SPANISH NAVY
BIOGRAPHY

REAR ADMIRAL IGNACIO VILLANUEVA SERRANO
NEW FORCE COMMANDER 34th ROTATION
2nd COMCGMAD, DCOM SPMARFOR

Rear Admiral Ignacio Villanueva is a 1987 graduate of the Spanish Naval Academy.

In 1989 he earned his US Navy wings, becoming a Naval Aviator. He then flew the AV-8V PLUS on board the Spanish carrier 'PRINCIPE DE ASTURIAS.' During that period, he was also appointed as an exchange pilot with the Spanish Airforce, flying the EF-18 A+ and taking part in the B-H conflict, where he flew several combat missions deployed from Aviano AB, Italy.

He has commanded the gun patrol boat 'P-11 BARCELO', the high seas patrol boat 'P-63 ARNOMENDI', the LST 'L-42 PIZARRO' and the Fleet Air Arm 'FLOAN.' He was also the CO of the Spanish Harrier 9th Squadron.

Ashore, he has served in a variety of assignments, most notably as a staff officer in the International Relations Department at the Navy HQ, as ACOS N3 in the SPMARFOR High Readiness Maritime HQ, and as Plans and Policy Staff officer and Head of the Operations Department at the Spanish Fleet HQ.

Abroad he was stationed in Mons, Belgium, serving at SHAPE J5 as the ACO capability requirements and force planning officer, and in Pristina, Kosovo working as peace observer and liaison officer between KFOR HQ and UNMIK HQ.

Additionally, he has attended several national and NATO courses including the NATO Operational Planning, NATO Staff Officer Defense Planning and NATO expeditionary operations courses. He graduated with distinction from the US Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island, after having completed the Naval Staff and the Naval Command Courses. He also received a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies from the same US Naval War College. His academic background is completed with a post as associated professor at the High Defense Studies Center in Madrid, Spain.

As Flag Officer he has been appointed as 2nd Commander of the High Readiness Maritime HQ and most recently Force Commander of the EU NAVFOR Op Atalanta.

He has several Navy medals, one UN medal, one NATO medal and one SPAF medal, and numerous awards and citations.

He is married to Matilde Martin and has four children.

From 17th March 2020, RA Ignacio Villanueva is the new Force Commander for European Naval Force Somalia Operation ATALANTA.