

# COLONEL RODNEY A. THACKER

## 65th Troop Command Brigade Commander, Illinois National Guard

Colonel Rodney A. Thacker assumed duties as the 65th Troop Command Brigade Commander in January 2016. His previous assignment was with the 244th Digital Liaison Detachment in Chicago. He concurrently serves as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations (G3/5/7), Illinois Army National Guard in Springfield, Illinois.

Colonel Thacker enlisted in the Illinois Army National Guard in 1982 and commissioned as an Infantry Officer in 1990 through the Illinois Army National Guard Officer Candidate School. Colonel Thacker's previous assignments include commander of Service Battery and Battery C, 3rd Battalion, 123rd Field Artillery; Commander, 2nd Squadron, 106th Cavalry Regiment; and the Director of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Colonel Thacker deployed to Afghanistan with the 33rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team in 2008 as an Embedded Training Team Mentor in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



Colonel Thacker's military education includes the Infantry Officer Basic Course, Field Artillery Officer Advance Course, Combined Arms Service and Staff School, Command and General Staff College, Homeland Security Planners Course and the Infantry Brigade and Battalion Commander's Course. He is currently enrolled in the U.S. Army War College. He has a bachelor's degree from Western Illinois University and received a master's degree in Business Administration from Trident University International in 2013.

Colonel Thacker's military awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (3 Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Commendation Medal (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), Army Achievement Medal (2 Oak Leaf Cluster), Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal (4 Oak Leaf Clusters), Humanitarian Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terror Service Medal, Afghan Campaign Medal, Combat Infantryman's Badge, Expert Infantryman's Badge and various other federal and state military service decorations, ribbons, and awards.

Colonel Thacker is a member of the National Guard Association of United States, National Guard Association of Illinois, National Infantry Association, United States Field Artillery Association, and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Originally from Sorento, Illinois, Colonel Thacker now resides in Chatham, Illinois with his wife April and his two youngest sons, Brayden and Dylan. His oldest son, Josh, resides in Collinsville with his daughter, Lily.

As of January 2016