

## **Jara N. Allen**

***Executive Director***

***International Military Community Executives Association (IMCEA)***

*Knoxville, Tennessee*

Jara N. Allen assumed duties as Executive Director of [IMCEA](#) on 1 January 2013, after serving as Deputy Director for one year. The mission of the International Military Community Executives Association is to assist the individual Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) and Services program and activity members in developing techniques and management skills necessary to assure an outstanding military MWR system. IMCEA's focus is education, communication, cooperation, recruitment and retention supporting the long-term sustainment of the MWR military community around the world.

Jara retired in 2007 after twenty years in the United States Air Force with progressive responsibility and success as a military leader at all organizational levels. She has extensive experience in hospitality/recreation/customer service operations, education and training, and resource management.

During her military career, Jara was stationed at nine different duty locations. Her experience includes squadron command at Barksdale AFB, leading a diverse team of 450 personnel in 26 business activities providing customer-focused programs to a community of 57K personnel.

Jara then moved to the Pentagon as Chief, Legislative Issues and Policy. She developed Congressional testimony and responses for Air Force MWR/Services, and prepared and accompanied senior Air Force executives during Congressional hearings. As Chief, Air Force Fitness, she developed Air Force policy and standard of service for facilities, equipment, training, and programming. Jara finished up her Air Force career as Services Management Department Head at the Air Force Institute of Technology.

After retirement she stayed involved with the industry by serving on the [Hennessy Travelers' Association](#) Marketing Committee and then as 2009-2010 Board Secretary. She represented Society for Foodservice Management during the 2011 Hennessy Award Evaluation and continues to be an active subcommittee member on the newly formed [National Restaurant Associations Military Hospitality Foundation](#) chartered with providing industry support, education and training to each of the military food service programs. The National Restaurant Association Military Foundation grew from the NRA's decades-long partnership with the Hennessy Trophy Awards program. Established in 1957, the program honors the dedication, pride and fellowship of the military foodservice personnel. Jara annual volunteers to mentor armed forces attendees at the for the [Armed Forces Forum for Culinary Excellence](#) held annually at the [Culinary Institute of America \(CIA\), Greystone](#) campus, located in St. Helena, California.



## **National Restaurant Association Military Hospitality Foundation**

