[3]

Military career^[edit]

Cavoli was commissioned into the Infantry from the Reserve Officers' Training Corps at Princeton. He was first assigned as a second lieutenant to the 3rd Battalion, 325th Airborne at Vicenza from 1988 to 1991.

Cavoli was promoted to captain and served as an instructor at Ranger School between 1992 and 1994.

He entered the Russian Foreign Area Officer program in 1995, and graduated from Yale University with a Master of Arts in Russian and East European Studies

in 1997.[4]

Peace Enforcement in Bosnia[edit]

In 1999, he became chief of future operations for the 10th Mountain Division as a major and deployed to Bosnia with Implementation Force, before serving as an infantry battalion operations officer between 2000 and 2001.

NDU professor of Russian studies[edit]

As a lieutenant colonel, Cavoli served successively as Director for Russia on the Joint Staff Strategic Plans and Policy Directorate from 2001, as deputy executive assistant for the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff from 2003, and became a senior fellow at the National Defense University in 2004.[5]

Deployment to Afghanistan[edit]

Cavoli became commander of the 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division in 2005.[5] The battalion deployed to Kunar Province during the War in Afghanistan with the brigade in 2006. He then commanded the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, in addition to serving as the deputy commander of Regional Command West in Herat during the War in Afghanistan.

Cavoli also served as the director of the Coordination Group of the Chief of Staff of the United States Army.

He has held fellowships at the National Defense University, the George C. Marshall Center for European Security Studies in Garmisch-Partenkirchen,[6] and the Strategic Studies Group of the Army Chief of Staff.[7]

Service in Germany[edit]

Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter and Cavoli in the Grafenwoehr Training Area, Germany on 26 June 2015

After serving as deputy commanding general for operations of the 82nd Airborne Division, Cavoli became commander of the 7th Army Joint Multinational

Training Command at Grafenwoehr Training Area in July 2014.[8]

He was assigned to command the 25th Infantry Division on 25 March 2016,[9] and officially assumed command in a ceremony on 4 August. He was confirmed by the Senate for promotion to major general on 26 May 2016.[10]

Command of US Army Europe[edit]

He assumed command of United States Army Europe in a ceremony on 18 January 2018[2] after being confirmed by the Senate for promotion to lieutenant general on 20 December 2017.[11]

Cavoli assumes command of USEUCOM on 1 July 2022.

On 1 July 2020, Cavoli was nominated and confirmed by the Senate on 30 September 2020, for appointment to the rank of general,[12] and assignment as the commanding general of United States Army Europe and Africa,[13] combining the originally separate Army commands. He assumed his new command in Germany on 1 October 2020 and was formally promoted by Army Vice Chief of Staff Joseph M. Martin at the Pentagon on 7 October,[14] with an effective date-of-rank on 1 October.

Defender-Europe 21, one of the largest U.S.-Army, NATO-led military exercises in Europe in decades, began in mid-March 2021 and lasted until June 2021. It included "nearly simultaneous operations across more than 30 training areas" in Estonia, Bulgaria, Romania, Kosovo and other countries.[15][16] Cavoli said that "While we are closely monitoring the COVID situation, we've proven we have the capability to train safely despite the pandemic." [15]

SACEUR[edit]

In May 2022, his nomination to succeed General Tod Wolters as commander of United States European Command and Supreme Allied Commander Europe was approved by the Senate.[17][18][19][20] He assumed command on 4 July 2022. Secretary-General of NATO Jens Stoltenberg took the opportunity to remark on his "entirely new family of NATO defence plans" which had been approved at the 2022 NATO Madrid summit and said "You were quite simply the right leader, at the right post, at the right time." [21] Cavoli is the author of a 4000-page plan to discuss at the 2023 Vilnius Summit for updating NATO's military commands and preparations.[22]

Awards and decorations[edit]

Combat Infantryman Badge

Ranger tab

Master Parachutist Badge

Pathfinder Badge

United States European Command Badge

Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe Badge

Office of the Secretary of Defense Identification Badge

Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge

Army Staff Identification Badge

10th Mountain Division Combat Service Identification Badge

French Parachutist Badge

Spanish Parachutist Badge in black

32nd Infantry Regiment Distinctive Unit Insignia

5 Overseas Service Bars

Army Distinguished Service Medal with one bronze oak leaf cluster

Defense Superior Service Medal

Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters

Bronze Star Medal with oak leaf cluster

Defense Meritorious Service Medal

Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters

Joint Service Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster

Army Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster

Army Achievement Medal

Joint Meritorious Unit Award with two oak leaf clusters
Meritorious Unit Commendation

