



Photo taken of all of the Mississippi JAG officers in Iraq the one time they were all located at the same base. Pictured from left to right: Capt. Bill Dreher III, Lt. Col. Roy Carpenter, Jr., Capt. Joel Jones, Lt. Col. Leslie Southwick, Lt. Col. Gene Hortman, and Capt. Mark Majors. This photo was taken July 2005 at FOB Kalsu, which was the location for 155th Brigade Combat Team Headquarters. The sign that is second from the bottom to the right of the picture gives mileage and directions to Starkville, Mississippi.

BOMBS AND BRIEFCASES:

Mississippi Lawyers Who Serve in the Military Know the Real Meaning of Hazardous Work Conditions

By Rick A. Hammond

The next time Starkville attorney Roy Carpenter is embroiled in a petty discovery dispute that is being treated by opposing counsel like the fate of the world hinges on its resolution, Carpenter will have to struggle to keep from smiling to himself. After 18 months of active duty recently as a JAG Officer in the Army National Guard that included all of 2005 in Iraq, Carpenter knows not to sweat the small stuff anymore.

“There are a lot of things [in private practice] that people get worked up about, but no one died. That’s what you tell yourself: No one died today [in private practice]. This is not life and death,” said Carpenter, who has been in the Army National Guard for 22 years and also was previously activated for Desert Storm in the early 1990s but did not have to go overseas for that activation. “What we were doing over there was life and death.”

For Carpenter and other JAG officers who serve in the Mississippi Army National Guard and Air National Guard, “over there” is an entirely different environment for practicing law than what most Mississippi lawyers encounter each day. Attorneys in private practice don’t worry about terrorists breaching the perimeter of their workplace. Attorneys at the Court of Appeals don’t wear helmets and carry firearms to the courtroom. And, contrary to the casual language of lawyers who refer to litigation as “war,” what most Mississippi attorneys face in daily law practice is not war — nor is a mistake in their legal research typically a matter of life and death.

Going to War

In the new millennium, JAG officers in the National Guard face a new reality: the possibility of being called to active duty more frequently, and the possibility of leaving their law practice in Mississippi and going to war.

Capt. Mark Majors, now the full-time Joint Judge Advocate at Joint Force Headquarters for the Mississippi National Guard in Jackson, has been deployed overseas twice since 2001. He commented, “I don’t think prior to 2001 any Mississippi National Guard JAG Officer had ever gone to war with the Guard.” Ironically, Majors’ first deployment was to Bosnia in 2001 and his first day on the job in Bosnia was September 11, 2001. “A crazy first day,” he said.

For other Mississippi JAG officers, Iraq was their first taste of overseas deployment. “Most of us will always remember that Mother’s Day weekend,” said Mississippi Court of Appeals Judge Leslie Southwick, a lieutenant colonel and JAG

officer with the 155th Brigade Combat Team. “Saturday, May 8 [2004] we got that call. I’ll never forget that date.”

This was the first time that Southwick, who joined the Army Reserves as a JAG officer in 1992 and switched to the Army National Guard in 1997, had been called up for active duty. He spent August 2004 to January 2005 training stateside at various military bases, then spent January 2005 to January 2006 in Iraq. As a JAG officer, Southwick found that his duties differed vastly from what he did in his “regular life” as an appellate judge.

He likened a JAG officer to a “city attorney. There are criminal matters and prosecutions, but you’re also advising commanders on a wide variety of matters. The Army is heavily controlled by regulations, thousands of regulations. A JAG officer is called upon to interpret them, even though it may not be a regulation that is something typically handled by the JAG.”

For example, Southwick explained, a JAG officer might be asked to review procedures for interrogating detainees. “This is a very specialized area and a very high profile area if not handled properly,” he said. “The most unique experience was working with local citizens. We handled claims of the citizens. We also worked with the local judiciary to improve the infrastructure.”

Continued on next page

“Over there” is an entirely different environment for practicing law than what most Mississippi lawyers encounter each day.”



This is the view through the concertina wire of the area in front of the courthouse in Karbala next to a military JAG outpost at the Karbala provincial counsel’s and governor’s offices. This was a very busy area, everyday. The little “hotdog” looking stands with the umbrellas are Iraqi attorneys providing legal services. Some were specialists in contracts, others in deeds, etc. The concertina wire is atop blast barriers called Hesco Barriers which helped provide security for the governor and provincial counsel while in their offices and for U.S. military personnel while there on duty.

