

# Staff Sgt. Christopher Thompson

U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC)



**Assigned Unit:** XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg  
Noncommissioned Officer Academy

**Military Occupational Specialty:** Motor Transportation  
Operator (88M)

**Hometown:** Circleville, Ohio

**Year of Enlistment:** 2007

## **What were your job responsibilities while deployed?**

While deployed to Iraq, my company was attached to the Marine Corps in MNF-W and provided logistical support to them. In Afghanistan, I was deployed with 4th BCT, 82nd Airborne Division as a squad leader and operated in a convoy security element. We provided security to our logistical packages, while they provided logistics to the maneuver elements.

## **What is the most interesting thing about your time deployed that you want to share with the American People?**

I would ask the American people to have faith in the leadership of the country even when they do not fully understand the operations. I would also ask them to value the American lifestyle and freedom and realize that even though it is 2015, many countries do not share the very same entitlements. I would ask them to be proud in the achievements and accomplishments that the troops on ground in these theatres of operation are accomplishing or have accomplished. Lastly, I would tell them there exists no greater bond between people than the one formed with the soldiers to your left and right while deployed.

## **Do you have any family members who have served or are serving in the military?**

Both of my grandfathers and my step-grandfather all served in the military during Vietnam. My grandfather Roy Thompson was a helicopter pilot in the 82nd Airborne Division. My grandfather Jim Lupton and step-grandfather Art Johnson were both infantrymen during this time.

## **What military awards and achievements have you received or accomplished?**

I have many awards, which include but not limited to: Seven Army Commendation Medals, 10 Army Achievement Medals, and two Good Conduct Medals. I have four badges: the Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, and the Basic Instructor Badge. I am also Master Fitness Trainer qualified. I have won many boards/competitions to include my most recent victory at the TRADOC NCO of the Year. I have also graduated on the honors list at all levels of NCOES through Senior Leader Course.

**Why did you join the Army?**

I joined the Army for two reasons. First, I joined in order to support my future family and ensure their success in life well past my own. Secondly, I joined to be a part of something greater than I was, that would ensure the freedom in this country or in another.

**Why did you choose your MOS?**

Originally, I wanted to enlist as an Infantryman, which was not available at the time of my enlistment. The personnel at the station offered me 88M with a nice enlistment bonus and I could not refuse.

**What motivated you to compete in the DA level Best Warrior Competition?**

My motivation to compete comes from my internal drive to grow as a person, Soldier, but more importantly as a leader within the Army. Sure, people compete for recognition and accolades, which are nice, however, it is about setting the example and challenging yourself. As a leader, I cannot ask my Soldiers to push themselves to be great if I never stand in front of them and lead the way.

**If successful in accomplishing your goal as one of the Army's Best Warriors, what do you think your role would be in representing the Army?**

If selected with the honor of the winner in the NCO category, it will not be a role that I will take lightly. First, I will need to be the living and walking example of what it is to be a leader in our Army. Next and equally important my role will be to show the American people and all Soldiers that our Army is a professional and challenging organization that all should be proud of.

**Who is your professional mentor?**

I have had several mentors that have helped shape who I am today, Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Samuel Campbell, Sgt. 1st Class Randall Willis and Sgt. 1st. Class Dustin Springer.

**How did your mentor help you in your professional career?**

All of them have assisted me in their own unique ways or approach. Although they all had their own style it centered around how to be an effective leader outside of what is popular, as well as how to always be a professional with good character and ethics. Most importantly however, they all showed the example and led from the front.

**Who or what inspires you?**

To list everyone and all that inspires me would be entirely too lengthy. If I had to pick the most important things that inspire me it would be my wife, children, mother and father. They all in their own way give me inspiration to be better than what I am. I want to be great for them or because of them.

**What are your military career goals for the future?**

My number one career goal moving forward and will remain constant until I retire is to be the best NCO I can to the Soldiers or civilians that will follow me. I would love nothing more than for my Soldiers to pass me up and have a more rewarding career than I ever had myself. Outside of that constant goal, I would just like to be promoted to sergeant first class and continue serving in positions of increased responsibility.

**What was the biggest challenge along the way to get to this level of competition?**

My biggest challenge was balancing the expectations of training for this, maintaining my current duty position and placing my family as a top priority.

**Who is your Sponsor? How did they help prepare you for this level of competition?**

Sgt. 1st Class Dustin Springer is my sponsor. He has been instrumental in my success thus far in these competitions. He has sacrificed hours of his work and personal time in order to ensure I was prepared for the task. He has provided mentorship in areas I need it, and resourced any outside training or aids I may need to be successful. During the competitions, there is the obvious assistance he provides just based on his presence away from his family

**What will be the most challenging event for you? Why?**

I am not sure any one event will be more challenging than the others being they all are going to be tough. If I had to choose I would say the warrior tasks because I am serving in an institution where this type of training is not an everyday task, so in order to train I have to be a little more resourceful. In addition, I am afraid of heights so possibly the obstacle course as well.

**What do you think will be your best/favorite event? Why?**

I am confident in my physical fitness and abilities, so anything that is challenging physically I hope to do well at. They will also be my favorite.

**What are some significant facts about you that are not known by others; i.e. interesting stories, unique hobbies or accomplishments?**

I am an obsessive Ohio State Buckeye college football fan!

**What are your hobbies/special interests?**

My hobbies are bodybuilding/fitness, fishing, hunting, and spending time with Family.