

BranfordReview

'Dateline' shoots segment featuring local attorney

Marianne Cipriano
Branford

Network TV camera crews came to town last week to interview local attorney Walter C. Bansley III, the retired U.S. Marine made famous by Tom Cruise's portrayal of him in the movie "A Few Good Men."

The NBC-TV news magazine "Dateline" interviewed Bansley Wednesday, Dec. 4 at Branford Hall as part of a segment the show's producers are shooting on hazing in the military.

"Dateline" showed Bansley videotapes it had obtained allegedly depicting hazing incidents involving the Marines.

"It was something I very much didn't want to do," Bansley said about the network interview, "because it may seem like I'm being disloyal to my fellow Marines. But after I saw the tapes, I felt I was not." Bansley called the behavior he viewed on the videotapes "totally inappropriate." "The incidents in the tape were brutal," he said. An air date for the "Dateline" segment has not yet been scheduled.

Bansley, a defense attorney, is an adjunct professor at Branford Hall as a paralegal instructor. He retired from the Marines in September 1992 after serving 20 years. He most recently resolved a civil suit in which two Marine Sergeants attacked a president's detail in Hartford and a woman alleged that the two men beat her.

Bansley said he finds the "Dateline" experience, like many of the high profile interviews he has had over the years, "a little humbling." He called the movie "A Few Good Men," based on his own experience with a military case, "luck" since there are many other attorneys working hard whose work often goes unnoticed.