



Colonel John C. Thomson joined The Institute of World Politics as a senior military fellow in July 2008. An outstandingly experienced officer, he has served in Europe, Southwest Asia, and throughout the United States since being commissioned in the United States Army as a field artillery officer in 1986. His numerous worldwide deployments include combat tours as part of Operation Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Colonel Thomson has led soldiers at the platoon, company, and battalion levels. His initial assignments were as cannon platoon leader and as support platoon leader in the 3rd Infantry Division in Kitzingen, Germany from 1987 to 1989, and then later as field artillery cannon battery commander in the 1st Armored Division in Baumholder, Germany from 1993 to 1994. As a tactical officer at West Point from 1995 to 1997 he was responsible for the moral, ethical, and military development of cadets at the United States Military Academy. From 2003 to 2005, Colonel Thomson commanded a Multiple Launch Rocket System battalion at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

Colonel Thomson's staff assignments include multiple operations and logistics positions with the 3rd Infantry Division, the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, and the 1st Armored Division in Germany between 1987 and 1993. While at Fort Hood, Texas from 1998 to 2003, he served as division plans officer, operations officer, and then executive officer of the 4th Infantry Division Artillery Brigade. His final assignment there was deputy chief of staff of the 4th Infantry Division. From 2005 to 2007, Colonel Thomson served in the office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, working closely with the U.S. Department of State on interagency and national security affairs. In his most recent assignment, Colonel Thomson was in Baghdad serving as executive officer to the Commanding General of Multi-National Corps – Iraq.

Colonel Thomson's numerous awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Joint Staff Identification Badge, German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge (Gold), Parachutist Badge, and Ranger Tab. In 1986 he earned a B.S. degree from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, followed by an M.S. degree from Long Island University in 1995. He is also a graduate of the German Army's Tactical Warfighting Course, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and the Joint and Combined Warfighting School of the Joint Forces Staff College.