



NEWS RELEASE

Defense Commissary Agency

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New commissary opens at NSU Saratoga Springs

*By Rick Brink,
DeCA East public affairs officer*

FORT LEE, Va. – A new \$8 million commissary at Naval Support Unit Saratoga Springs, N.Y., got off to a rousing start after its grand opening April 14, with first-day sales exceeding expectations.

“This is a tremendous benefit to our service members and their families here and it is going to become the centerpiece of our community,” said Lt. Cdr. Jason Hudson, officer in-charge of the installation nestled in the foothills of the Adirondacks.

Hudson joined Mike Dowling, the Defense Commissary Agency’s acting chief operating officer, for a 9 a.m. opening ceremony attended by more than 200 people. Most of the participants were shoppers eager to try out the new store that replaces a commissary closed earlier at Scotia, N.Y., – about a 40-minute drive away.

“This store looks great, and it can’t be more convenient,” said Petty Officer 3rd Class Christian Ruff, who lives in the base housing area adjacent to the commissary.

“Saratoga Springs is where the military activity is now, so this is a great location, and we have an up-to-date, larger store,” said store associate Joni Plummer, a retired petty officer first class and a Scotia customer since 1990.

The Saratoga Commissary is about a third larger than the Scotia store, and it features more checkouts, larger fresh produce and meat departments and about double the space of the frozen and chilled items sections. It also has a deli – something the Scotia Commissary didn’t have, said store director Doug Quinn.

“Opening day was super, and we’re looking forward to serving all the eligible military shoppers in this area for years to come,” Quinn said.

The commissary’s opening leaves only the main Navy exchange at Scotia, which will soon relocate to Saratoga Springs. Naval Administrative Unit Scotia was renamed to Naval Support Unit Saratoga Springs in 1999. Saratoga Springs supports commands within the New York State Capital Region, and is located about 35 miles north of Albany, the state capital. All NSU functions are located in Saratoga Springs, including the Fleet and Family Support Center housing area, and a mini Navy exchange, according to Military Homefront, a Department of Defense Web site for official military community and family policy information.

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Photo caption: A steady stream of customers was a common sight April 14 after the NSU Saratoga Springs Commissary opened for business. (DeCA photo by Rick Brink)

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.*