



OHIO ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE, INC.

Advisory Services

**Chief Richard D. Thomas, CLEE
Assessor**

Richard D. Thomas recently retired as the Chief for Police of the City of North Ridgeville after nearly 32 years of service. At the time of his retirement the department was staffed with 40 sworn officers and served a population of approximately 29,000. Prior to joining the police department he served in the United States Army with the 101st Airborne Division as an infantryman for two years and a second enlistment for four years as a military policeman, serving at posts in the United States and Europe.

During his career Chief Thomas progressed through every rank in the department, enjoying assignments along the way as a Field Training Officer, Patrol Supervisor, Shift Commander, Instructor, Hostage Negotiator, SWAT team commander, Detective, Computer Voice Stress Analysis Examiner, as well as the Operations Division and Services Division Commander. He was a founding member of the Lorain County Drug Task Force and also served on the county's Anti-Terrorism task Force.

Chief Thomas earned his bachelor's degree in management (summa cum laude) from Myers College and was formerly an adjunct faculty member in the Criminal Justice program at Lorain County Community College. He is a state certified multi subject police instructor and teaches part-time at the college's police academy and continues to serve on the college's Criminal Justice Advisory Committee. Chief Thomas is a graduate of the FBI National Academy, the Police Executive Leadership College and is a Certified Law Enforcement Executive (CLEE).

The Chief is a member of the Lorain County Chief's Association and previously served four consecutive years as the president of that organization. He is a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, the Metropolitan Crime Clinic, the FBI National Academy Associates and Kids First.

Chief Thomas and his wife, Debbie, a Registered Nurse at a Cleveland hospital, have been married for 38 years. He was appointed as an assessor for the OACP in 2010.

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"OACP recommends that biographical information regarding Assessment Team members be provided by the Client to the candidates in advance of the date of the Assessment Center to offer them an opportunity to identify any potential conflicts of interest. It is also recommended that the bios be provided to candidates as far in advance as possible, but at least 14 days prior to the Assessment Center."