

Brigadier General Yves Arnaud
Commander, Joint Space Command
French Joint Staff

Born on May 15, 1961, in Nantua, France, Brigadier General Yves Arnaud entered the French Air Force Academy on September 1, 1980. Upon receiving his fighter pilot wings on November 1983 at the Tours Fighter Pilot School and undergoing special training with the 8th Fighter Wing at Cazaux AFB, in 1984, he joined Fighter Squadron 2/10 codenamed "Seine" at Creil AFB where he qualified as an operational combat pilot on Mirage IIIC. Assigned in May 1985 to Fighter Squadron 3/2 codenamed "Alsace" at Dijon AFB, he flew Mirage III E for a few months before undergoing transformation with his unit on Mirage 2000C. Promoted to Captain in June 1986, he received his qualification as a patrol leader in September 1987. In 1989, he joined Fighter Squadron 2/2 codenamed "Côte d'Or", where he assumed the duties of Squadron Commander. Promoted to Major in June 1991, he joined the Test Pilot School at Istres AFB. In 1992, he was commissioned Test Pilot and subsequently, joined the Rafale Test Team at Brétigny AFB of which he assumed command as of September 1993. During that period, he flew the prototype and oversaw more specifically the development of the air-to-air Rafale weapon system. Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in June 1995, he was assigned to Colmar AFB as Executive Officer of fighter squadron 2/30 codenamed "Normandie-Niemen" equipped with Mirage FICT. He took command of that unit a year later and took part in several deployments to Chad and Qatar. Having passed the entrance examination to the French Joint Defense College in 1994, he attended its 6th class. In August 1999, he was assigned to the French Air Force Staff in the technico-operational cooperation office where he was in charge of cooperation with the Air Forces of the United Arab Emirates and Qatar. In 2000, he participated in Operation "Epervier" as Tactical Commander of air elements in N'Djamena. On November 1, 2000, he was promoted to the rank of Colonel. In September 2001, he transferred to Dijon AFB as Executive Officer and Deputy Forces Commander. From September 2002 to January 2003, he assumed the duties of Air Forces Deputy Commander in operation Trident in Naples. In August 2004, he was assigned to the French Joint Staff as Deputy Chief at the Central Air Operations Command. On September 5, 2005, he was assigned to the new division "Capabilities and Equipment" of the French Joint Staff as the Rafale project manager. On August 1, 2008, he was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General and assigned Director of the office of Air Defense Accident Inquiries. On September 1, 2009, he was posted as Senior Adviser to the French Chief of Defense Staff as the space expert in order to ensure the creation of the future joint space command. Since July 1, 2009, he has been serving as commander of the French Joint Space Command. Brigadier General Yves Arnaud's medals include the French Legion of Honor and National Order of Merit with the rank of officer, as well as the Air Medal. He is married and has three children.