



MISSISSIPPI STATE GUARD
COLONEL
RANDALL R. SAXTON
CHIEF OF STAFF

Colonel Randall R. Saxton serves as Chief of Staff of the Mississippi State Guard, leading staff operations and coordinating with the Mississippi Military Department, Attorney General's Office, and Mississippi Emergency Management Agency. He began his State Guard service as a Judge Advocate in 2013, commanded the 1st Support Brigade in 2020, and was promoted to colonel in 2022. He is a Past President and current Board Member of the Mississippi State Guard Association.

He served as Chief of Staff and General Counsel for the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency under COL Lee W. Smithson, Jay Ledbetter, and COL Greg Michel. He advised leadership on budgets, grants, procurement, and policy and coordinated legislative initiatives. Governor Phil Bryant also appointed him State Non-Discrimination Certifying Officer for three federal disaster and emergency declarations.

He holds the Master Military Emergency Management Specialist qualification from the State Guard Association of the United States (SGAUS). He completed the SGAUS Judge Advocate Training Program in Hanover, Maryland. His training includes FEMA's Professional Development Series, Incident Command System Instructor, the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) course at the National Emergency Training Center in Maryland, and FEMA training at Anniston, Alabama.

Saxton earned his Mississippi law enforcement certification in 2018 and served as a deputy sheriff for Hinds County. He has conducted criminal investigations, collected evidence, performed patrol, and testified in court. The Attorney General's Office certified him as a Anti-Human Trafficking Investigator in 2023.

In 2017, he was accepted into the U.S. Navy Reserve direct commission program. After completing MEPS processing, he proceeded to Naval Air Station Pensacola and was subsequently released without prejudice.

Saxton holds a Doctor of Jurisprudence from Mississippi College School of Law, and both a Master of Social Sciences in Administration of Justice and a Bachelor of Science in History, with a minor in English from Mississippi College.

During law school, he completed legal externships at Mississippi National Guard Joint Force Headquarters and the Mississippi Air National Guard's 172nd Airlift Wing. In 2008, through the Fund for American Studies Legal Studies Institute in Washington, D.C., he conducted research for Heath Tarbert, who clerked for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas. He served as Executive Legal Intern to Mississippi Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann, working with Chief of Staff Cory T. Wilson, now on the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. He also researched and fact-checked for Judge Leslie H. Southwick's history of Mississippi's adjutants general.

His honors include the MSSG Achievement Ribbon (2016), MSSG Commendation Medal (2017), and Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Seven Seals Award. His foreign awards include the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge, Luxembourg International March of Diekirch Medal, and Royal Lao Airborne Parachutist Wings.

In civilian practice, he serves clients in probate and estate planning with Trusted Plan Lawyers and in bankruptcy matters through Saxton Law, PLLC. He also serves as Treasurer of the Board of the Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project. His community service also includes prior volunteer work with Mission First Legal Aid Clinic and the Hinds County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).