



Public Forum:

**LEGAL PROTECTION IN THE 'WAR ON TERROR' – GUANTANAMO BAY,
MILITARY COMMISSIONS AND DAVID HICKS**

Major Michael Mori

United States Marine Corps

Friday 15 December 2006, 3.30-5.00pm

**Free Entry. All Welcome. Lecture will be followed by a
Q & A forum.**

Venue: Room 67.107, McKinnon Building, University of
Wollongong

(Enter by the second (west) gate and follow the signs to parking and
to the venue.)

David Hicks' detention in Guantanamo Bay since December 2001 has attracted significant public interest in Australia. It has raised broad concerns about the balance between national security and legal protection in the context of the "war on terror". As David Hicks' defence lawyer since November 2003, Major Mori is in a unique position to assess these concerns.

In this lecture, Major Mori will reflect on the law's capacity to protect due process and principles of fairness in a national and international political environment where the appropriate balance between 'rights' and 'security' is deeply contested. The particular challenges that such an environment poses for legal advocates will be considered. Major Mori will examine whether the new *Military Commissions Act*, which was signed by President Bush on 17 October 2006, provides the framework for a fair trial for David Hicks and other Guantanamo Bay detainees.

This public lecture is the final event of the 2006 Australasian Law and Society Conference which is being held from 13-15 December at the University of Wollongong. The theme of the conference is "Right or Racket?: The Protection of Law". Major Mori's address is one of three public events being held in conjunction with the conference.

More information at:

www.uow.edu.au/law/LIRC//law&socconference2006.html



Major Michael Mori was born in Beverly, Massachusetts. He first enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1983. In 1991 Major Mori graduated from Norwich University, Northfield, Vermont, and in 1994 he graduated from Western New England School of Law, Springfield, Massachusetts.

Major Mori has spent over nine years as a military trial lawyer, including serving as senior defense counsel for Naval Legal Services Office Pacific and Special Assistant US Attorney at Marine Corps Base, Hawaii. He has worked on more than 200 cases, including child abuse, rape and drug trafficking.

In September 2003 Major Mori reported to the Pentagon in the Office of the Chief Defense Counsel to serve as a defense counsel, and was subsequently assigned as David Hicks' military defence lawyer in November 2003.