



Brigadier General John W. Nicholson, U.S. Army (Ret)
Secretary, American Battle Monuments Commission

Brigadier General John W. “Jack” Nicholson, USA (Ret) is the Secretary and Chief Executive Officer of the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC). He was appointed to the position by President George W. Bush on Jan. 28, 2005.

As Secretary, General Nicholson directs the administration and operation of 24 American military cemeteries and 25 monuments, memorials and markers located in 15 countries, including three memorials in the United States. ABMC, an agency of the Executive Branch of the Federal Government, was established by Congress in 1923 to commemorate the service of U.S. Armed Forces where they have served overseas since April 6, 1917, the date of U.S. entry into World War I.



Prior to his appointment as ABMC Secretary, General Nicholson served as Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs in the Department of Veterans Affairs, a position he held for two years. As Under Secretary, General Nicholson directed the National Cemetery Administration, a system of 120 national cemeteries providing dignified burial services for military veterans and eligible family members. In 2004 the National Cemetery Administration earned the highest rating ever awarded to a federal agency in the American Customer Satisfaction Survey.

Nicholson retired from the U.S. Army as a Brigadier General following 30 years of active duty. He is a 1956 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., where he received the General MacArthur Leadership Award for his class. He is an airborne ranger combat infantryman and served two and one-half years with infantry units in Vietnam. Other overseas assignments included duty in Germany, Korea, Lebanon and Switzerland.

During his military career, General Nicholson taught strategy and tactics at West Point, served on both the Army Staff and the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon, and was Commanding General of the U.S. Army Training Support Center. General Nicholson served as a President Ronald Reagan appointee to the Strategic Arms negotiations in Geneva, Switzerland, from 1982 to 1984. He has received several U.S. and foreign awards and decorations for service and valor.

General Nicholson was a Federal Executive Fellow in Foreign Policy at The Brookings Institution and, following retirement from active duty, served on the board of directors for several associations. For five years he directed a Military Order of the World Wars program that taught Patriotism, Leadership, and the American Free Enterprise System to thousands of teenagers across the United States. He currently serves as President Emeritus of the International Society of the 173rd Airborne Brigade Veterans and as a Trustee of the Virginia War Memorial Commission. General Nicholson holds a master’s degree in public administration.