



Dr. Richard W. Thomas
Ex Officio Board of Regents Member

Dr. Richard W. Thomas is the sixth President of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. As president, Dr. Thomas is responsible for the academic, research and service mission of the university. He advises the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs and the four Surgeons General on a wide array of issues related to graduate health professions education and healthcare research.

Dr. Thomas retired from the Army in May 2016 at the rank of Major General. He is a physician and dentist whose last assignment was as Chief Medical Officer and Director of the Defense Health Agency Healthcare

Operations Directorate.

Dr. Thomas graduated from West Virginia University (WVU) on an ROTC scholarship in 1981. He is a graduate of the WVU School of Dentistry and served in the U.S. Army Dental Corps before receiving his Doctor of Medicine degree from the WVU School of Medicine in 1994. He earned a master's degree in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College in 2006. He completed his internship at Brooke Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, and residency in Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery at Madigan Army Medical Center, Fort Lewis, Washington.

Dr. Thomas previously served as the Commanding General of Western Regional Medical Command; Chief, U.S. Army Medical Corps and Senior Market Executive for TRICARE Puget Sound Multi-Service Market.

Among his many military assignments, Dr. Thomas served as the Surgeon General for the U.S. Forces – Afghanistan, and Senior Medical Advisor for the International Security Assistance Forces Joint Command – Afghanistan; assistant Army Surgeon General for Force Projection; and commander of Blanchfield Army Community Hospital at Fort Campbell, Ky. He has deployed in support of Operation Just Cause, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Thomas previously served as the director of the Department of Surgery Research Program at Madigan Army Medical Center, and held a faculty appointment as clinical associate professor at the University of Washington in Seattle. He also served as adjunct faculty and staff surgeon at the Swedish Medical Center in Seattle and American Lake Veteran's Administration Hospital in Tacoma.

EDUCATION

1981 Bachelor of Arts degree in Biological Studies, West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia
1986 Doctor of Dental Surgery degree, West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia
1994 Doctor of Medicine degree, West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia
2006 Master of Strategic Studies degree, U.S. Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Carlisle, Pennsylvania

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Defense Distinguished Service Medal
Army Distinguished Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters

Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters
Bronze Star Medal with one oak leaf cluster
Defense Meritorious Service Medal
Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters
Air Medal
Combat Medical Badge
Expert Field Medical Badge
Army Flight Surgeon Badge
Senior Parachutist Badge
Air Assault Badge
German Armed Forces Parachutist Badge
Office of the Secretary of Defense Identification Badge
Army Staff Identification Badge

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

2008 "A" Proficiency Designator, Office of the U.S. Army Surgeon General
2008 Order of Military Medical Merit, Office of the U.S. Army Surgeon General
2011 Presidential Commendation, American Academy of Pain Medicine
2015 Philipp M. Lippe Award, American Academy of Pain Medicine

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ASSOCIATIONS

Diplomate, American Academy of Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery
American Academy of Pain Medicine
American Association for Physician Leadership
Fellow, American College of Surgeons
American Dental Association
American Medical Association
Washington State Medical Society
West Virginia State Medical/Dental Society