



**John H. Lea III**  
**Captain, Chaplain Corps,**  
**United States Navy (Ret.)**

Chaplain Jack Lea is a native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and is appointed as the Executive Director of the National Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces (NCMAF). NCMAF is a non-profit organization comprised of 150 faith groups that endorse chaplains to the military and VA hospitals. Its mission is to support the Constitutional free exercise of religion through advocacy, oversight, and training.

Chaplain Lea entered active duty in the U.S. Navy in 1986 following his ordination as an Elder in the United Methodist Church. He graduated from Lycoming College in Williamsport, Pennsylvania with a Bachelor of Arts degree in history and political science. He received his Masters of Divinity from Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky. He also holds a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Oklahoma in Norman, Oklahoma. Lea was an honor graduate of the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island

Lea's duty with Marines include Marine Aircraft Group (26) in Jacksonville, North Carolina. He served with Headquarters Marine Corps in the Manpower and Reserve Affairs Department in Washington, DC. He was the first chaplain assigned to Marine Corps Recruiting Command in Quantico, Virginia. He also saw duty at United States Marine Corps Forces, Atlantic in Norfolk, Virginia. While there, he spent six months on temporary additional duty with the Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa, Djibouti East Africa as the Task Force Chaplain.

Lea's Navy assignments include duty at Naval Air Station Memphis in Millington, Tennessee. He was the command chaplain aboard USS SOUTH CAROLINA (CGN-37) in Norfolk, Virginia. Lea served as the Facilities Branch Head in the Navy Chief of Chaplains office in Washington, DC. He was the group chaplain assigned to Amphibious Group Two in Norfolk, Virginia. Lea served as regional chaplain at U. S. Naval Forces, Japan. He served as force chaplain on the staff of the Commander, Navy Installations Command in Washington, DC. He retired from the Navy in September 2014 from the Navy Chief of Chaplains in the Pentagon where he was the division director responsible for manpower, personnel, training and education.

