



Lt Colonel MICHAEL E. THORN
U.S. AIR FORCE 08/1966 to 08/1986

Vietnam, Korea, Taiwan, Philippines, Guam, Okinawa, Thailand, and all of Europe

Michael E. Thorn served his country for 20 years as a command pilot and senior staff officer in the Air Force. Lt Colonel Thorn flew 239 combat missions, facing hostile fire in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia during his more than 3500 career flight hours, culminating as a Command Pilot. He was awarded three Meritorious Service Medals, Five Distinguished Flying Crosses, Two Achievement Medals, and 24 Air Medals.

Lt Colonel Thorn served in the Continental United States, the Far East, and Europe. As well, he served as Flight Commander, Section Commander, Wing Executive Officer, and Deployment Commander in Korea, Taiwan, and the Philippines. He was a pilot and instructor in the B-52D, B-57G, EB-57, T-39 and T-38 aircraft. During his staff work, he was selected as the outstanding Cost Analyst for the entire Air Force.

After graduating in 1961 from Mercer High School, he went on to earn a bachelor's degree in Economics and Statistics from the Pennsylvania State University, then later earned a master's degree in Systems Management from the University of Southern California, an MBA in Management and Quantitative Analysis from Pennsylvania State University, and an advanced degree in Operations Management from the Air University. His academic experiences also include numerous graduate courses and certifications over his extensive career. He has applied his academic and operational experiences as an adjunct professor at the undergraduate and graduate levels for several universities.

A native of Mercer County, he is the son of Edwin M. (Ted) and Lillian Thorn. Now, during retirement, Mr. Thorn lives in Wilmington, North Carolina. He has two sons living in Washington, DC.