National Defense Service Medal with one bronze service star
Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal

Southwest Asia Service Medal with two service stars

Afghanistan Campaign Medal with three service stars
Global War on Terrorism Service Medal
Humanitarian Service Medal
Army Service Ribbon
Army Overseas Service Ribbon with bronze award numeral 6
NATO Medal for the former Yugoslavia
Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait)
Commander of the Order for Merits to Lithuania (27 March 2023)[23]
Personal life[edit]

Cavoli is married to Christina (née Dacey) of Fairfax, Virginia, and they have two sons, Alex and Nick. A speaker of French, Italian, and Russian, he is a Foreign Area Officer with a concentration on Eurasia.[7]

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Commanding General of the 7th Army Joint Multinational Training Command

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Ronald P. Clark

Preceded by
Timothy P. McGuire
Acting
Commanding General of United States Army Europe and Africa
2018–2022 Succeeded by
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Tod D. Wolters
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Supreme Allied Commander Europe

General Christopher G. Cavoli

General Christopher G. Cavoli assumed duties as Commander, U.S. European Command, July 1, 2022 and Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR), July 4, 2022.

Commissioned into the Infantry in 1987, Gen. Cavoli has served in a wide variety of positions throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia. He's commanded the 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment; 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division; 7th Army Training Command; and 25th Infantry Division. Most recently, General Cavoli commanded U.S. Army Europe from Jan 2018 to Jun 2022, during which time he also incorporated responsibilities for Army operations in Africa into his command's portfolio.

Gen. Cavoli's non-command billets include Deputy Commander of Regional Command West in Herat, Afghanistan, and Deputy Commanding General for Operations at the 82nd Airborne Division.

Gen. Cavoli's staff experience includes service as the Director for Russia on the Joint Staff; Deputy Executive Assistant for the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of

Staff; and Director of the Chief of Staff of the Army's Coordination Group.

He has held fellowships at the National Defense University, the George C. Marshall Center for European Security Studies, and the Army Chief of Staff's Strategic Studies Group.

Gen. Cavoli is a Foreign Area Officer with a concentration on Eurasia, and speaks Italian, Russian, and French. He holds degrees from Princeton University and Yale University.

His awards include the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Ranger Tab, and Master Parachutist's Wings.

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NATO's Post

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The North Atlantic Council has approved the nomination of ?? General Christopher G. Cavoli, US Army, as Supreme Allied Commander Europe.

After national confirmation processes are complete, he will take command at a ceremony this summer.

NATO announces nomination of General Christopher G. Cavoli as Supreme Allied Commander Europe

nato.int

1,972

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Bevin Beaudet

Veteran, Engineer, Past President - AWWA

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There is something about the picture of General Cavolli that strikes me. His apparent humility. Most generals wear as many as eight rows of medals, some truly earned but most gratuitously given to generals while the valor of enlisted men and junior officers is overlooked. Gen. Cavolli wears three medals, The Defense and Army Distinguished Service Medals and Legion of Merit. All well earned. His Airborne wings, Ranger tab and Combat Infantry Badge tell the most important story of his contributions to our country.

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9 Reactions

Michael Fenzel

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Simply the best officer I have ever known.

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Detlef Puhl

freier Journalist

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I don't know if Chris Cavoli remembers me from the good old days in Garmisch, where we both served at the College of International Security Studies of GCMC . Anyway, I wish you all the best. NATO will be lucky to have you at this formidable position.

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5 Reactions
Galen Jackman

Consultant, Retired Business Executive, and Retired General Officer

1y

Superbly qualified. Absolutely one of our best.

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4 Reactions
Gordon B. “Skip” Davis Jr.

Defense Strategy, Policy, Capabilities, Technology

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Superb choice for our Alliance!! Congratulations Chris!!

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PEOPLE NEED TO GO TO THE TOILET BY HUMAN WAY!

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US Army Europe and Africa Command Liaison Officer at the Pentagon

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Writer | Director, Global Friends of Afghanistan

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Great news. Read about how Foreign Area Officer's follow a different path.

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At a virtual meeting of the Ukraine Defense Contact Group, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg welcomed Allies' commitments to continue supporting Ukraine now and for the long term

#StandWithUkraine ??