BOMBS AND BRIEFCASES: Mississippi Lawyers Who Serve in the

Carpenter and Southwick both noted that the terminology of the Iraqi criminal justice system would not be that foreign to an American attorney, but the difference was that the principles and rights contained in the Iraqi law books were just words collecting dust on paper.

"Iraq had always had good laws and good procedures, but it was all just words," Southwick said. "It was very exciting to put that into use. It was just there. The words were there, the Constitution was there, but it had never been used."

Carpenter, who serves as Oktibbeha

County Prosecutor when not wearing camouflage, echoed Southwick's observations. JAG officers in Iraq assisted in re-establishing an Iraqi court system. "It was a good system – right to remain silent, things you'd recognize – but it hadn't been used. We met with lawyers in Iraq, we met with governors, discussed Constitutional issues," Carpenter recalled. "I mean, how many people get to set up a democracy? Gosh, we did a lot of good work over there."

Carpenter found that his duties took him outside the realm of his prior legal experience. "Intelligence law was some-

thing we needed to give advice on and that's not something you normally would do. People would come in and ask us if they could do something" such as conduct certain types of surveillance or detain individuals. "Appropriations law – how do we go about spending money when the military needed something over there? The international law of war was something we needed to know. The Geneva Convention was in effect. There were just so many facets of the law that you don't regularly deal with. You'd get thrown into things you knew nothing about."

The JAG officers who deployed overseas agreed that the situation was surreal.

"In Iraq, all of the email and telephone communications would shut down if someone died so word wouldn't get back" before the family was notified, Majors explained. Soldiers would go to check email and find that the system was down, which always jarred the psyche and reminded them that they were in a situation where death was a possibility.

"When you'd lose email it was like, 'Oh man, who did we lose?'," Carpenter recalled. "It put a damper on the rest of the day. It was easier to be over there than to be back here not knowing what was going on [when communications were suspended]."

Carpenter was stationed for a period of time at Kalsu. "Kalsu was a blackout base. If the lights came on, the mortar shells came so everything was totally dark when you left the office at 10 p.m." He likened the situation to "living in jail because you don't go out the gate. If we had to go [outside the perimeter] you took 20 people because [each JAG officer] would have 4-5 bodyguards. And in addition to your briefcase you had your handgun and your rifle."

At Kalsu, JAG officers lived in tents and worked in plywood buildings. Later, when Carpenter was stationed at Forward Operating Base Duke, which was in a remote location in the desert, the JAG officers lived in "cans" – eight-foot by 20-foot metal trailers containing a bed, air conditioner and locker; there was no indoor plumbing.

Carpenter recalled an occasion when he and Gene Hortman, a Laurel attorney and JAG Officer who has served in the Army National Guard for 20 years, both were stationed at Duke. "You'd get stir crazy so you'd go out on ASPs – ammunition supply patrols – where you go out and check the perimeter," he explained. "We're out there once and we see a truck

For cross-examiners who don't know it all . . . but want to!

How to Take a Killer ADVERSE Deposition & How to Take a Killer EXPERT Deposition

featuring Robert Musante,
the country's foremost teacher of deposition
skills and trial tactics.



Thursday, June 22 & Friday, June 23, 2006, respectively.
The Old Capitol Inn in Jackson, Mississippi

*For more information or to register, contact UM-CLE at (662)
915-7283.*

Even the very best cross-examiners from the very best law firms – all across this country – routinely take no better than mediocre adverse depositions ... and they never will until they recognize that deposition cross-examination is a **discipline** that demands its practitioners study the discipline's core principles and master the panoply of **RULES** that logically flow from those principles.

Robert Musante

Robert Musante is the country's foremost teacher of deposition skills and trial tactics. As a lecturer of trial advocacy at the University of California, Boalt Hall, from 1984 to 1999, and as the creator of these two seminars, he has taught over 15,000 lawyers in 29 states and 11 offices of state attorneys general, the art of taking **KILLER!** depositions. Musante is a former prosecutor, an accomplished civil trial attorney, and has made numerous appearances on national TV and local radio as a trial commentator.

w w w . o u t r e a c h . o l e m i s s . e d u

Military Know the Real Meaning of Hazardous Work Conditions



Lt. Col. Roy Carpenter, Jr. processes a damages claim for local nationals on weekly claims day at the base.

and so you've got to stop it and check it to make sure they don't have a bomb or anything. We're all there checking this truck and we're locked and loaded. I told Gene, 'Man, what are we doing out here?' I'll be 49 in August and Gene's 51 – what are we doing out here?'

