



Colonel Paul C. Thorn, Chief of Staff – Army National Guard

Colonel Paul C. Thorn assumed the duties as the Chief of Staff of the Army National Guard on March 18, 2013.

Ever the Citizen-Soldier, Colonel Thorn has 13 years as a traditional Guardsman and 13 years on active duty in the Army National Guard. In his 26 years of commissioned service he has commanded units in the 20th Special Forces Group from Operational Detachment Alpha through Deputy Group Commander.

He received his commission in 1987 upon completion of ROTC at Marion Military Institute and began his service in the Alabama Army National Guard at Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group (Airborne).

In the thirteen years he shared his civilian career with the Army National Guard, he was an operations manager at the Federal Express Corporation. Key accomplishments while at FedEx include: managing the downtown FedEx station in Atlanta during the 1996 Olympics; opening a new station in 1997 just west of Atlanta; and opening a regional sorting facility in 1998. Later he became the Air Operations Manager for FedEx at the Birmingham International Airport.

On active duty with the Army National Guard, Colonel Thorn has served as Special Operations Command South's liaison officer to U.S. Southern Command, and Army National Guard Advisor to both the USA John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School and the Joint Readiness Training Center. He has deployed to Haiti, the Horn of Africa, Iraq and Afghanistan. His last assignment was Chief of Staff to the Deputy Commanding General – Army National Guard, US Army Forces Command.

Colonel Thorn holds a Bachelor of Business Degree from Georgia State University, an MBA from Touro University International, and is a graduate of the Command and General Staff College and the Air War College.

His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, and Meritorious Service Medal (with 4 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters). In addition to the Special Forces Tab, he

has been awarded the Master Parachutist Badge, the Special Operations Combat Divers Badge, and the Combat Infantry Badge.

He is married to the former Bobbi A. Tucker of Owensboro, Ky. They have three daughters.