



Major (Ret.) Geoffrey Yoste is a sixth generation Mississippian with a record of success in business, higher education, the military and public policy.

In 1988 Major Yoste graduated from the University of Mississippi with a Bachelor's of Business Administration majoring in Marketing, with a minor in Management and Military Science and Leadership. He received a United States Army Commission and successfully completed the Basic and Advance Courses of the United States Army. For the next 7 years, he served on Capitol Hill as a Special Assistant to the former Senate Majority Leader, Senator Trent Lott and in 1992 he accepted an appointment as Executive Advisor to Governor Kirk Fordice at the Capitol in Jackson, Mississippi. At the time Yoste was the youngest Executive Advisor in recent Mississippi political history. During that time he also completed graduate course work in Economic Development at the University of Southern Mississippi, and attended the Economic Development Institute at the University of Oklahoma.

In 1995, Yoste formed Southern Capitol Resources, Inc. a marketing and government relations practice. During this time and the years to follow, Major Yoste also graduated from the United States Army Combined Staff Services School and the Command and General Staff Officers College. As a member of the Mississippi and Virginia Army National Guard he has served as a platoon leader, company executive officer, General's aide-de-camp, detachment commander, company commander, and battalion S-2, assistant S-3 and S-4, battalion maintenance officer, battalion executive officer, battalion recruiting operations officer and assistant professor of military science. During these assignments he had responsibility for leading, directing and supervising subordinates and personnel oversight of subordinate commands.

In 2000, the Mississippi Army National Guard ordered Major Yoste, a combat engineer officer, to active duty returning to his Alma Mater to serve as Assistant Professor and Recruiting Operations Officer at the University of Mississippi assigned to the Department of Military Science and Leadership in the College of Liberal Arts. Yoste served for over four years at the Ole Miss Army ROTC Rebel Battalion helping lead the Battalion to meeting its assigned strength for the first time in over 9 years. While serving as the second in command of the battalion he would have oversight of the management of the Department as well as personnel supervisory responsibilities. Yoste remains an adjunct professor for the University of Mississippi.

Upon his retirement from the military in late 2004, DRS Technologies, a growing defense technology company, recruited Yoste to head up their Mississippi Operations. He served as the Director of Mississippi Operations for DRS. His area of concentration was marketing, external affairs and business development. In 2007 he helped form DRS Homeland Security Solutions and became the business's Director of Business Development where he managed the National Guard marketplace line of business.

In the fall of 2008, Geoffrey founded Yoste Strategic Partners, LLC (YSP), a professional National Guard business development and government relations consulting practice. YSP functions nationally but is located in Oxford, Mississippi with its offices located just off of Oxford's historic Courthouse Square. YSP provides clients targeted support and augmentation with business development in the National Guard and homeland security/defense marketplaces. YSP can be found on the web at www.YSP-llc.com.

Yoste is the past president of the Rotary Club of Oxford and a former member of the Board of Directors of the Oxford/Lafayette County Chamber of Commerce. He is a past President of the LOU Ole Miss Alumni Club and has been an active member of the Oxford/Lafayette Economic Development Foundation. Yoste is a life member of the National Guard Association of Mississippi and the National Guard Association of the United States and a member of the Legion de Lafayette. Yoste also serves as the Chapter Advisor for the Ole Miss ETA Chapter of Sigma Chi Fraternity. Geoffrey and his wife Julie Cottrell Yoste, formerly of Mobile, AL have three children; Connell 13, John Owen 11 and Ann Glennon 8. Geoffrey and Julie are active in their church and both energetic volunteers in Oxford, MS. *Revised 3/1/11*