

## James Thomas

Effective September 1, 2023, Company "F" Major James Thomas will be promoted to Chief, Training Operations Division.

As chief of the Training Operations Division, James Thomas will be responsible for the recruiting and training for the entire department. Thomas began his career with DPS in 2001. He spent his first nine years with the Texas Highway Patrol and in 2011, joined the Texas Rangers Company "A" Special Response Team. Thomas later promoted to special agent with the DPS Criminal Investigations Division in Houston, where he served in the Gang Section and the Texas Anti-Gang Center. In 2013, Thomas received an appointment as a Special Deputy United States Marshal with the United States Marshals Service Gulf Coast Violent Offenders and Fugitive Task Force. In May 2015, he was promoted to Texas Ranger and served in numerous companies before promoting to the rank of administrative captain to serve at Ranger HQ.

In 2021, DPS Colonel Steven McCraw appointed Thomas to the rank of major and placed him on the Director's Staff. Later that year, Colonel McCraw created a DPS Fellowship Program with the Office of the Governor (OOG) and Thomas became the first DPS Fellow to OOG. In that role, he was responsible for the Texas Border Infrastructure Program and Operation Lone Star. In August 2022, Thomas became the Company "F" commander for the Texas Rangers where he served until this promotion.

Thomas is the recipient of the Department of the Army's Public Service Commendation Medal and DPS' Adolph Thomas Distinguished Service Award.

He holds a doctoral degree in educational leadership from Lamar University in Beaumont and a master's degree in behavioral science from the University of Houston - Clear Lake, a graduate certificate in criminal justice education from the University of Virginia and a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Lamar University. Thomas has also completed the DPS Leadership Develop School, first-line supervisor training, the FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Association (LEEDA) trilogy and is a graduate and class spokesperson for the 285th Session of the FBI National Academy.

