

Jara Allen
Private Consultant
Knoxville, Tennessee



Jara Allen graduated from the Air Force Academy and served over twenty years with progressive responsibility and success as a military leader at all organizational levels. She has extensive experience in hospitality, recreation, and customer service operations. She started her career as a Food Service Officer at Plattsburgh AFB, where she managed 5 food service facilities, 40 personnel, \$500K in equipment, a \$100K monthly food inventory, and a \$1.2M mess attendant contract. She then transferred to Hurlburt Field, FL, as Chief of Military Plans and Support, where she implemented training and human resource policies and practices for over 400 employees, and supervised 153 employees working in food service, fitness, and lodging activities. She was then hired as the Executive Officer to the Director of Services at Air Force Materiel Command at Wright-Patterson AFB OH. As such she had administrative lead for the senior director, overseeing 1,000 business activities at 14 field units. She also served as Chief of the Force Management Division: providing training and human resource programs for 6500 employees; creating innovative command-wide marketing programs; and managing a multimillion dollar construction fund.

Jara then moved to Bellows AFS HI as the Detachment Commander. She led a team of over 100 personnel at a 1700 acre recreation complex serving 500K customers annually. She operated, maintained, and provided security for 100 cottages, 54 campsites, a restaurant/lounge, and beachfront area. She was selected as the Services Squadron Commander at Barksdale AFB LA. She commanded a diverse team of 450 personnel in 26 business activities providing customer-focused, value-driven food service, lodging, fitness, club, recreation, child care and youth services to a community of 57K personnel. She spearheaded over \$11M in construction projects and managed a \$16M annual budget.

After attending Air Command and Staff College, Jara moved to the Pentagon as Chief, Legislative Issues and Policy. She developed Congressional testimony and responses for Air Force Morale, Welfare, Recreation, and Services, and prepared and accompanied senior Air Force executives during Congressional hearings. Then as Chief, Air Force Fitness, she developed Air Force policy and standard of service for fitness center facilities, equipment, training, and programming.

Jara finished up her Air Force career as Services Management Department Head, at the Air Force Institute of Technology at Wright Patterson AFB OH. She directed officer professional continuing education by leading a team of 5 course directors with oversight for 150 instructors. She served as senior mentor for 150 new officers during the 6-week initial skills course, and personally directed the Squadron Command course.

After retirement, Jara postponed pursuing a second career while her son finished high school and settled into college. However, she stayed involved with the industry as a volunteer, serving on the Marketing Committee and then as Secretary of the Hennessy Travelers' Association. Jara is currently a private consultant and resides in Knoxville, TN.

Education:

Air University, MS, Military Operational Art and Science
Purdue University, MS, Restaurant, Hotel, & Institutional Mgmt
University of Southern California, MS, Systems Management
United States Air Force Academy, BS, General Sciences

Recognition:

Meritorious Service Medal with 4 oak leaf clusters
2006 Air Force Hennessy Award Evaluation Team Chief
2003 HQ's Air Force Services Staff Officer of the Year
2000 ACC Services Senior Military Manager of Year
2000 2nd Bomb Wing Lance P. Sijan Leadership Award