



Special Operations Command Europe

Colonel George K. Thiebes, USA Deputy Commander



Colonel Thiebes commissioned as a Corps of Engineers officer upon graduation from the United States Military Academy in 1990. He subsequently served as a platoon leader and company executive officer in the 79th and 94th Engineer Battalions, respectively, in Karlsruhe and Vilseck, Germany.

After completing the Special Forces Qualification Course, he served as a team leader in the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) in Boeblingen, Germany where he deployed to Spain, Gabon, Bosnia and Kosovo. He subsequently served as Observer/Controller at the Joint Readiness Training Center in Fort Polk, La.

He then returned to 10th SFG (A), where he served as a Company Commander and the Group Operations Officer, including three deployments to Iraq. Colonel Thiebes then served as the Aide de Camp to the Commanding General of U.S. Special Operations Command at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla. He also served in the USSOCOM SOJ55 International Engagement Division as the Deputy Director.

Colonel Thiebes returned to Germany to command a battalion in 10th SFG (A), where he deployed to Iraq and Northwest Africa. Following command, he served as the Doctrine, Policy, Standards, Capabilities, and Requirements Director for NATO Special Operations Headquarters in Mons, Belgium.

Subsequently, he completed a fellowship at the George C. Marshall Center in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany before assuming command of the 10th SFG (A) at Fort Carson, Co. While in command, he also served as the Commander of Special Operations Command Forward – West Africa.

Following command he served as the Assistant Deputy Director for the Joint Staff J37 in the Pentagon, and then returned to Germany as the Director of Operations for Special Operations Command Europe before assuming the role of Deputy Commander.

Colonel Thiebes' awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Combat and Expert Infantryman Badges, Master Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, Ranger and Special Forces Tabs, and the Joint Staff Badge. He is also the recipient of the JINSA Grateful Nation Award and the FBI Director's Award.