



Robert J. Dalessandro

Acting Secretary

Robert “Rob” Dalessandro is an American historian and author who has written and presented extensively on the American Expeditionary Forces contributions during the First World War.

Dalessandro is a retired Colonel in the U.S. Army and the Deputy Secretary of the American Battle Monuments Commission. He is former Director of the United States Army Center of Military History at Fort Lesley J. McNair, Washington, D.C. He frequently leads battlefield tours to sites in the United States, France, and Italy.

Dalessandro graduated from the Virginia Military Institute with a degree in History in 1980. His graduate studies included work at the College of William and Mary, the U.S. Army War College and George Washington University. He holds Master of Arts degrees in History, Strategic Studies, and Museum Science.

Dalessandro has had a wide variety of Army leadership and staff assignments including time as a platoon leader, command at company, depot and battalion level, and staff assignments at echelons of command ranging from battalion through Department of the Army level.

He formerly served as the Chairman of the United States World War One Centennial Commission. He assumed those duties following the death of former Congressman Ike Skelton. He was appointed to the commission by the House Minority Leader, Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi of California.

Dalessandro is widely published on the lifeways and material culture of the American Soldier in the eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth centuries. He is co-author of the *Organization and Insignia of the American Expeditionary Forces, 1917-1923*, editor of the *Army Officer's Guide*, co-author of *Willing Patriots: Men of Color in the First World War*, *Contributions of African American Soldiers and the American Lions: the 332nd Infantry Regiment in Italy in World War I*, and *Over There: America in the Great War*; and editor of *World War I Remembered*, the official National Park Service History of World War One.

His book, *Organization and Insignia of the American Expeditionary Forces, 1917-1923* received the Army Historical Foundation award for excellence in writing.