



CHEFE DO ESTADO-MAIOR-GENERAL
DAS FORÇAS ARMADAS

Lisbon, February 28th, 2026

Major General Andrus Merilo

H. E. Commander of the Estonian Defence Forces;

Distinguished General, Dear Andrus,

Upon accomplishing my duties as Chief of the General Staff of the Portuguese Armed Forces, after three years in office, I feel compelled to address Your Excellency a word of personal recognition and appreciation.

It has been a singular honor and a profound source of pride for me to perform these duties in the service of Portugal. Throughout these three years, I have sought to carry out the responsibilities entrusted to me with a strong sense of duty, institutional loyalty, and full dedication to the defense of our national interests.

The context in which I carried out these functions proved to be particularly demanding, marked by complex challenges and a continual need for adaptation. Nevertheless, it was possible to affirm the relevance of the Armed Forces, strengthen their credibility, and continue serving Portugal with dignity, competence, and a spirit of mission.

I conclude this chapter with the tranquil conscience of a duty fulfilled and with the conviction that service to the Nation is, above all, a cause that transcends us individually and requires permanent commitment.

Please accept the expression of my highest consideration,

Sincerely,

General José Nunes da Fonseca
Chief of General Staff of the Portuguese Armed Forces