However, there were good memories as well.

"At night it would cool off and the desert would just be gorgeous," Carpenter recalled. "We had set up a fire pit to burn confidential documents and everyone would come out of their hooches and sit around for hours at night."

Carpenter also recalled the positive feeling of "helping to establish the government" and meeting with the State Department, British lawyers, Iraqi lawyers, Polish lawyers and a mishmash of other state agencies such as the FBI and CIA. Carpenter attended these meetings every couple of months at Al Faw Palace at Camp Victory in Baghdad. The ostentatious palace had three-story tall brass doors and was surrounded by a moat. He chuckled when he recalled the huge, ornate ballrooms sectioned off by plywood and sandbags everywhere.

Hortman added, "The comradeship is a lasting memory. You meet some of the finest people and the most interesting people you'll ever meet. And the friendships you make in the military are friendships for life because of what you go through together."

A Changing of the JAG Guard

Hortman has seen the role of the JAG officer change during his 20 years in the

Guard. "One of the big changes is the involvement in operational law," he said.

Hortman recalled that in his early days in the Guard, the focus was on the individual soldier — preparing wills, handling criminal matters and conducting investigations. "Nowadays, when the commander is considering different courses of action he'll

consult the JAG officer. He'll ask questions about rules of engagement. We try to be sensitive to the culture of the country where we are operating. We try to avoid bombing hospitals, or mosques, or locations of cultural or historical significance. [The commander] will ask whether he can arrest a person, whether there is enough evidence to keep a person in custody."

Carpenter agreed that the role of the JAG officer has changed through the years. "A commander is just like any other CEO. He's not going to make a decision without checking with the lawyer." In addition, JAG officers typically did not have each other around for help in Iraq because, unlike prior deployments when the JAG officers all would be stationed together, they were assigned to different locations in Iraq. "It's amazing what the JAG Corps does over there now. One lawyer would have to handle the whole command. They were split up in all different places."

Hortman celebrated his 20th anniversary with the Guard in Iraq. While on active duty, he spent most of his time handling claims by local nationals. If an Iraqi

Continued on next page

Tasteful & Cozy.
So you'll feel right at home.

A little comfort can go a long way. And here at The Inn at Ole Miss, we've raised comfort to a new level. A classic destination for travelers through North Mississippi, The Inn is the well-appointed choice for an overnight stay or a weekend retreat.

Not only are our amenities designed to meet your exacting standards, but so are our well-planned meeting facilities. And it's all nestled in the heart of Oxford, the small town that's been a home away from home for visitors for decades.

GUESTS OF THE INN CAN ENJOY:

- Swimming pool
- High-speed Internet access
- Individual climate controls in each room
- Same-day valet laundry service
- Voice mail
- Full-size ironing boards and irons
- Hairdryers
- Coffeemakers
- Free continental breakfast (7-9 a.m.) daily
- Auditorium, conference facilities and meeting rooms with multimedia support
- Golf, tennis and off-site workout facility

When you're coming to town, give us a call. Whether you're here on business or pleasure, you'll find an unparalleled welcome. And enough smiles to keep you coming back. We'll see you then.

The Inn
AT OLE MISS
The Only Five-Star Hotel in the South

P: 662.234.2321 F: 662.234.3437 1.888.4.U.M.ROOM
ALUMNI DRIVE UNIVERSITY, MS 38677 WWW.THEINNATOLEMISS.COM

BOMBS AND BRIEFCASES: Mississippi Lawyers Who Serve in the



The United States, Mississippi and Arkansas flags fly in the background behind Gene Hortman, Judge Leslie Southwick and Roy Carpenter at FOB Duke outside Najaf in front of their offices in December 2005.

civilian had been wounded or lost a loved one, or suffered property damage in a vehicle accident, or collateral damage in an operation, he would file a claim with the military that was processed by JAG officers like Hortman. "They'd come in every Thursday at our base and we'd see 30 to 35 people each week," Hortman said. "We'd use interpreters and fill in the claims forms, then once a month we would evaluate the claims to determine which had merit and the value of these claims. We'd determine what we'd pay and then we would order the money and the Marines would come in with a box of money and we'd pay claims. It was a very popular program. The people were very gracious."

