## Military career/ Introduction

## Chief of the General Staff General Petr Pavel, M. A.Reading comprehension

**1. Read the text and mark the sentences below T (true), or F (false).**

1. Unlike his father, Petr Pavel chose a military career.

2. He started his service career straight after graduation in 1979.

3. He worked as a military intelligence officer.

4.He played an important role in rescuing several French soldiers taken hostage.

Petr Pavel was born on 1 November 1961 in Planá u Mariánských lázní. His career **was** **predetermined** by the military career of his father who **served** in the elite units as a member of the Military Intelligence. At the age of fourteen Petr Pavel **entered** a military grammar school in Opava. After graduation in 1979, he continued his military study at the Military College of Land Forces in Vyškov from which he **graduated** in 1983. He started his service career as a platoon leader in the Special purpose airborne reconnaissance. From 1985 to 1988 he **served as** a commander in Special purpose airborne reconnaissance company. In 1988 Petr Pavel **came back** to school. He finished the postgraduate studies at the Military Academy in Brno in 1991. Between 1995 and 2006 he **studied** **at** prestigious colleges abroad. He **holds Master of Arts** in international relations from King’s College in London.

Throughout his military career, Petr Pavel **held** different **posts** such as Commander of Special Forces Brigade, Deputy Commander of Mechanised Division, Commander of Specialised Forces and Deputy Joint Forces Commander. In 2007 he **was appointed** Deputy Military Representative of the Czech Republic in the European Union and **posted to** Brussels. Three years later he was **transferred to** Mons, where he served for a term of one year in SHAPE as National Military representative of the Czech Republic. Since 2012 he has been in the position of Chief of the General Staff. In July 2014, the Czech government **nominated** Petr Pavel for the post of Chairman of the NATO Military Committee. He was **elected** for this job in Vilnius in September 2014 and will **assume** it in June 2015.

Petr Pavel **took part in** several combat missions. He served in the Czechoslovak troops of United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in the Balkans, whose task was to **maintain the truce** between Serbs and Croats, **to mitigate conflicts** and **keep the enemy parties apart**. He **was deployed** there in 1993. He and his soldiers managed **to free** French soldiers from Serbian captivity. In that rescue operation Petr Pavel **made use of** the intelligence experience he had gained as a military intelligence officer.

In 2002 he **was commissioned as** Brigadier General and in 2010 as Major General. In 2012 he **was promoted to** Lieutenant General and in 2014 to the rank of General.

He has been **awarded** several Czech and foreign decorations and awards including Service Abroad Medal of the Minister of Defence "Combat Mission", Grade III, “Service for Peace“ Badge, French War Cross with a Bronze Star and State Award of the Czech Republic – Medal for Heroism.

**Vocabulary**

**2. Match the beginnings of the sentences with their endings.**

1. Petr Pavel entered in combat missions.
2. He graduated a military grammar school.
3. He served Medal for heroism.
4. He was appointed as Lieutenant General.
5. He was deployed from the military grammar school.
6. He was posted as a platoon leader.
7. He took part to Brussels.
8. He was commissioned Chief of the General Staff.
9. He was promoted to Bosnia.
10. He was awarded to General.

**3. Fill in the gaps with one of the following verbs in the correct form.**

**(graduate, come, take, command, hold, serve, post, assign, enter, make)**

General Petr Pavel \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ­­­­­­­­­­­­­­from the Military College of Land Forces in Vyškov in 1983. After that he was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_to the Special purpose airborne reconnaissance. He \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ there as a platoon commander. From 1985 to 1988 he \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Special purpose airborne reconnaissance company. In 1988 he \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_theMilitary Academy in Brno.In the 1990she \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ part in combat missions in the Balkans where he \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ use of his intelligence experience. In 2007 he was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_toBrussels. He \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ there the post of Deputy Military Representative of the Czech Republic in the European Union. In 2011 he \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ back to the Czech Republic. Since 2012 he has been in the position of Chief of the General Staff.

**4. Translate the expressions into Czech.**

To be assigned to an infantry unit.

To enter the University of Defence/ to graduate from the University of Defence

To join the army/ join up

To hold Master of Arts (MA)

To make use of experience

To hold a post

To be appointed a deputy commander

To be posted to Bechyně

To be deployed to Afghanistan

To assume the post

To do basic training

To take a special course

To be commissioned as a corporal

To maintain the truce

To mitigate conflicts

To keep enemy parties apart

To predetermine

**Grammar**

**5. Complete the table.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Infinitive** | **Past simple** | **Past participle** |
| To comeTo holdTo takeTo keepTo makeTo studyTo doTo goTo spendTo beTo getTo fight | came | come |

**6. Complete the sentences with the past simple.**

General Petr Pavel has been in the military since 1975. From 1985 to 1988 he \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (be) in the position of a commander in Special purpose airborne reconnaissance company. Then he \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (go) to study at the Military Academy in Brno. He \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ only \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (not attend) that school, but he also \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (study) abroad. He holds Master of Arts in international relations from King’s College in London where he \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (spend) more than one year. During his Balkan mission he \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (not hesitate) to fight for the rescue of comrades-in-arms. When the besieged French soldiers \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (get) into a precarious situation, he and his fellow soldiers \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (liberate) them. For saving their lives, the French Defence Minister Francois Leotard \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (award) Lieutenant Colonel Petr Pavel, Major Karel Klinovský, Major Stanislav Zaplatílek, and Lieutenant Colonel Pavel Jirkovský the French War Cross.

**7. Write questions to ask about the words in bold.**

Petr Pavel was born **on 1 November 1961**.

 **The military career of his father** predetermined Mr. Pavel’s career.

**At the age of fourteen** Petr Pavel entered a military grammar school in Opava.

After graduation in 1979, he **continued his military study.**

He graduated from the Military College of Land Forces in Vyškov **in 1983**.

He started his service career as **a platoon leader** in the Special purpose airborne reconnaissance.

**From 1985 to 1988** he served as a commander in Special purpose airborne reconnaissance company.

Between 1995 and 2006 he studied at prestigious colleges **abroad**.

He holds **Master of Arts in international relations** from King’s College in London.

He was awarded **Medal for Heroism**.

He is married. He has **two sons**.

He speaks **Czech, English, French and Russian**.

**Writing (suggested activity)**

**Write a short paragraph describing your career in the military.**

**Include:** when you joined the army, reasons for joining up, your specialization, where you serve, your military duties and responsibilities, special courses you have taken