

General (Retired) Raymond A. “Tony” Thomas III 11th Commander, United States Special Operations Command

GEN (Ret.) Raymond A. “Tony” Thomas, III served in the United States Army for 39 years, culminating his career in the highest echelons of the U.S. military as the 4-star Commanding General of the more than 85,000 men and women who comprise U.S. Special Operations Command.

During his remarkable four decades of service, GEN Thomas was involved in nearly every significant United States military operation, to include jumping into combat in both Grenada and Panama. His tenure as a member of the elite 75th Ranger Regiment and the 1st SFOD-DELTA, included service in DESERT STORM with the Joint Task Force responsible for defeating Iraqi SCUD missile attacks on Israel; assisting the Colombian National Police in killing the notorious narco-terrorist, Pablo Escobar; and conducting operations to capture Serbian war criminals. He is the only officer to have commanded a squadron of the Delta Force and a battalion of the 75th Ranger Regiment.

GEN Thomas deployed numerous times to combat arenas, including Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria. Among the many extraordinary details of his career is the fact that Thomas served overseas for portions of every single year of his military career since the 9/11 terrorist attacks on America. Therefore it was very fitting that he was the second-in-command for the mission that killed the terrorist Usama Bin Laden.

Prior to his being promoted as the commander of USSOCOM and taking the reins of one of the United States’ most elite combatant commands, Thomas commanded the Joint Special Operations Command; served as the Director of Military Operations at the Central Intelligence Agency; and created and commanded the first Special Operations Joint Task Force in Afghanistan.

Always seeking solutions to future battles, Thomas drove USSOCOM’s adaptation of applied Artificial Intelligence and Unmanned Capabilities – a passion he has carried over to his post-service career working within the defense industry to ensure today’s service members can fight and win tomorrow’s wars.

Thomas currently serves as the Chairman of the Special Operations Warrior Foundation, a national nonprofit organization which provides full-cost education scholarships to the children of our nation’s Fallen Special Operations heroes. In addition, he serves as a Venture Partner with LUX Capital and in Board and Advisory positions with several leading technology firms.

GEN Thomas and his wife have two sons and six grandchildren. Both sons graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point and served in combat on multiple occasions.



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