As Appointing Authority for Military Commissions, Major General Altenburg was responsible for reviewing charges and evidence against people detained by the United States in Afghanistan and held at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base. He was a major force behind changes in Military Commission procedures from the time of the first presidential order until today.
Major General John D. Altenburg Jr., former Appointing Authority for Military Commissions, spoke about "Military Commission Process: November 2001 to March 2008" to about 60 people in the Barrister Club at The Ohio State University on March 3, 2008. Besides discussing his experiences with the U.S. government, Altenburg offered career perspectives and advice to the many law students in the audience.

Richard Herrmann (left), Director of the Mershon Center for International Security Studies, listens as Major General John D. Altenburg Jr. holds a roundtable discussion with about 15 Mershon affiliated faculty on March 3, 2008. Altenburg discussed his experiences as Appointing Authority for Military Commissions and explained his views about the War on Terror.