

Lieutenant General (ret.) Viorel Pană started his military career in 1989 as a fighter pilot on MiG-21 aircraft. In 1992 he became an airlift pilot on AN-24, and continuing with C-130 Hercules and C-27J Spartan. He is instructor pilot on C-130 Hercules and on C-27J Spartan. He has over 3,100 flying hours logged as an airlift pilot and has participated in more than 200 missions in theater of operations (Iraq, Afghanistan, Bosnia and Kosovo) and different humanitarian missions in country and abroad (Libya, Montenegro, China, Mali).

In 2014 he assumed command of the 90th Airlift Base. He was appointed as the acting Chief of the Romanian Air Force Staff on October 2017 and between 2018 – 2023 LTG (ret.) Viorel Pană was the Chief of the Romanian Air Force Staff.