

## **MAJOR GENERAL CHARLES W. THOMAS**

### **US Army, Retired**



MG Thomas is a native of Natchitoches, Louisiana and a graduate of Northwestern State University of Louisiana where he received a Bachelors and a Masters Degree in Zoology. He entered the Army in October of 1968 and was commissioned from Engineer Officer Candidate School on 23 August 1969 as a Second Lieutenant in the Military Intelligence (MI) Branch. He served consecutive junior officer command and staff tours with the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division and the US Army Security Agency (ASA) in Hawaii and Thailand. After completing the MI Officers Advanced Course in 1974, then CPT Thomas served as Aide-de-Camp to the Commanding General of the US Army Security Agency in Arlington, Virginia, followed by duty in the Army's Military Personnel Center as a MI Officer Career Manager.

Upon promotion in 1979, MAJ Thomas served as a Brigade S2 and then 124<sup>th</sup> MI Battalion S3 and Executive Officer in the 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Mechanized), Fort Stewart, Georgia. He then attended the Army's Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas from 1982 to 1983. Returning to Fort Stewart in 1983, he served as G2 of the 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division for 16 months. LTC Thomas next assumed command of the 302<sup>nd</sup> MI Battalion in Frankfurt, Germany in January 1985. In March 1987, he became Chief of the MI Branch at the Army's Personnel Center in Alexandria, Virginia. He attended the National War College in 1988 and, upon graduation, went immediately to brigade command in Turkey where he commanded the US Army Field Station, Sinop. After his command tour, COL Thomas was assigned to the Joint Staff in the Pentagon where he served as the Deputy for Intelligence in the Special Technical Operations Division of the Current Operations Directorate (J-33). Prior to the Gulf War, COL Thomas was ordered to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia and was appointed Director of the Central Command Joint Intelligence Center where he served for the duration of Operation DESERT STORM. In April 1991, he returned to his duties on the Joint Staff in the Pentagon.

In October 1991, COL Thomas was selected for Brigadier General and assigned as Deputy Director for Current Intelligence, Joint Staff and Command Support, J2/Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA). In June 1993, he was reassigned to be the Deputy Chief of Staff, Intelligence, Headquarters, United States Army Europe and Seventh Army.

On 10 November 1994, he assumed command of the United States Army Intelligence Center and Fort Huachuca and was selected for Major General in July 1995. During his tenure, he developed and refined the Army's intelligence vision, which was integrated into the Army Intelligence Master Plan. He successfully directed the design and Army-level acceptance of the MI Battalion supporting the Conservative Heavy Division. He implemented a doctrine development program that significantly accelerated the traditional two-year production cycle, offering a strong potential for doctrine to keep pace with rapidly evolving Force XXI changes. MG Thomas' final assignment was as the Chief of Staff of the US Army Training and Doctrine Command, Fort Monroe, Virginia from 23 June 1998 until his retirement on 30 September 2000.

MG Thomas' awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal and the Southwest Asia Service Medal.

MG Thomas was inducted into the MI Hall of Fame in 2001.



**COL Charles Thomas, Field Station Sinop, August 1989 - July 1990**