



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS III CORPS AND FORT HOOD  
FORT HOOD, TEXAS 76544-50

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

BIOGRAPHY

Colonel Michael G. Thornton

Colonel Thornton was born 7 September 1942 in Corpus Christi, Texas. He attended Corpus Christi Academy High School and graduated in 1960. He enlisted in the Army immediately following graduation. His six years of enlisted service, four of which were as an NCO, included assignments in both AJAX and Nike Hercules Air Defense Artillery units in CONUS and the Federal Republic of Germany. He attended Field Artillery Officer Candidate School in November 1965, and was commissioned in May 1966 as a Second Lieutenant. After an initial tour in the Republic of Vietnam with an 8"/175mm Artillery Battalion, where he served as Battery Executive Officer, he was assigned to Fort Hood, Texas in September 1967 as Assistant Division Supply Officer, 2d Armored Division.

In January 1969, he attended the Air Defense Artillery Officers' Advance Course and was subsequently assigned to the 1st Battalion, (Nike Hercules), 61st ADA Battalion, Travis Air Force Base, California, where he served first as Battalion S3 and later as Commander of Battery C.

In December of 1970 Colonel Thornton was assigned to Headquarters, US Army Support, Thailand, where he served as SEATO Plans Officer and then as the Chief, Plans, Operations and Training Division in the Directorate of Security, Plans and Operations.

Returning to the United States in January 1972, he attended the University of Texas at El Paso under the Army's degree completion program where he earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in December of 1973. In January 1974, he was assigned to duty with the US Army Recruiting Command as an Area Commander in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where he served for two and one-half years and was promoted to the rank of Major.

In 1976 he returned to the Federal Republic of Germany and was assigned to the 32d Army Air Defense Command where he served as G4, Plans and Management Division Chief, and then as Deputy ACofS, G4.

In April 1978, he was reassigned as Battalion Executive Officer, 6th Battalion (C/V), 56th Air Defense Artillery, Spangdahlem Air Force Base, Germany, until returning to the states in June 1979.

Colonel Thornton attended the Army Command and General Staff College, Ft Leavenworth, Kansas, graduating in June 1980, after which he was assigned to Ft Bliss, Texas, and another tour as Battalion Executive Officer, this time with the 1st Battalion (C/V), 55th ADA.

Upon promotion to Lieutenant Colonel in January 1982, he was assigned to the US Army Air Defense Artillery School, where he served as Chief of the Doctrinal Literature Division in the Tactics Department, and later as Chief, Patriot Training and Development Division.

In the Summer of 1983, Colonel Thornton returned to Ft Hood, Texas to become the ACoFS, G4, 1st Cavalry Division. During his tenure, the 1st Cavalry Division deployed the majority of the division to Europe during REFORGER 83.

In June 1984, he assumed command of the 1st Battalion (C/V), 68th ADA (C/V), the divisional Air Defense Artillery Battalion in the 1st Cavalry Division.

After successfully completing two years of battalion command, he attended the Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, PA, graduating in June 1987. Concurrent with his attendance at the Army War College, Colonel Thornton earned a Master of Science Degree in Public Administration from Shippensburg University.

Upon graduation from the War College, he was assigned to the Department of the Army Staff as Chief, Plans and Operations Division, DA DCSLOG. During this assignment he was promoted to his present rank and qualified for the Army Staff Identification Badge. His current assignment as ACoFS, G4, III Corps, at Ft Hood, Texas began in July 1988.

COL Thornton's military decorations include: Meritorious Service Medal (5 OLC), Army Commendation Medal (3 OLC), Army Good Conduct Medal, Vietnam Service Medal and Armed Forces Reserve Medal.