



**Major General (Armament Corp) Robert Ranquet**

Major General Robert Ranquet was commissioned by the French Ministry of Defense—Defense Procurement Agency (DGA) as an “Ingénieur de l’Armement” (Lieutenant, Armt. Corps) in 1974. After completing his master’s degrees in Naval Architecture and Nuclear Engineering, he was first assigned as manager of the Nuclear Propulsion Department, DCN Brest, in charge of the maintenance of “Le Redoutable” class SSBN propulsion systems. In 1984, he joined DCN Indret, as the head of the Material Research Center. He moved in 1989 from this position to the head of the Nuclear Propulsion Department, in charge of development and design of naval nuclear reactors. In this position, he managed the development of nuclear plants for the “Le Triomphant” class SSBN and the “Charles de Gaulle” aircraft carrier. In 1992, he was promoted to Deputy Director, DCN Indret, in charge of Research and Development activities. In this position, he initiated numerous international cooperations with British and U.S. firms within the framework of the then “Horizon Frigate” European project.

In 1994, he was assigned as a special assistant to the Director for Atlantic/ Europe Cooperation, International Affairs Directorate—DGA Paris. He was then selected as an exchange student for the class of 1995 at the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, Fort Lesley J. McNair, Washington, D.C., before joining the French Embassy as deputy-Armament Attaché, and then Armament Attaché in October 1996. In this position, he was the personal representative for the Délégué Général pour l’Armement (Head of the French Defense Acquisition Agency) to the United States.

Upon his return to France in 1998, Ranquet was assigned for 2 years to the new Center for Higher Armaments Studies as the head of the Strategic Research Department and the Executive Director of the new Defense Science Council, which he helped create. In this position, he initiated many new projects, such as the Acquisition Strategy Laboratory.

In 2000, he joined the Directorate for Test and Evaluation Centers as the Director of the Centre Technique d’Arcueil (Arcueil Research Centre), and in 2001 he was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General (Armt. Corps). Ranquet was appointed Deputy Director, Strategic Affairs (Policy) in 2003 and promoted to the rank of major general rank in 2005. In this position, he was in charge of many international and strategic dossiers, such as: French negotiator for the creation of the European Defense Agency; French representative to NATO senior political executive group on Missile Defense; Nuclear deterrence policy; and *2008 White Book on Defense and National Security*.

In 2008, Ranquet was appointed as special assistant to the “Conseil Général de l’Armement” (senior acquisition and technology advisory board to the Prime Minister). In 2010, Ranquet was appointed to the position he now holds: deputy director, Institut des Hautes Etudes de Defense Nationale—the highest French academic institution for defense and security, under the Prime Minister’s office.