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Secretary General to Ukraine Defense Contact Group: support for Ukraine matters for Ukraine's security and for NATO

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Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg and General Manager of the NATO Support and Procurement Agency (NSPA) Stacy Cummings concluded contracts for \$1.2 billion in artillery ammunition.

"This demonstrates that NATO's tried and tested structures for joint procurement are delivering," said the Secretary General. "Russia's war in Ukraine has become a battle for ammunition, so it is important that Allies refill their own stocks, as we continue to support Ukraine."

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NATO concludes contracts for another \$1.2 billion in artillery ammunition

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NATO's new defence plans will strengthen and modernise our force structure to protect and defend every inch of Allied territory.

These plans will be tested and put to action during exercise #SteadfastDefender24

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? NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg underlines the importance of continued support to Ukraine at the World Economic Forum, Chiefs of Defence meet to discuss deterrence and defence priorities, and NATO begins countdown to 75th anniversary.

Read more details on these plus stories on air policing in Iceland, NATO's first-ever quantum strategy or watch our latest video on special forces training in this week's NATO Update newsletter ?

#wef24 #StandWithUkraine #1NATO75years

Davos, Chiefs of Defence meet, and NATO begins 75th birthday countdown

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?? Today, we begin the countdown of 75 days until NATO's 75th birthday. Brush up on three-quarters of a century of Allied history ?

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A short history of NATO

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This year we celebrate NATO's 75th anniversary. Since 1949, NATO has worked for the freedom and security of all Allies

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Exercise #SteadfastDefender24 will be the largest NATO exercise in decades, with 90,000 forces from all 31 Allies and Sweden.

It will demonstrate our transatlantic unity, strength, and ability to deploy forces rapidly, across thousands of kilometres, in any conditions

3,008

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The 31 Allied Chiefs of Defence and invitee Sweden focused on:

? Executability of new defence plans

? NATO's war-fighting transformation

? Continued support to Ukraine
? Cooperation with ??????????????

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NATO Chiefs of Defence discuss deterrence and defence priorities

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NATO Allied Command Transformation (ACT) has recently concluded its most comprehensive futures research in years, encapsulated in the Strategic Foresight Analysis 2023.

? This report will serve as a baseline assessment for subsequent futures research projects, including NATO`s Future Operating Environment, which addresses challenges and opportunities of transforming NATO`s Military Instrument of Power, in order to remain fit for the future.

? <https://lnkd.in/dUj3a9Rq>

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??Allied territory is shielded from airborne threats by an integrated system of radars, ships, fighter jets and anti-air missiles. But how does this system work?

Click the link for the full video: <https://lnkd.in/dA8Gj3N8>

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OUTREACH

[Marshall Center Voices: General Christopher Cavoli, Commander of U.S. Army Europe and Africa](#)

The Marshall Center Voices is a unique virtual forum where we invite Marshall Center alumni and special friends to share insights and knowledge on security issues that affect our world.

In this episode, Marshall Center's Dr. Valbona Zeneli interviews General Christopher Cavoli, the Commander of the United States Army Europe and Africa. General Cavoli shares his unique insights on Defender Europe 21, the consolidation of the U.S. Army Europe and U.S. Army Africa under one command, transatlantic partnership, and Marshall Center alumni.

Gen. Christopher G. Cavoli assumed command of the consolidated U.S. Army Europe and Africa Oct. 1, 2020. From January 2018 until the consolidation, Gen. Cavoli served as the commander of U.S. Army Europe. Commissioned into the Infantry in 1987, Gen. Cavoli has served in a wide variety of positions throughout the United States, Europe and Asia. He's commanded the 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment; 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division; 7th Army Training Command; and 25th Infantry Division. He also served as the Deputy Commander of Regional Command West in Herat, Afghanistan, and as the Deputy Commanding General for Operations at 82nd Airborne Division.

Gen. Cavoli's staff experience includes service as the Director for Russia on the Joint Staff; Deputy Executive Assistant for the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and Director of the Chief of Staff of the Army's Coordination Group. He's held fellowships at National Defense University, the George C. Marshall Center for European Security Studies and the Army Chief of Staff's Strategic Studies Group.

Gen. Cavoli is a Foreign Area Officer with a concentration on Eurasia, and speaks Italian, Russian, and French. He holds degrees from Princeton University and Yale University. His awards include the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Ranger Tab and Master Parachutist's wings.

