

Colonel Alan L. Thoma, U.S. Marine Corps
Deputy Commander
Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command



Col. Alan L. Thoma, U.S. Marine Corps, is the Deputy Commander of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command. He assumed this position in June 2011.

Col. A. L. Thoma is a resident of Washington State and a graduate of Western Washington University. In 1985, he was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant through the Platoon Leaders Course program. After completing The Basic School (TBS) and Engineer Officer's Basic Course, Col. Thoma reported to 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, where he served as a Platoon Commander for both C and A Companies, the Engineer Officer for BLT 2/1, and the Executive Officer for A Company. During this period, Col. Thoma deployed on WESTPAC and was augmented into the regular roles.

In 1989, Col. Thoma was assigned to the staff of TBS where he served as an instructor within the Command and Leadership Group, a Staff Platoon Commander for D and G Companies, the Engineer Platoon Commander and Executive Officer for the Enlisted Instructor (EI) Company, and finally the Commanding Officer for Headquarters and Services Company.

In 1992, Col. Thoma attended the U.S. Army Engineer Officer Advanced Course, and upon completion, was assigned as the Engineer Support Coordinator for G-3 Operations, 3rd Force Service Support Group. After a year, Col. Thoma was reassigned to 9th Engineer Support Battalion as the Commanding Officer for B Company and eventually the Battalion Operations Officer. In 1995, Col. Thoma was selected for Major and assigned to Marine Wing Support Squadron 373, serving initially as the Engineer Division Officer in Charge and eventually as the Squadron Operations Officer. In 1998, Col. Thoma was assigned to Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One as the Aviation Ground Support Department Head.

In 2001, he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and was assigned as the Operations Officer for Marine Wing Support Group 27. He assumed command of Marine Wing Support Squadron 271 in 2002 and deployed to Iraq in 2003 in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. After completing his command tour, Col. Thoma returned as the Operations Officer for MWSG-27 and deployed again to Iraq in 2005. Upon his return, he was assigned as the Facilities Maintenance Officer for Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, where he was promoted to his current grade. In 2008, Col. Thoma was assigned to 3D Marine Aircraft Wing where he served as the Assistant Chief of Staff G-4, deploying again to Iraq. In August 2009, Col. Thoma took command of Headquarters and Services Battalion, Marine Corps Forces, Pacific. In June 2011, he was reassigned as the Deputy Commander, Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command.

Col. Thoma's personal decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, and the Meritorious Service Medal with three gold stars, the Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal, and the Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal with one gold star.

Col. Thoma is married and has one son.