



General Richard H. Thompson
29 June 1984 - 13 April 1987

Richard H. Thompson was born on 24 September 1926 in New York City, New York. He entered in the Army in November 1944 and advanced to the grade of staff sergeant before being commissioned a second lieutenant. He served first at Fort Hamilton and then was assigned to Japan, where he performed duties as the Army Exchange Officer at Kokura. He returned to the U.S. in March 1957 to take the Associate Infantry Company Officer Course at the U.S. Army Infantry School. Upon completion, he was assigned to Fort Chaffee, Arkansas. In the two years he was stationed there, General Thompson attained a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Social Science from the College of the Ozarks.

From September 1959 to May 1960, General Thompson attended the Quartermaster Officer Advanced Course at Fort Lee, Virginia, and from there was assigned to Korea, serving until August 1961 as S-4, 321st U.S. Army Security Agency Battalion at Camp Red Cloud. From Korea, he attended the U.S. Air Force Air University, Air Command and Staff College, and until August 1965 worked in multiple jobs as a staff officer in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics (DCSLOG). He enrolled at the George Washington University at that time and graduated with a Master's Degree in Public Administration in June 1968. Prior to the completion of his tour at the Department of the Army, he also went on temporary duty to the Army Logistics Management Center at Fort Lee in April 1965 and completed the Army Supply Management Course.

He then attended the Armed Forces Staff College. From there he was reassigned to Frankfurt, Germany, in October 1966, where he commanded the 503d Supply and Transport Battalion, 3d Armored Division. He remained in Germany until August 1967 when he returned to Washington to attend the National War College. He was then assigned as a logistics systems officer with the Assistant Vice Chief of Staff and then as Chief of the Tactical Support Systems Group.

In April 1970, General Thompson served as Commander of the U.S. Army Inventory Control Center in Vietnam. Returning from overseas, he was assigned as Commander of the Defense Logistics Service Center, Battle Creek, Michigan, until July 1973. From September 1972 to February 1973, he also served as Commander of the Defense Property Disposal Service, which he established and activated. In July 1973, he was reassigned to Headquarters, Department of the Army (HQDA) as Director of Logistics Plans, Operations and Systems, DCSLOG. In 1975, he became the Director of Supply and Maintenance, DCSLOG.

In July 1977, General Thompson became the first Commander of the U.S. Army Troop Support and Aviation Materiel Readiness Command, an organization formed by the merger of two AMC major subordinate commands – the Aviation Systems Command and the Troop Support Command.

In August 1980, he was reassigned to HQDA as Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics. One year later, General Thompson was promoted to lieutenant general and became the Army DCSLOG. On 29 June 1984, General Thompson received his fourth star and began his assignment as Commander of the U.S. Army Materiel Command, a position he held until his retirement on 1 May 1987.

Awards and decorations which General Thompson has received include the Distinguished Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Legion of Merit with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Bronze Star, the Joint Service Commendation Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, the Army Commendation Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, designation as an Army Logistician, the Brazilian Grand Master of the Order of Military Merit, the Spanish Grand Cross of the Order of Military Merit, and Korean Order of National Security Merit Tong-II Medal. He was inducted into the Quartermaster Hall of Fame in 1991.