

U.S. ARMY SONG

*March along, sing our song, with the Army of the free.
Count the brave, count the true, who have fought to victory.
We're the Army and proud of our name!
We're the Army and proudly proclaim:*

*First to fight for the right,
And to build the Nation's might,
And the Army goes rolling along.
Proud of all we have done,
Fighting till the battle's won,
And the Army goes rolling along.*

*Then it's hi! hi! hey!
The Army's on its way.
Count off the cadence loud and strong;
For where'er we go,
You will always know
That the Army goes rolling along.*



SCAN TO VIEW
DIGITAL PROGRAM

PROMOTION CEREMONY

in honor of

COLONEL

CHRISTOPHER THOMAS

TO THE RANK OF
BRIGADIER GENERAL



JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

FRIDAY

6 DECEMBER 2024

3:00 P.M.



COLONEL CHRIS THOMAS

Colonel Chris Thomas enlisted in the Mississippi Army National Guard on January 1988 as a Personnel Information Systems Management Specialist at Camp Shelby, MS rising to the rank of Sergeant and mobilizing for Operation Desert Storm in 1990. He subsequently received his commission from the University of Southern Mississippi ROTC battalion in 1994 and was commissioned as a second lieutenant with the Army Corp of Engineers.

His first assignment was with Alpha Company, 150th Combat Engineer Battalion where he served as Platoon Leader and Company Executive Officer. He then served as the Assistant Brigade Engineer Officer with the 155th Brigade Combat Team in Tupelo, MS. Colonel Thomas was chosen to serve as Company Commander of Charlie Company, 150th Combat Engineer Battalion in Houston and Okolona, MS where he commanded Charlie Company during its deployment as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom III in Najaf and Anbar Provinces, Iraq (2004-2005).

Following the completion of his company command, Colonel Thomas served in a number of key staff positions with the 150th Combat Engineer Battalion, the 168th Engineer Brigade and the 185th Aviation Brigade including, S-1, S-2, Plans Officer and Assistant S-3.

He was then assigned as Battalion Operations Officer for the 155th Brigade Special Troops Battalion in Meridian, MS, and later as the Battalion Executive Officer. Colonel Thomas also served as the Brigade Survey and Design Engineer, the Brigade Operations Officer and the Brigade Executive Officer for the 168th Engineer Brigade in Vicksburg, MS. Colonel Thomas was then selected to command the 890th Engineer Battalion in Gulfport, MS. Following his time as Battalion Commander, he served as the G-3 Operations Officer at Joint Forces Headquarters in Jackson, MS. Colonel Thomas was then selected as the Regimental Commander for the 154th Regional Training Institute at Camp Shelby, MS. Colonel Thomas is currently the G5 for the MS Army National Guard.

Colonel Thomas holds a Bachelor of Arts in History degree from the University of Southern Mississippi, a Masters degree in Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College, and a Juris Doctor degree from Mississippi College School of Law.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Air and Space Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, National Defense Serve Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Iraqi Campaign

Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Military Medal, Unit Commendation Ribbon, Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Parachutist Badge, German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency, Combat Action Badge and the DeFleury Medal.

Colonel Thomas lives in Madison, MS with his wife Kristi and their children, Christopher, Cullen and Mary Catherine.

GENERAL OFFICER HISTORY CODE OF DRESS

General Officers hold the highest operational and strategic authority levels within the military. The General Officer rank originated in the 16th century, delineating an officer of the highest rank in the armed forces. The term "General Officer" refers to a rank above colonel. Since the late medieval period, the adjutant general was affixed to officer designations to indicate relative superiority or an extended jurisdiction as Generals, Admirals, and Field Marshalls. The term general specifically defines a four-star General Officer; however, it is common practice to use this title when addressing all general officer grades.

Today, the Adjutants or Commanding Generals in the U.S. Army select General Officer candidates based on qualifications, education, performance, and experience. Following selection, the National Guard Bureau reviews candidates' packets, the Department of the Army boards the officers, and the Secretary of Defense recommends the list of candidates to the President of the United States. Once approved by the President, he will direct the official nomination for eligibility to the U.S. Senate for confirmation. Upon confirmation, constitutional law places time and vacancy limitations on the senior leader for promotion consideration.

Once promoted to General Officer, these leaders must maintain strict protocols for scheduling, appearances, ceremonies, and daily business. Within this "code of dress," Generals have unique kit items, stationaries, and uniform colors and accessories. The Brigadier General's personal colors are unfurled for display. Each Brigadier General officer is presented with his own Brigadier General officer flag. The flag has a four-foot hoist by three-foot hoist, by four-foot fly, with one, five-pointed star, indicating the rank of Brigadier General, on a blood red flag. This flag has always served as a symbol to our soldiers. When they see it, 'they think, the Brigadier General is here; all is well, follow him.' When looking at this blood red flag, he is to remember, that he is privileged to lead from the front. Hence, the General's flag generated the term "Flag Officer."

Another notable issue is a General's personal firearm. From the American Revolution through America's participation in World War I, General Officers procured their weapons and sidearms at a personal expense. It was not until 1943, in the middle of World War II, that the U.S. Army began equipping its Generals with standard-issue pistols. In 2017, the Sig Sauer M17 and M18 entered service as the new sidearm for the U.S. Army. General Officers are issued the M18. Each General's M18 possesses an exclusive and never duplicated General Officer (G.O.) serial number. Along with their sidearm, Generals receive a leather belt, gold Army buckle, and items needed to maintain their sidearm.



SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

OPENING
REMARKS

NATIONAL
ANTHEM

INVOCATION

RECOGNITION OF
SPECIAL GUESTS

HOST'S REMARKS

PROMOTION

PRESENTATION
OF FLAG AND
SIDEARM

HONOREE'S
REMARKS

BENEDICTION

ARMY SONG

RECEPTION