A Different Perspective

Attorney Allen McDaniel had a different experience in Iraq: two months after receiving his bar examination results and beginning his law career as an associate at Page, Kruger and Holland, McDaniel was activated. However, McDaniel deployed as an Engineering Officer, not as a JAG Officer, with the 150th Combat Engineer Battalion based in Meridian. His primary duty was to

JAG Officers Did Their Part in the

While many of the state's National Guard units and JAG officers were deployed in Iraq, tragedy struck closer to home when Hurricane Katrina tore a destructive path through Mississippi. Overseas deployments often generate more publicity for the Guard, but what is sometimes overlooked is that JAG officers and Guard units that were not deployed to Iraq answered the call of duty here in Mississippi throughout the Fall of 2005 and into 2006. And unlike Guard activations for overseas deployments, activations for Hurricane Katrina came with no warning.

"I was at lunch on Monday [the day Katrina struck] and I got a call that said, 'Be here at 5 p.m.,'" recalled Rhea Tannehill, a partner in the two-lawyer office of Tannehill and Carmean in Oxford and a Captain in the Army National Guard. "I had to dump a major hearing on my partner to handle that was scheduled the next day. There was no time to prepare for this."

The waning days of August 2005 were uncertain, scary days for residents in South Mississippi, and Tannehill and other JAG officers activated in Mississippi also experienced that atmosphere.

"It was a very scary experience and it's only by God's grace that I made it,"

Tannehill said. "You're scared at first because you don't know what's going to happen. You don't know if there will be water [where you're going]. There was no electricity. Plus, you didn't know if you'd be gone two weeks or eight weeks."

Barney Robinson, a partner at Butler Snow in Jackson and a member of the Army National Guard since 1988, also was activated on August 29 when Katrina struck. Robinson spent his active duty at his home base — Joint Force Headquarters in Jackson. The Joint Judge Advocate for the Mississippi National Guard, Lt. Col. Eddie Pearson, had recently retired, and a successor had not yet been named. Robinson filled the position on a temporary basis. Eventually, Capt. Mark Majors, a Louisville attorney who was on active duty in Iraq at the time, returned stateside in January 2006 and was offered the position.

"What I did was very different from what was being done out in the field. We were on a macro level. What they do in the field is on a micro level," explained Robinson, who added that since he is based at Joint Force Headquarters in Jackson he has never been deployed overseas: "Just like you wouldn't call up the Pentagon to deploy overseas."

Robinson explained that each of the 48

contiguous states is part of an Emergency Management Assistance Compact. The compact is used by states to send requests for assistance to other states in times of emergency, including requests for food, medical services and military assistance. "It's basically an interstate mutual aid compact," Robinson said. "In the early days of Katrina, [Mississippi] sent out an unprecedented number of requests for assistance. We communicated with MEMA [Mississippi Emergency Management Agency]. We had thousands of National Guard troops from other states here."

Robinson said that the JAG office prepared Memos of Understanding (MOUs) to be used between the governors of the states that laid out what was being provided, who had command power of the troops in Mississippi, whether the troops would be armed, what rules of force applied, what immunities and privileges applied to the soldiers, and similar issues. Robinson and other JAG officers prepared MOUs for every state that had troops in Mississippi after Katrina, and they conferred with Governor Barbour's legal staff on issues regarding civilian-military contacts and other issues such as using private property for military staging, requisition of supplies from private sources, and

Military Know the Real Meaning of Hazardous Work Conditions

coordinate the “build up” of a “desolate” base that had been used intermittently by the Army and the Marines, but also had been stripped clean in between uses by the locals and was in disarray. McDaniel worked with contractors and locals to procure necessities and developed the “task order” for the region that would dictate what was needed to return the base to an acceptable condition.

McDaniel’s eyes were opened to the danger around him quickly. “Our base in Iraq was in a barren area with little comforts,” he wrote in a deployment summary. “However, that became moot after we lost a soldier on the first day patrolling. I don’t know if anyone could have really known where we were and what danger resided so close until that moment. When I heard about it I got the same feeling that you get when you top a hill pushing 70 in a 55 and see a highway patrolman flip his blue light.

Tragically, that wouldn’t be our last loss.”