This interview reflects the views of the contributors and are not necessarily the official policy of the U.S. Department of Defense or its components, United States, Germany, or any other governments.

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Four-star general Christopher Cavoli and internet pioneer Robert Kahn to receive top alumni awards

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By Advancement Communications on Nov. 2, 2022, 11 a.m.

Princeton University will present its top awards for alumni to Gen. Christopher Cavoli, Supreme Allied Commander Europe, and Robert Kahn, a co-inventor of the fundamental communication protocols at the heart of the internet.

Cavoli, a member of the Class of 1987 who graduated with a bachelor's degree in biology, will receive the Woodrow Wilson Award. Kahn, who earned a Ph.D. in electrical engineering in 1964, will receive the James Madison Medal. These awards are presented on Alumni Day, to be held on campus on Saturday, Feb. 25, 2023.

The University bestows the Woodrow Wilson Award annually upon an undergraduate alumna or alumnus whose career embodies the call to duty in Wilson's 1896 speech, "Princeton in the Nation's Service." A Princeton graduate and faculty member, Wilson served as president of the University, governor of New Jersey and president of the United States.

The James Madison Medal, established by the Association of Princeton Graduate Alumni (APGA), is named for the fourth president of the United States, who is considered to be Princeton's first graduate student. It is presented each year to celebrate an alumna or alumnus of the Graduate School who has had a distinguished career, advanced the cause of graduate education or achieved an outstanding record of public service.

Woodrow Wilson Award winner

Gen. Christopher Cavoli '87

Photo courtesy of SHAPE Public Affairs Office

Cavoli, a 35-year career Army officer, assumed duties as Commander, U.S. European Command, and as the Supreme Allied Commander Europe in July 2022.

As leader of the U.S. European Command, Cavoli is responsible for U.S. military operations and activities within 50 independent states in Europe and the Caucasus region, as well as the welfare of the 103,000 U.S. service members and their families in that region.

As Supreme Allied Commander, the four-star general oversees all NATO military operations, and strategic planning and engagement.

His appointment came five months after the Russian invasion of Ukraine, amid a grinding war that has upended decades of security on the continent and prompted traditionally neutral Finland and Sweden to seek NATO membership.

Cavoli has held leadership commands in combat and peacekeeping missions and has worked extensively with the intelligence and policy communities. He has served in a wide variety of positions throughout the United States, Europe and Asia, including as deputy commander of Regional Command West in Herat, Afghanistan. His staff experience includes service as the director for Russia on the Joint Staff; deputy executive assistant for the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and director of the chief of staff of the Army's Coordination Group.

"Throughout his career in the U.S. Armed Forces and now as commander of NATO forces in Europe, General Cavoli has led with courage and integrity," said Princeton University President Christopher L. Eisgruber. "His dedication to defending democracy around the world exemplifies alumni service to the nation and to humanity."

Cavoli comes from a military family. He was born during the Cold War to an Army family in Wuerzburg, Germany, where his father, an immigrant to the U.S. from Italy, served as an officer. Cavoli participated in ROTC at Princeton, and he earned a master's degree from Yale University in Russian and East European Studies. He has held fellowships at National Defense University, the George C. Marshall Center for European Security Studies and the Army Chief of Staff's Strategic Study Group. He has traveled extensively in Europe, lived in Moscow and visited former Soviet countries. He speaks French, Russian and Italian.

Cavoli previously served as commander of the consolidated U.S. Army Europe and Africa and, before consolidation, as the commander of U.S. Army Europe. He also led the 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division and 82nd Airborne Division, among other Army units. His awards include the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Ranger Tab and Master Parachutist's Wings.

In 2017, when serving as commanding general of the 25th Infantry Division in Hawaii, Cavoli returned to the University to give the ROTC Commissioning Address at the ceremony held in the Faculty Room of Nassau Hall.

Two years later, as commanding general of the U.S. Army Europe, Cavoli returned to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the University's ROTC program, one of the first permanent peacetime ROTC units in the U.S. He participated in a panel on "Deterrence in the Age of Vulnerability" and, as keynote speaker, praised the

service of Princeton's ROTC undergraduates and alumni to their country.

"The folks in this room tonight understand that Princeton is in the nation's service in so many ways, but also in the military," Cavoli said. "Princetonians shed their blood for this country, Princetonians dedicate their honor for this country, Princetonians dedicate their spirits for this country."

