



BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

CMSGT RICARDO THURSTON SR.

CMSgt Ricardo Thurston Sr. is a native of Philadelphia, PA. He enlisted into the United States Air Force in August 1971 and separated in September 1975. He then enlisted into the New Jersey Air National Guard in May 1976 and retired from the New Jersey Air National Guard in December 2004. As a career Air Force Enlisted member, Chief Thurston has served in numerous roles including Administrative Specialist, Personnel Specialist, Administrative Superintendent, First Sergeant, Wing Human Resource Advisor for the 108th Air Refueling Wing and State Human Resource Advisor for the New Jersey Air National Guard.

CMSgt Thurston is married to the former Roselynn Morrison of Burlington, NJ. They have three children, Kawanza, Najaah, and Ricardo Jr.

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

CMSgt Thurston's military decorations include Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal with one bronze oak leaf cluster, Air Force Organizational Excellence Award, Air Force Good Conduct Medal with one bronze oak leaf cluster, Air Reserve Forces Merit Service Medal with one silver and three bronze oak leaf clusters, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Air Force Overseas Ribbon – Short Tour, Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon with one silver and one bronze oak leaf clusters, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with silver hourglass, Air Force NCO Professional Military Education Graduate Ribbon with one bronze oak leaf cluster, Air Force Training Ribbon, New Jersey National Guard Commendation Medal, New Jersey National Guard Medal of Honor, New Jersey National Guard Merit Award and New Jersey National Guard Desert Storm Ribbon.

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS:

- 1985 108th Information System Flight Enlisted Person of the Year
- 1988 108th Communications Flight Enlisted Person of the Year
- 1990 Air National Guard Noncommissioned Officer (NCO) Academy Commandant's Award
- 1994 Enlisted Association of the National Guard of New Jersey's Outstanding First Sergeant Award

EDUCATION:

- 1979 Command Noncommissioned Officer Academy Program (Correspondence)
- 1990 Air National Guard Noncommissioned Officer Academy Program (In-Resident)
- 1990 Associate's Degree in Applied Science Administrative Management, Community College of the Air Force
- 1992 Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy Program (Correspondence)
- 1994 United States Air Force First Sergeant Academy
- 1999 Air Force Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy (In-Resident) Course
- 2003 Chief Master Sergeant's Executive Seminar
- 2004 Air National Guard Mentoring Process Coordinator Training
- 2006 Bachelor of Science Degree in Technical Management

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. **August 1971 – September 1971, 324th Squadron Basic Military Training, Lackland Air Force Base San Antonio, Texas**
2. **September 1971 – November 1971, 337th Air Training Squadron Keesler Air Force Base Biloxi, Mississippi**
3. **November 1971 – August 1973, 438th Civil Engineering Squadron, McGuire Air Force Base, New Jersey**
4. **August 1973 – August 1974, 108th Organizational Maintenance Squadron, Ubon Thailand**
5. **August 1974 – September 1975, 379th Supply Squadron Wurtsmith Air Force Base Oscoda, Michigan**
6. **May 1976 – December 1980, 108th Consolidations Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, New Jersey Air National Guard, McGuire Air Force Base, New Jersey**
7. **December 1980 – August 1990, 108th Communications Flight, New Jersey Air National Guard, McGuire Air Force Base, New Jersey**
8. **August 1990 – February 1998, 108th Tactical Fighter Wing, New Jersey Air National Guard, McGuire Air Force Base, New Jersey**
9. **February 1998 – March 2000, 108th Air Refueling Wing, New Jersey Air National Guard, McGuire Air Force Base, New Jersey**
10. **March 2000 – December 2004, Headquarters New Jersey Air National Guard Fort Dix, New Jersey**

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTIONS:

- Airman – September 1971
- Airman First Class – March 1972
- Sergeant – August 1973
- Staff Sergeant – December 1976
- Technical Sergeant – December 1980
- Master Sergeant – September 1990
- Senior Master Sergeant – February 1998
- Chief Master Sergeant – July 2000