

JOHN D. ALTENBURG, JR.
APPOINTING AUTHORITY FOR MILITARY COMMISSIONS

BIOGRAPHY

John D. Altenburg, Jr., has been selected by the secretary of defense to serve as the appointing authority for military commissions. Pursuant to Military Commission Order No. 1 of March 21, 2002, the appointing authority is responsible for overseeing many aspects of the military commission process, including approving charges against individuals the president has determined are subject to the military order of Nov. 13, 2001. Among other things, the appointing authority is also responsible for appointing military commission members, approving plea agreements and supervising the Office of the Appointing Authority. Altenburg will serve in this capacity as a civilian.

Altenburg served for 28 years as a lawyer in the Army, culminating in his service as assistant judge advocate general of the department of the Army from 1997 to 2001. In this position, he advised senior military and civilian leaders on critical legal and policy issues. He also directed the day-to-day operations of approximately 1,800 civilian and uniformed attorneys in 70 offices and 3,000 National Guard and Army Reserve attorneys in providing comprehensive legal services to more than one million commanders, soldiers and civilians of the Army worldwide. He retired from active duty in the grade of major general. He gained extensive experience in military justice and operations law during his 28 years of service.

Altenburg earned his undergraduate degree in English and international studies at Wayne State University in 1966 and his law degree at the University of Cincinnati in 1973.

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