



CAPTAIN GRACIE L. THOMPSON

UNITED STATES. NAVY (RETIRED)

Captain Gracie L. Thompson (Retired) was born in Lake Wales, Florida, and is the Salutatorian of the Lake Wales High School Class of 1971. She earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree with Honors in Mathematics from the University of South Florida, Tampa Florida, in 1975, a Master of Science Degree in Computer Science from the Naval Post Graduate School, Monterey California in 1983, and a Master of Science Degree in National Resources Strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, National Defense University, Washington DC in 1997. Her military education also includes the Program Manager's Course, Defense Management College, Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Captain Thompson was commissioned as an Ensign after completing Officer Candidate School, Newport, Rhode Island, in December, 1976. From January 1977 to February 1980, she was assigned to the staff, Commander-in Chief, U.S. Naval Forces, London, England, and served as the Automated Data Processing and Logistics Officer. Subsequently, she served concurrent assignments as the Automated Data Processing Liaison Officer at the Defense Communications Agency and the Joint Chiefs of Staff, National Military Command Center, at the Pentagon in Washington, DC from February 1980 to February 1982. During January 1984 through October 1986, she was the Automated Data Processing Users Support Center Branch Head while assigned to the Defense Communications Engineering Center (DCEC), Reston, Virginia. During her tour at DCEC, she served concurrently as a Technical Action Officer for a Command and Control major project for the White House and other National-level Departments and Agencies. From October 1986 to July 1988, Captain Thompson was assigned as Head of the Naval Military Personnel Command, Washington DC, Office Systems Management and Technical Development Section. Subsequently, she served as the Commanding Officer of the Tampa Military Entrance Processing Station, Florida (Tampa MEPS), from August 1988 through July 1991. As a direct result of her leadership, her Command attained national recognition by achieving the "BEST MEPS" Award in its competitive category. From December 1991 until March 1994, Captain Thompson was assigned to the Office of Naval Research, Arlington, Virginia, as the Deputy Computer Technology Area Manager for Exploratory Computer Development. During April 1994 until June 1996, she was the Commanding Officer of the Computer and Telecommunications Station, Pensacola Florida. In August 1997, Captain Thompson reported to the United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM), as the Concepts and Integration Division Chief in the Command, Control, Communications, Computers, and Information Systems Directorate. In June 1998 she was appointed as the Director of USSOCOM's Year 2000 (Y2K) Oversight Task Force and served in that capacity for two years. On 30 June 2000, Captain Thompson assumed responsibility as USSOCOM's Joint Experimentation Division Chief. After serving with distinction on active duty in the United States Navy for 24 years and 11 months, Captain Thompson culminated her illustrious military career with an effective retirement date of 1 July 2001. Subsequently she embarked on a second career in Real Estate Investment, Mortgage Brokering and Sales in which she has earned numerous prestigious awards as a multi-million dollar producer.

Captain Thompson's personal awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (two awards), Joint Service

Commendation Medal (two awards), Navy Commendation Medal (two awards) and the National Defense Service Medal. She is a life member of the National Naval Officers Association, an active member of the U.S. Navy League, The Military Sea Services Museum of Sebring, Florida, and the National, Florida, and Greater Tampa Associations of Realtors. She also served as a member of the University of South Florida's Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Captain Thompson (Retired) is married to Mr. Harry L. Baker and resides in Lithia, FL. She is an avid traveler, and enjoys participating in any forum which motivates our nations' future leaders—"The Youth."