McDaniel also recalled working with a local contractor who sent two project managers to do a job for the military via different convoys so that if one was killed, the odds were still good that the other manager would arrive to do the job needed by McDaniel.

While in Iraq, McDaniel waited anxiously for news from home. He left a wife and two-week-old son behind in Mississippi when he was deployed, and McDaniel watched his son grow up via DVDs sent dutifully by his wife every two weeks. “With a spouse you may not see day-to-day changes, but with a child ... man,” he marveled. “I watched him grow up like that.”

Back home, McDaniel’s firm treated his wife like family even though he had been employed only a couple of months when he was activated. “Tommy Page is

a reserve JAG officer and he understood. The firm did more than they had to do. They invited my wife to the Christmas party even though I wasn’t there. That meant a lot.”

The following Christmas, McDaniel was able to surprise friends and family when he arrived home unannounced on Christmas Eve. “My transition back to civilian practice was more difficult than I anticipated. I am frustrated by how much I had forgotten,” he wrote in his deployment summary. “However, slowly I am adjusting and quickly putting my Iraq experience further in my memory.”

When McDaniel returned from Iraq, he was approved for a new commission. If deployed again, he’ll go in his new role with the Guard: as a JAG officer.

Continued on next page

Aftermath of Hurricane Katrina

By Rick A. Hammond

claims processing. Robinson was on full-time active duty from August 30 to October 15, then he remained on duty on a part-time basis – typically a couple days each week – from October 16, 2005, to February 15, 2006.

Tannehill spent his first week of active duty at Camp Shelby in Hattiesburg. His unit convoyed down from Grenada on a northbound lane of Highway 49 because it was the only lane of Highway 49 open that day heading in either direction. Tannehill’s unit, the 631st Field Artillery Brigade stationed in Grenada, helped to coordinate the Guard units arriving at Camp Shelby from outside Mississippi that first week after Katrina struck, then the 631st headed south to Waveland for 10 days to do whatever was needed on the Coast – handing out provisions, providing security, and conducting search and rescue. The 631st then returned to Camp Shelby and assisted with coordinating military assignments and deployments from Camp Shelby to the Coast. Tannehill was on active duty for seven weeks.

He found that hazards on site were only heightened by the uncertainty of what was happening back at his law office in Oxford that he had left so quickly. “I was worrying about making payroll [for the firm]. I lost some clients as a result of all

this. My office had to just handle things the best they could. There was no cell phone access that first week. That second week, we got cell phone access.”

Tannehill said that the second week of his activation he was able to broker a favorable settlement in a case. “That one settlement kept us floating on through my duty. I was really appreciative for that settlement,” Tannehill said with relief at the memory.

Despite the hardships and tense moments, Tannehill is proud of his service. “You know what the possibilities are going in. I’m happy to serve,” said Tannehill, who has been in the Guard for 14 years. He did not start his military career as a JAG officer – his military tenure pre-dates law school for Tannehill. However, once in law school Tannehill found that he dispensed lots of legal advice on his weekend training exercises, and he received a commission as a JAG officer in 1996, the same year that he graduated from the University of Mississippi School of Law.

Tannehill fully expects that he will be activated again in the future. “My law partner, Jay Carmean, has already said that if I ever went on active duty again we’d lock the doors and he was going to move to Hawaii until I came back,” Tannehill said.

Tannehill is married with three children, so the deployments won’t get any easier, but he relishes doing his duty. “This was an eye-opener for us. It used to be that [JAG officers] just wrote wills and things like that. Now we live in a much different time. Now you’re going to be deployed at some point.”

Lt. Col. Roy Carpenter, an attorney in Starkville who watched the aftermath of Katrina while deployed half a world away in an Iraqi desert, knows that hurricane deployments are likely in his future as well. “I’m sure hurricane duty is something I’ll be doing now,” he said just months after returning from Iraq. “Rules of force, dealing with civilians, how we use martial law and when it is appropriate to use martial law. These are all things that come up when a hurricane strikes.”

When and if hurricanes strike this year, the Mississippi Army National Guard – including its JAG officers – will be ready.

Rick A. Hammond is in his second term as Editor of The Mississippi Lawyer magazine. He is the senior resident shareholder in the Jackson office of The Kullman Firm

Toxicology/Pharmacology Dr. James C. Norris Ph.D., D.A.B.T., EU Registered

Chemicals Inhalation
Combustion/Fire Pesticides
General Toxicology Pharmaceuticals



866 526 6774 Tollfree
norristoxicl@earthlink.net

Everyone has a story to tell...



