



NEWS RELEASE

Defense Commissary Agency

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DeCA announces best commissary winners

DeCA corporate communications

FORT LEE, Va. – Five commissaries were honored as DeCA’s best during the Defense Commissary Agency’s 2009 Conference and Training Event in Richmond, Va., May 19. Winning commissaries by category for the competition were:

- **Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D.**, winner of the Bill Nichols Award for the Best Large Commissary in the United States;
- **Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.**, winner of the Richard M. Paget Award for the Best Small Commissary in the United States;
- **U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr, Germany**, winner of the Dan Daniel Award for the Best Large Commissary Overseas;
- **Camp Stanley, South Korea**, winner of the L. Mendel Rivers Award for the Best Small Commissary Overseas; and
- **Tinker Air Force Base, Okla.**, winner of the Director’s Award for the Best Superstore.

“When we acknowledge our best it sets a standard across the agency that raises the bar for all our stores,” said Philip E. Sakowitz Jr., DeCA director and CEO. “These awards validate the excellence of our employees and industry partners as they deliver a world class benefit to our most deserving customers.”

Runners-up, honorable mentions and noteworthy performers were:

- **Nichols Award runner-up:** Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C.

- **Paget Award runner-up:** Naval Surface Warfare Center Dahlgren, Va.
- **Daniel Award runner-up:** U.S. Army Garrison Schinnen, Netherlands.
- **Rivers Award runner-up:** Camp Zama, Japan.
- **Director's Award runner-up:** Fort Eustis, Va.
- **Overseas commissary honorable mention award winners:** *Daniel Award* – U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt and Ramstein Air Base in Germany; and Aviano Air Base, Italy; *Rivers Award* – Camp Carroll, South Korea; Cairo, Egypt; and Livorno, Italy.
- **Honorable mention award winners for the Continental United States:** *Nichols Award* – Norfolk Naval Shipyard Portsmouth, Va.; Charleston Air Force Base, S.C.; and Naval Submarine Base Bangor, Wash.; *Paget Award* – Naval Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport, Miss.; Vance Air Force Base, Okla.; and Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas; *Director's Award* – Naval Base San Diego, Calif.; Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.; and Fort Bragg South, N.C.

Winning stores are evaluated in four areas: accountability, unit cost, commissary customer service survey and sales. Under accountability, all departments in the store – meat, grocery and produce – must be accountable for their physical inventory during fiscal 2008. For unit cost, a store's annual operating expenses must meet or come in below the average of previous years. Under the commissary customer service survey criteria, the store must exceed the DeCA average or the average for its sales category. And, under sales, stores in the continental United States must show a positive sales growth averaging fiscal 2008 with previous years' sales.

DeCA's Best Commissary awards recognize overall excellence in commissary operations and service. The awards are named in honor of legislators who protected the commissary benefit and championed quality-of-life issues for the military and their families.

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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.