



U.S. ARMY SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

U.S. ARMY SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
FORT BRAGG, NC 28310 / (910) 432-6005 / <http://www.soc.mil>

STAFF SGT. MATTHEW VAIL THOMPSON **1st Special Forces Group (Airborne)**

Staff Sgt. Matthew V. Thompson, 28, was killed in action, Aug. 23, 2016, from an improvised explosive device in Helmand Province, Afghanistan while deployed in support of Operation Resolute Support.

Thompson was born, June 22, 1988, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He graduated as an honor student from Brookfield Central High School in 2006. He attended Concordia University, Irvine, California, where he was a competitive swimmer and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theological Studies. After graduation, he traveled to East Africa and helped start a non-profit organization for homeless boys in Nairobi, Kenya.

He enlisted in the Army in March 2011. Upon completion of Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training, he immediately attended Airborne School at Fort Benning, Georgia. He then attended the Special Forces Assessment and Selection course at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and the Special Forces Qualification Course. He graduated as a Special Forces medical sergeant. In August 2014, he was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne) at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington.

He deployed in support of Operation Inherent Resolve in December 2014. He deployed with his team a second time to Afghanistan on June, 15, 2016.

His military education includes the Special Forces Qualification Course, the Special Operations Combat Medic Course, the Survival Evasion Resistance and Escape Course, the Basic Leader Course, the Advanced Leader Course, Basic Airborne Course, Combat Lifesaver Course, and Combatives Level 1.

His awards and decorations include the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the NATO Medal.

He was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star with Valor device, the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Combat Infantryman Badge.