Doug and Martha Jumper

Martha and Doug Jumper were high school sweethearts. After 55 years of marriage, they are still in love. That's one reason why Doug chose Pinnacle Trust. Not only is Pinnacle Trust there for both of them now, they will be there for Martha if Doug can't.

Everyone has a story to tell. We'd like to hear your story, too. We want to make sure your wealth is working for you to get the most out of life and enrich the lives of everyone in your family. It only takes 20 minutes of your time. Call today and tell us your story.


PINNACLE TRUST
Wealth Management
Balancing Life and Wealth

713 S. Pear Orchard Rd. • Suite 205
Ridgeland, MS 39157
(601) 957-0323 • Toll Free 888-878-7819
www.pinntrust.com

Taking the Road Less Traveled

Majors is now the full-time State JAG Officer, but he did not begin his law career expecting to spend his days in camouflage. The law profession is in his blood – three cousins, his younger brother and his uncle all are lawyers – but his blood has a tint of olive drab in it, too.

“I joined the Guard because I was at a firm in Alabama in 1998 and one of the paralegals was an NCO paralegal in the Guard, too,” said Majors, who grew up a “military brat” with a father who was a career Army pilot. “She encouraged me to sign up and in September 1998 I got my commission. With my wife, the one condition to joining was that I never mobilize. Normally, the JAG would help to get a unit ready to mobilize, but they didn’t actually go overseas.”



Capt. Mark Majors and his full-time interpreter while in Iraq, Hassan Saed. Majors found that using a variety of interpreters was difficult in his work because each interpreter spelled the names of witnesses and local nationals differently, and JAG officers had difficulty developing a level of trust in an interpreter when they changed frequently. As a result, Majors got approval to have one interpreter assigned to him throughout his tenure in Iraq and found this arrangement more efficient. Saed was an interpreter for the Iraqi Air force prior to the U.S. operations in Iraq.

That changed for Majors in 2001 with his deployment to Bosnia. Majors had moved to his wife’s hometown of Louisville, Mississippi, in December 1999 and he had a solo practice and also served as a part-time public defender. The Bosnia deployment suspended his solo practice and he referred his cases to another attorney who shared office space with him.



Military Know the Real Meaning of Hazardous Work Conditions

While in Bosnia, Majors handled what he termed “operational work”: rules of engagement, ensuring that military actions taken complied with the law of order, monitoring the practice of proportional response. Majors also was involved in collecting weapons, inspecting local armies and their provisions, and interacting with local judges to convey the military’s preferences in local judicial matters. “For example, if local nationals attacked civilians, or there was genocide, or terrorist prosecutions, I interacted with the local judges to convey what our interests were in the matter,” he said.

Returning to private practice was like starting from scratch when Majors returned to Louisville in Spring 2002. “The first six months were lean. I needed to build the business back up again.”

Majors was at a JAG Advanced Course in 2003 when all of the Guard members started getting called out of the meeting. What had been rumored for months was now a reality as they were notified that they would deploy to Iraq. When Majors received his orders for Iraq, he closed his practice. “The first deployment made the second deployment easier



Gene Hortman catches a quick nap while waiting for a helicopter ride to take him on the first leg of the journey home.

for my wife,” he said.

Like other JAG officers deployed to Iraq, Majors handled claims, advised commanders and interacted with local lawyers on re-establishing the legal infrastructure in Iraq. He also served as a part-time mag-

istrate who reviewed pretrial confinement matters, reviewed probable cause search requests, and he trained soldiers in how to do paperwork for detainees. He also would accompany patrols to ensure that

Continued on next page

BOMBS AND BRIEFCASES: Mississippi Lawyers Who Serve in the



Group photo of the Mississippi Air and Army National Guard JAG officers and the Army Reserves JAG officers at the annual Mississippi JAG Conference in Jackson in April 2006. From left to right: Rhea Tannehill, Allen McDaniel, Jeep Peden, Patrick Wooten, Rob Dambrino, Gene Hortman, Gary Rikard, Stan Harris, Bill Glover, Mark Majors, Mark Carter, Frank Shaw, Joe Dice, Brian Montague, Barney Robinson, Roy Carpenter, Tim Record, Lawrence Austin, Nick Saucier, Lee Thaggard, Joel Jones and Jeff Myrick. Not pictured: Judge Leslie Southwick, Tommy Page.

they were following the rules of engagement.

