

Colonel Mark G. Alessia

Year of Commission: 1996

BS in Elementary Education (History)



COL Alessia commissioned as an Infantry Officer into the Illinois Army National Guard in 1996 after graduation from the University of Illinois. He joined the Guard in 1992 and has served with distinction for over 27 years in assignments in the Infantry, Chemical, and Adjutant General branches. During this time, COL Alessia served in numerous command and staff positions from platoon to brigade. His latest command was the 33rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team and he currently serves as the Chief of Staff of the Illinois Army National Guard. He has deployed to support Operation DESERT SPRING (Kuwait) in 2000, Operation SANTA FE (Germany) in 2002, and Operation ENDURING FREEDOM (Afghanistan) in 2009. COL Alessia also taught middle school history and mathematics until he entered the Active Guard and Reserve Program in 2003. After his graduation from the University of Illinois, COL Alessia earned a MS degree in Adult and Continuing Education from Kansas State University and a MA in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College.

Year Inducted: 2019