

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Lt. Gen. Thomas Bostick

PERSON

Bostick, Thomas P

**Alternative Names:** Lt. Gen. Thomas Bostick;

**Life Dates:** September 23, 1956-

**Place of Birth:** Fukuoka, Japan

**Residence:** Washington, D.C.

**Occupations:** Lieutenant General

## Biographical Note

U.S. Army Lieutenant General Thomas P. Bostick was born on September 23, 1956 in Fukuoka, Japan. Bostick was raised in a family with a strong military background. His father was a retired U.S. Army Master Sergeant; his father-in-law, a U.S. Marine Corps Sergeant Major; and his brother, a U.S. Army Colonel. Bostick graduated with his B.S. degree from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1978. He received his M.S. degree in civil engineering and his M.S. degree in mechanical engineering from Stanford

University in 1985. Bostick's military education includes the U.S. Army Engineer School, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and the U.S. Army War College.

In 1978, Bostick was commissioned into the U.S. Army as a second lieutenant and was then assigned to the 54th Engineer Battalion in Wildflecken, Germany where he served in a variety of capacities until 1982. Upon returning to the United States, Bostick studied at the U.S. Army Engineer School and Stanford University before becoming an instructor of mechanical engineering at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1985. He was also a White House Fellow in 1989 and 1990, serving as a special assistant to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

In 1990, Bostick was assigned to the U.S. Army in Europe in Heidelberg, Germany, and then as an engineer operations staff officer in the First Armored Division in Baumholder and then again in Bad Kreuznach, Germany. He reported to Washington, D.C. in 1993 and served as the executive officer to the Chief of Engineers and then as battalion commander of the 1st Engineer Battalion. Bostick was deployed again from 1997 to 1999 and commanded the Engineer Brigade of the First Armored Division, which included participation in peacekeeping operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In 1999, he was assigned as executive officer to the Chief of Staff of the Army, and served on the Joint Staff during the events of September 11, 2001 in the National Military Command Center. Bostick then deployed to Iraq as assistant division commander, 1st Cavalry Division, before serving as the Commanding General of the Gulf Region Division during Operation Iraqi Freedom. He later served as the Commanding General of the U.S. Army Recruiting Command Center at Fort Knox, Kentucky; and, in 2010, was named director of personnel for the Army in the Pentagon. On May 22, 2012, Bostick became the 53rd U.S. Army Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, making

him only the second African American to serve in that position.

Bostick's military honors and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Bronze Star, the Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Combat Action Badge, the Parachutist badge, the Recruiter Badge, and the Ranger Tab. Bostick is also authorized to wear the Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge and the Army Staff Identification Badge.

Bostick and his wife, Renee Bostick, live in Washington, D.C. They have one son, Joshua.

Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on August 9, 2013.

## Related Entries

**Stanford University** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**M.S.**

**United States Military Academy** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Bachelor's**

**United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)**  
[EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 2002 to ?]

**53rd U.S. Army Chief of Engineers**

**United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)**  
[EMPLOYEEOF]

[from ? to ?]

## **Commanding General**

**United States Army** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1989 to ?]

## **Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1, Personnel**

**United States Army Recruiting Command** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from ? to ?]

## **Commanding General**

**United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)**

[EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1957 to 1959]

## **Director of Military Programs**

**Delete** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1973 to 1974]

## **Commander, Gulf Region Division**

**Operation Joint Forge, Bosnia-Herzegovina**

[EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1985 to 1989]

**Assistant Division Commander (Maneuver),  
Assistant Division Commander (Support)**

**1st Engineer Battalion, 1st Infantry Division  
(Mechanized).** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from ? to ?]

## **Commander**

**National Military Command Center, J-3, the Joint  
Staff in the Pentagon** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1976 to 1977]

## **Executive Officer to the Chief of Engineers**

**United States Military Academy** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1954 to 1956]

## **Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering**