When Majors' tour of duty ended in February 2006, he did not relish returning to charcoal suits and struggling to re-establish his private practice. He also now had one child with another on the way

unlike when he returned to Bosnia, so he chose to stay in camouflage and accepted a three-year position as the full-time Judge Advocate for the Mississippi Guard. "Col. Eddie Pearson was retiring and they wanted [his replacement] to have active duty experience. With kids now and con-

sidering how hard it was the first time to rebuild the practice, this was a nice segue back. I didn't want to take the uniform off."

No Regrets

Despite the interruptions to their law practices and their personal lives, Mississippi's JAG officers served proudly in Iraq and with no regrets.

"I've got great law partners and you can't do something like this without great partners," said Hortman, who actually filled a slot as a JAG officer with the 155th Brigade because his regular unit did not deploy to Iraq. "I'm proud of what we did. Nothing about my experience over there told me that the active military is any better trained or prepared than the Guard. The Mississippi Guard was well prepared and very experienced."

Southwick added, "A lot of us were pleased for the opportunity to serve our country. We wanted to serve in this unique

Need A Solution For A Disaster Recovery Plan?

Matrix Solutions will work with you to develop a customized network "Backup Plan", "Disaster Recovery Plan", and "Security Plan" tailor made to your law firm. Call today at 601-992-6789.



**Matrix**
SOLUTIONS, INC.

Providing Services & Support
To The Legal Community.
www.matrixsolutions.com



Military Know the Real Meaning of Hazardous Work Conditions

way. We got to do our part and serve our turn in 2005.”

Ironically, Carpenter was not required to go to Iraq – but he closed his private practice and went anyway. “I didn’t have to go this time because [I had been offered a promotion],” Carpenter explained. “My wife said, ‘I’d think less of you if you didn’t go.’ She was very supportive.”

Carpenter has no regrets about serving despite the hardships it creates as a small-town lawyer. “I know guys in private practice and that own their own businesses and they went broke but they said it was their duty. How can you bail on guys like that? It may sound corny, but you go back to what our forefathers did – they did their duty, then they’d go back to their lives.”

Going back to his life stateside has been an adjustment for Carpenter – he still hasn’t reopened his private practice but has focused strictly on his family and his duties as county prosecutor instead.

“I missed 18 months of ball games and time with my family and I’m doing that now,” he said, noting that his 16-year-old son and 14-year-old daughter both are involved in extracurricular activities. “Yeah, it affects you financially, but I can’t gain those 18 months back and I don’t want to lose anymore. It changes your outlook on life. I think you appreciate your family more.”

Majors has come a long way since that fateful decision in 1998 when he opted for a commission in the Guard. “It was difficult [overseas] but I’m glad I did it. I’m glad I had the opportunity to serve. In this job I really do feel like I’m helping people and I really enjoy it – plus I don’t need to worry about picking out what tie to wear. The million dollar case won’t walk in the door here, but this is more steady. I enjoy wearing the uniform and I enjoy this type of work.”

Rick A. Hammond is in his second term as Editor of The Mississippi Lawyer magazine. He is the senior resident shareholder in the Jackson office of The Kullman Firm, a regional law firm headquartered in New Orleans that devotes its practice exclusively to all aspects of labor and employment law on behalf of management. Prior to law school, Rick was a newspaper reporter and editor for two newspapers in Mississippi.

Life Care Planning And Loss-Of-Earning Capacity Evaluations

*Nationally Certified
Over 25 Years Experience
Serving the Entire State*

DAVID STEWART & ASSOCIATES, INC.

207 North Madison Street
P.O. Box 745
Tupelo, MS 38802-0745
(662) 842-8406
dvdstew@aol.com

maps



looking for
an experienced
securities mediator?

Call Bobby Harges. He has mediated and arbitrated hundreds of cases since 1990 including securities cases involving allegations of unauthorized trading, churning, misrepresentation, suitability, failure to supervise, breach of fiduciary duty, negligence and fraud.

Bobby Harges
MAPS (Mediation Arbitration Professional Systems, Inc.)
Ste. 400, 3850 N. Causeway Blvd.
Metairie, La. 70002

Phone: (504)831-2141
Toll free: (800)443-7351
FAX: (504)837-2566