Madison Medalist

Robert E. Kahn *64

Photo by Bruce Liffiton

Kahn and computer scientist Vinton Cerf created the protocol to transmit data reliably between separate computer networks, and to do so quickly, effectively, and routinely. Kahn called it "internetting."

By developing a common digital language for computers across networks, Kahn and Cerf prepared the way for a technological revolution with the design of software known as the Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol, or TCP/IP.

At the time, Kahn worked at the U.S. Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). Prior to that, he had been employed at a small engineering firm in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he worked on ARPANET (Advanced Research Projects Agency Network), an experimental computer network sponsored by DARPA.

Today Kahn is chairman, CEO and president of the Corporation for National Research Initiatives (CNRI), which he founded in 1986 after a 13-year term at DARPA. CNRI is a not-for-profit organization providing leadership and funding for research and development of the National Information Infrastructure, also known as the information superhighway.

"When Robert Kahn and his colleagues pieced together a set of protocols and procedures for connecting computers in the 1970s, they laid the groundwork for a revolutionary leap in how society thinks, works, and communicates," Eisgruber said. "Robert's scientific contributions have shaped the internet, and his engagement with our Department of Computer Science has helped to establish Princeton as a leader in the field."

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., Kahn earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the City College of New York. After receiving his Princeton Ph.D., he worked on the technical staff at Bell Laboratories and then became an assistant professor of electrical engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

He took a leave of absence to join Bolt Beranek and Newman, where he was responsible for the system design of ARPANET, the first packet-switched network. In 1972 he moved to DARPA and subsequently became director of DARPA's Information Processing Techniques Office. While director, he initiated the U.S. government's Strategic Computing Program, the largest computer research and development program ever undertaken by the federal government.

Kahn has served as an advisor to Princeton's Department of Computer Science, spoken on several Reunions panels, contributed to the University's conference celebrating the legacy of Alan Turing (who earned his Ph.D. in mathematics from Princeton in 1938) on the centennial of Turing's birth and participated in

many discussions on campus about the internet and its evolution. On campus in 2014, he told students, “Nobody really thought it was a good idea back then, in terms of [business] opportunities,” recalling a world in the early 1970s when most computers were huge, shared mainframes, and PCs did not exist.

In 2007, he established the Robert E. Kahn *64 Professorship at Princeton to support the teaching and research of a tenured faculty member in computer science or electrical engineering, currently held by Michael Freedman.

In addition to receiving an honorary degree from Princeton in 1998, Kahn is the recipient of numerous awards, including the 2013 Queen Elizabeth Prize for Engineering, the 2005 Presidential Medal of Freedom, the 1997 National Medal of Technology and Innovation, and the 2001 Charles Stark Draper Prize from the National Academy of Engineering.

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Princeton honors Gen. Christopher Cavoli and internet pioneer Robert Kahn at Alumni Day

.

The annual mid-winter alumni gathering also included top prizes for undergraduate and graduate students, the Service of Remembrance memorial ceremony, panel discussions, anniversary celebrations and more.

Milley, Heckman to receive top alumni awards

.

Princeton University will present its top honors for alumni to Gen. Mark Milley, chief of staff of the U.S. Army, and James Heckman, a Nobel laureate in economics who is on the faculty of the University of Chicago.

Leach, Petraeus to receive top alumni awards

.

Princeton University will present its top honors for alumni to James Leach, a longtime U.S. congressman and current chair of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), and U.S. Army Gen. David Petraeus, who oversees the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan as commander of the U.S. Central Command.

Princeton marks 100 years of ROTC on campus during Veterans Day program

.

Nearly 200 alumni, students, faculty, staff and guests, including distinguished officers from five military branches, spent Nov. 11 on campus to commemorate Princeton’s century-long Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) program.

Petraeus selected as Baccalaureate speaker

.

U.S. Army Gen. David Petraeus, a Princeton alumnus and commander of the U.S. Central Command, has been selected as the speaker for this year's Baccalaureate ceremony, the interfaith worship service that is one of Princeton's oldest traditions. The service is scheduled for 2 p.m. Sunday, May 31, in the University Chapel.

Kahn, Peterson 're-imagine the Internet,' Sept. 27

.

Robert Kahn, considered one of the fathers of the Internet, will join Larry Peterson, chair of Princeton's computer science department, in a public talk on the future of the Internet at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 27, in the Friend Center auditorium.

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