

Colonel Jerry W. Thurman (Class 16-67)

Colonel Thurman enlisted as an infantryman on 1 March 1966. Colonel Thurman was commissioned a Second Lieutenant of Artillery in May 1967 after completion of the Field Artillery Officer Candidate School.

His first assignment was to the 2nd Battalion, 31st Artillery where he served as the Executive Officer of B Battery. Upon completion of the Rotary Wing Aviation School, he was assigned to the Republic of Vietnam where he served as Aviation Section Commander of 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment from September 1968 to August 1969. Following this assignment, he was assigned as the Adjutant of the 267th Aviation Battalion. Returning to the Artillery to what would be his last artillery assignment he commanded G Battery 75th Artillery from July 1970 to July 1971.

Following a Branch transfer and attendance of the Armor Officer Advance Course, Colonel Thurman served as the Motor Officer, Commander of Headquarters Company and Commander of A Company 2nd Battalion, 32nd Armor, 3rd Armored Division. In July 1977 he was assigned to US Army Readiness Region VIII where he served as a Training Management Development Officer. After attending the Army Command and General Staff College he was assigned as Executive Officer of the 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry, 2nd Armored Division followed by an assignment as Executive Officer 2nd Brigade 2nd Armored Division. Returning to the 3rd Armored Division in 1983 Colonel Thurman served as an Executive Officer of the Iron Brigade at Gelnhausen. Colonel Thurman commanded 3rd Squadron, 12th Cavalry 3d Armored Division from May 1984 to May 1986.

Following graduation from the US Army War College, Colonel Thurman was assigned as Chief, Armor and Cavalry Tactics and subsequently as Director, Armor and Cavalry Tactics, The Armor School, Fort Knox, KY. Colonel Thurman influenced a broad range of Armor and Cavalry officers with extraordinary leadership and expert knowledge of maneuver warfare. At the new Armor School at Fort Benning, GA, there is a classroom dedicated to COL Thurman in recognition of his legacy of quality instruction and mentorship of young leaders.

Colonel Thurman received a Bachelor's Degree in History from the University of East Central Oklahoma and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Missouri.

His awards include the Distinguished Service Cross, the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross with OLC, the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart with OLC, the Meritorious Service Medal with three OLC, the Air Medal with "V" Device with 23 OLC, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm.