

**CAPTAIN ROSS L. LEUNING
UNITED STATES NAVY**

**Base Command Group Al Asad, Iraq
Command Judge Advocate**

Captain Leuning reported to Base Command Group, Al Asad, Iraq, in September 2010. Captain Leuning started his military career as a Private in the Army National Guard, completing basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, MO. He served in the National Guard from February 1979 until February 1985, first as a combat engineer and next as a combat medic. Captain Leuning received his commission from the Navy in April 1986. He received his Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Oregon in May 1986 and reported to Officer Indoctrination School as an Ensign in August 1986. He completed Naval Justice School in December 1986, reporting to NLSO Great Lakes as a Lieutenant Junior Grade. His first assignment was as criminal defense counsel defending sailors at courts-martial. He was promoted to Lieutenant and assigned as counsel for sailors and marines appealing their disability ratings to the Regional Physical Evaluation Board. His final assignment at Great Lakes Naval Base was as senior trial counsel, supervising junior prosecutors and trying courts-martial.

Lieutenant Leuning reported to the U.S. Naval Academy as an assistant professor in the Leadership and Law department in June 1989, a position he held until July 1991. From there Lieutenant Leuning transitioned into the Naval Reserve Force and was assigned as appellate government counsel handling appellate cases on behalf of the prosecution before the Navy and Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals and the Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces for 6 years. While there he was promoted to Lieutenant Commander. His next assignment was as Force Judge Advocate for Commander, Naval Forces Japan. He was promoted to Commander while assigned to CNFJ and was next assigned to Navy Personnel Command O6, serving as legal counsel to BUPERS in Washington D.C. and Navy Personnel Command in Millington, TN. He was promoted to Captain in October 2005. During his assignment with NPC O6 he was appointed OIC of the Millington detachment of his unit. Upon completion of his OIC tour, Captain Leuning was selected for assignment to Navy and Marine Corps Trial Judiciary, serving as Military Judge for 4 years from 2006 through 2010 when he accepted orders to Base Command Group Al Asad, Iraq, as the Command Judge Advocate.

Captain Leuning's civilian legal career began upon his departure from active duty in July 1991. In August 1991 he joined the law firm of Walbran, Walbran, Walbran & Furness of Owatonna, Minnesota where he focused on civil and criminal litigation. His areas of practice included criminal defense, workers compensation litigation, personal injury litigation, probate litigation and municipal law, serving as the assistance city attorney for the city of Owatonna, Minnesota. He became a partner in the firm in November 1994 and remained so until July 2007 when he accepted a position as senior criminal prosecutor for Olmsted County, Minnesota. As a senior prosecutor, Captain Leuning's case assignments focused on serious felonies including murder, rape, serious assaults, complex thefts and police misconduct. On 2 May 2011 he was selected for appointment by Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton to District Court Judge in Minnesota's Third Judicial District, to be chambered in Albert Lea, Minnesota.

Captain Leuning is licensed to practice law in the states of Minnesota and Oregon, and admitted to practice before the Minnesota Federal District Court, the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals and is certified as a General Court-Martial Judge for the Navy and Marine Corps. His community involvement includes 6 years on the Owatonna Library Board, 7 years on the Owatonna Library Foundation, 7 years on the SELCO Board, 4 years on the Owatonna Healthy Seniors Board, 6 years on the Owatonna Human Rights Commission, 3 years on the Third Judicial District Equal Justice Committee, 3 years as U.S. Navy JAG Appraiser for Minnesota, 3 years as Contact Help-line volunteer, 1 year as Wills for Heroes volunteer, and 2 years on the 1st Congressional District Military Service Academy Nominations Committee.

Captain Leuning resides with his family in Owatonna, Minnesota. He is married to Francy, formerly of Palo Alto, California. They have 4 daughters, Emily age 24, Grace age 20, Francy N. age 20 and Anna age 17. They have 2 sons, Grant age 26 and Jack age 19.