



*U.S. Department of Justice*  
United States Attorney  
Southern District of Mississippi  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**OCTOBER 15, 2009**

**U.S. ATTORNEY STAN HARRIS ANNOUNCES HIS IMPENDING MOBILIZATION  
TO ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY SERVICE AND DEPLOYMENT TO IRAQ**

**Jackson, Miss** - United States Attorney Stan Harris has announced that, as of Thursday, October 22, 2009, he will be mobilized to active duty military service and deployed to Iraq to serve with the 155<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team, Mississippi Army National Guard, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Harris is the Interim U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Mississippi, which covers the southern forty-five counties of the state.

U.S. Attorney Harris will continue to serve in his present capacity through Wednesday, October 21, 2009. While no official announcement has been made by the Department of Justice as to Mr. Harris's interim successor, an announcement will be made prior to his departure. Further, no announcement has been made by the Administration with respect to a new Presidentially-appointed U.S. Attorney nominee for the Southern District of Mississippi.

Mr. Harris has served as a federal civilian employee for nearly 24 years and became First Assistant U.S. Attorney in October 2001. He became Acting U.S. Attorney in January 2009, under authority of the Vacancy Reform Act, and upon the retirement of former U.S. Attorney Dunn Lampton. In the absence of a Presidentially appointed U.S. Attorney nominee, Harris was appointed by Attorney General Eric Holder to serve as Interim U.S. Attorney in August 2009.

Among multiple duties in the U.S. Attorney's Office, Mr. Harris also has served as Anti-Terrorism Coordinator, Crisis Management Coordinator, the District's Weed & Seed Coordinator (Crime Reduction and Prevention Program), as well as Ethics Advisor and Training Officer. He is a past recipient of the Justice Department's Community Capacity Development Director's Award, the Executive Office of U.S. Attorneys Director's Award and the Southern District of Mississippi's Hauberg Award for Distinguished Public Service.

In addition to career civil service with the U.S. Attorneys, Harris is a Lieutenant Colonel in the Mississippi Army National Guard and a member of the Judge Advocate General's Corps (JAG Corps). He has served in the National Guard for nearly 17 years. Upon completion of pre-deployment training, Harris will replace another JAG Officer already on duty in Iraq. Harris will serve in Iraq for the last six months of the 155<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team's year-long deployment. Upon completion of his active duty military service, Harris plans to return to service in the U.S. Attorney's Office (USAO).

U.S. Attorney Harris thanked colleagues in other federal, state and local law enforcement agencies for their cooperation. He noted that the U.S. Attorney's Office has had an active role in

creation of the State's first law enforcement fusion center which held a special conference for senior law enforcement leaders on September 29, 2009. The USAO also has been a partner in helping establish a separate, Cyber-Crime Fusion Center as a federal/state initiative. The Center held an Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force meeting on September 23, 2009.

Regarding cooperation with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics (MBN), Harris thanked DEA and MBN leadership, and the management of the Gulf Coast High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) for virtually ideal federal/state/local partnerships. The U.S. Attorney said it had been an honor to serve on the State's HIDTA Executive Board, and he noted that he was especially proud of inter-agency cooperation in the Rankin Ice Case which dismantled the largest methamphetamine distribution organization in the State of Mississippi.

In addition to criminal prosecutions and civil defense of the federal government, Harris pointed out that the U.S. Attorney's Office has a substantial law enforcement coordination and special program role. As the chief federal law enforcement officer of a federal judicial district, the U.S. Attorney oversees a Law Enforcement Coordination Committee (LECC) and multiple special program initiatives such as the "Weed & Seed" Crime Reduction and Prevention Program, the Project Safe Childhood Program focused on internet crimes against children, and the Project Safe Neighborhoods and Project Sentry Programs targeted at combating illegal firearms and prosecuting felon-in-possession cases.

During his service as U.S. Attorney, Harris highlighted numerous law enforcement training programs sponsored by the U.S. Attorney's Law Enforcement Coordination Committee. Of particular note, was the District's selection by the Department of Justice, to host 1 of 6 in the Nation, Anti-Gang Regional Conferences in Jackson, Mississippi, on December 8-10, 2009.

The U.S. Attorney also expressed thanks for inter-agency cooperation with the District's U.S. Attorney sponsored Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council or ATAC. The ATAC provides information sharing and awareness programs that compliment the operational work of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) led Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF).

Harris, who serves on the JTTF Executive Board, and as Anti-Terrorism Coordinator for the U.S. Attorney's Office, cited the State's central location along the Gulf Coast and the Southern District's number of military and critical infrastructure facilities as reasons why inter-agency cooperation has been so important. Since 2003, he also has served as a Managing Board Member for the Coast Guard sponsored Northeast Gulf of Mexico Maritime Security Committee. This multi-agency committee oversees port security issues in a sector that includes the panhandle of Florida as well as South Alabama and South Mississippi.

Last month, in September 2009, the U.S. Attorney Offices for the Southern and Northern Districts of Mississippi – together with the Mississippi Office of Homeland Security – conducted the first sessions of the newly developed "Criminal Intelligence Training Awareness Course" (CITAC). The 2-day anti-terrorism program is the most recent U.S. Attorney lead anti-terrorism awareness program, designed in Mississippi, for law enforcement. Both the U.S.

Attorney National Magazine and the Justice Department's Anti-Terrorism Best Practices publication have credited the USAOs for North and South Mississippi, for developing innovative anti-terrorism programs.

Looking to the future, Harris said the Southern District of Mississippi will continue its emphasis on prosecuting Katrina Fraud cases with more than 900 matters presently pending in the U.S. Attorney's Office. Further, he emphasized that the USAO continues its strong commitment to pursuing public corruption cases, financial fraud and Civil Rights Era "cold cases." Specifically, he cited the U.S. Attorney's role in establishing the District's Financial Crime Task Force and in the "Civil Rights Era Cold Case Initiative" announced in February 2009, by the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, the FBI Jackson Field Office Special Agent-In-Charge, U.S. Attorney Harris, and the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Mississippi.

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