



**BRIGADIER GENERAL (PROMOTABLE) L. NEIL THURGOOD**  
**UNITED STATES ARMY**  
**PROGRAM EXECUTIVE OFFICER, MISSILES AND SPACE**



Brigadier General L. Neil Thurgood, recently selected for promotion, is the Program Executive Officer, Missiles and Space, Redstone Arsenal, Alabama. He is responsible for the development, production, fielding, and life cycle management of the Army's missile and space related systems.

BG (P) Thurgood enlisted in the Army in April 1983 as a Private First Class. He received a commission in 1986 as a Distinguished Military Graduate in Army Aviation from the Reserve Officers' Training Corps. The general holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Management and Communication from the University of Utah, a Master's degree in Systems Management from the Naval Post-Graduate School, a Masters in Strategic Studies, a Doctorate in Strategic Business and Leadership, and several professional certificates.

BG (P) Thurgood began his commissioned service as a Platoon Leader in the 213th Combat Aviation Company, "Blackcats" at Camp Humphreys, Korea. In March 1989, he was transferred to the XVIII Airborne Corps – "Pachyderms" at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. While at Fort Bragg, he served as a Flight Platoon Leader, Company Operations Officer, and Battalion Training Officer (S-3). In 1992, the general was assigned to Fort Benning, Georgia where he completed the Infantry Officer Advanced Course. Upon completion, BG (P) Thurgood volunteered for an assignment with the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) "NightStalkers" at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. As a "NightStalker" he served as a Platoon Leader/Company Operations Officer and Company Commander. Later he completed an assignment in the Simulation, Training and Instrumentation Command where he served as Assistant Program Manager for Training Devices and Flight Simulation programs, supporting the simulation efforts of the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne). BG (P) Thurgood later served with the Army Personnel Command in Alexandria, Virginia and in several program offices in Program Executive Office Aviation, with his last assignment as the Project Manager for Utility Helicopters. He then served on the Secretariat staff as the Chief of Staff for the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology. Prior to becoming the Program Executive Officer, Missiles and Space he served as the Deputy Program Executive Officer, Missiles and Space.

BG (P) Thurgood's awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit (3 OLC), Meritorious Service Medal (4 OLC), Air Medal (3), and other Army commendation and achievement medals. He is a Senior Army Aviator, parachutist and graduate of the Air Assault and Pathfinder Courses.

BG (P) Thurgood is married to the former Shauna Smith. They have 2 children: Kirsten and Jessica; and two grandchildren.