

Richard W. Thomas, MD, DDS



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 oversees, evaluates, and coordinates efforts to enhance graduate health professions education and healthcare research to include emerging technologies and treatments as well as efforts to improve patient safety, quality within the Military Health System.

Dr. Thomas earned a degree in biological science from West Virginia University (WVU), a Doctorate in Dental Surgery from the WVU School of Dentistry and a Medical Degree from WVU School of Medicine. He holds a Master's degree in Strategic Studies for the U.S. Army War College, is board certified in Otolaryngology/Head & Neck Surgery and is a fellow of the American College of Surgery and a fellow of the American College of Dentists.

Dr. Thomas served over 26 years in the United States Army, retiring as a Major General in 2016. His key military assignments included Director of Healthcare Operations and the Chief Medical Officer for the Defense Health Agency (DHA); Commanding General of the Western Regional Medical Command; Surgeon General, USFORCES-Afghanistan; Chief, U.S. Army Medical Corps; U.S. Army Assistant Surgeon General; Commander, Blanchfield Army Community Hospital, Fort Campbell, Kentucky; Commander, 47th Combat Support Hospital, Division Surgeon, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and numerous other staff and leadership positions. He has served multiple combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan.

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

Dr. Thomas' honors and awards include, Defense Superior Service Medal; Army Distinguished Service Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster); Legion of Merit (with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters); Bronze Star Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster) and various other commendations and campaign awards. He holds the Surgeon General's "A" Proficiency Designator, is a Distinguished Member of the AMEDD Regiment and Member of the Order of Military Medical Merit. Dr. Thomas has been recognized with the Murtha Memorial Award for Leadership in Military Medicine, the American Academy of Pain Medicine's Board of Director's Award and American Academy of Pain Medicine Philipp M. Lippe, MD Award.

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

Learning to Care for Those in Harm's Way

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