



NEWS RELEASE

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New commissary to open Jan. 27 in Kansas City area

By Rick Brink

DeCA East public affairs officer

FORT LEE, Va. – A new commissary to serve military members and their families in the Kansas City area will open Jan. 27 at Richards-Gebaur near Belton, Mo., the Defense Commissary Agency announced.

The commissary is a full service grocery store for active, reserve and National Guard military service members, military retirees and their family members. Located at 15615 Kensington Drive near Grandview and Belton, Mo., the new store is the 255th commissary in DeCA's worldwide chain of stores.

By commissary standards, it's a small store, but more than adequately sized to serve the estimated 28,000 eligible shoppers residing in a 20-mile radius of the store. With a sales area of about 11,800 square feet, the store will carry about 8,000 items, spanning a large spectrum of grocery offerings from fresh fruits and vegetables, fresh meats and dairy products to frozen products and other items expected in a grocery store including household cleaners and health and beauty products.

For customer convenience, the store will have three checkouts and two self-checkout registers. Operating hours will be: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Tuesday through Friday; 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Saturday; 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., Sunday; and closed on Monday.

Commissary shoppers save an average of more than 30 percent on their purchases compared to commercial prices – savings worth nearly \$3,400 annually for a family of four. The savings are possible because shoppers purchase items at cost plus a 5-percent surcharge, which

covers the costs of building new commissaries and modernizing existing ones.

The Kansas City area had a commissary before it closed in 1978 due to the closure of Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base. The new commissary was built as the result of a request by the Marine Corps in accordance with Department of Defense commissary establishment criteria. It is located about a block away from the Marine Corps Mobilization Command, which is directly responsible for the administration and mobilization of the more than 60,000 Individual Ready Reserves of the Marine Corps.

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About DeCA: *The Defense Commissary Agency operates a worldwide chain of commissaries providing groceries to military personnel, retirees and their families in a safe and secure shopping environment. Authorized patrons purchase items at cost plus a 5-percent surcharge, which covers the costs of building new commissaries and modernizing existing ones. Shoppers save an average of more than 30 percent on their purchases compared to commercial prices – savings worth about \$3,400 annually for a family of four. A core military family support element, and a valued part of military pay and benefits, commissaries contribute to family readiness, enhance the quality of life for America's military and their families, and help recruit and retain the best and brightest men and women to serve their country.*