

As the 18th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Martin Dempsey is the nation's highest-ranking military officer and serves as the principal military advisor to the President, the U.S. Secretary of Defense and the National Security Council. Prior to his current role, he served as the Army's 37th Chief of Staff.

In 1991, General Dempsey deployed with the Third Armored Division in support of Operation Desert Storm. He later commanded a battalion in Germany; served as the Army's "senior scout" as the 67th Colonel of the Third Armored Cavalry Regiment; and served on the Joint Staff as an assistant deputy director in J-5 and as Special Assistant to the 14th Chairman.

In Iraq, he commanded the 1st Armored Division and was Commanding General of MNSTC-I. From 2007 to 2008, he was the Deputy Commander and then Acting Commander of U.S. Central Command; from 2008 to 2011, he commanded U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command. General Dempsey is a 1974 graduate of West Point and holds a master's degree in English from Duke University. He also holds advanced degrees from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and the National War College.

A New Jersey native and career armor officer, General Dempsey is a 1974 graduate of West Point. During more than 39 years of service, he has commanded at every echelon – from platoon to combatant command across the United States and the globe.

General Dempsey is married to his high school sweetheart, Deanie. Each of their three children – Chris, Megan and Caitlin – has served in the United States Army. They have eight grandchildren.