



Sander Lleshaj

Sander Lleshaj, born on January 25, 1963, in Albania, is a senior former military officer and politician. After graduating from the Military Academy in 1985, he served in various positions in the air defense sector. He quickly rose through the ranks, assuming command of an air defense regiment in 1992. Later, he became the commander of courses at the Albanian Defense Academy.

In 2000, Lleshaj was promoted to colonel and appointed as the commander of the "Skanderbeg" Military Academy. Later he also served as the Defense Attaché of the Republic of Albania in Germany and held non-resident positions in the Czech Republic and Hungary. In 2006, he was appointed as the commander of the Training and Doctrine Command in Tirana.

His military career reached its peak in 2009 when he was promoted to brigadier general. A year later, he was appointed as the Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Albanian Armed Forces. In 2013, he was appointed as the National Security Advisor to the Prime Minister of Albania.

From November 2018 to December 2020, Lleshaj served as the Minister of Interior of the Republic of Albania. Recently, he has been engaged as the Executive Director of the think tank Adriatic Strategic Lab.

He has an impressive education and training background both domestically and internationally, including at the Naval Postgraduate School in the USA and the General Staff Academy of the Bundeswehr in Germany. He is fluent in Albanian, German, English, and Italian and is the author of several publications. Lleshaj also holds a doctoral degree in political science.