



NEWS RELEASE

Defense Commissary Agency

Office of Corporate Communications
1300 E Avenue □ Fort Lee, VA 23801-1800

Tel: (804) 734-8000, Ext. 4-8524 DSN: 687-8000, Ext. 4-8524

FAX: (804) 734-8009 (two pause symbols) 7-8773

or DSN: 687-8009 (two pause symbols) 7-8773

www.commissaries.com

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Contact: Gerri Young, DeCA Europe public affairs officer
Tel.: DSN 489-7304, commercial 011-49-(0)631-3523-105/8
E-mail: gerri.young@deca.mil

NOTE: To access more photos from the Camp Darby grand opening, click on the following link: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/36903952@N08/sets/72157619984579346/>. From there, select the photo(s) you want and click on the “all sizes” button above the picture.

DeCA opens new Camp Darby Commissary in Livorno

By DeCA corporate communications

FORT LEE, Va. – “The commissary – it’s worth the trip!” became more than just DeCA’s motto at the grand opening of the \$7.2-million Camp Darby Commissary at U.S. Army Garrison Livorno, Italy, on June 5.

It also served as a silent rallying call for shoppers as far as 100 miles away to get in on the savings and service in the gorgeous, state-of-the-art store, which offers nearly double the sales floor size of the old commissary, nearly 500 additional items, expanded aisles, and enlarged departments throughout. Sales remain brisk, including in the new deli-bakery that’s experienced a 200-percent increase in sales with its custom-made sandwiches and fresh salads to go.

“This commissary is, indeed, your commissary – paid for with your surcharge money from the 5 percent you pay [on your purchase] every time you go through the checkouts,” said DeCA Europe Director Thomas Milks, at the grand opening ceremony. “We believe your new commissary will delight and amaze you, and the services, savings and taste of home that DeCA brings together all join to make the commissary your premier quality-of-life benefit.”

The previous facility, built in 1953, had been renovated in 1991, but had one-way aisles, an outdated décor package and no loading dock.

“This commissary will be a remarkable improvement in the support that this garrison offers to the lifestyle of our service members and their families,” said Lt. Col. Steven Cade, Livorno garrison commander.

- DeCA-

Photo captions:

Staff Sgt. Brian Meinert shops for picnic items at the grand opening of the Camp Darby Commissary, Italy. (U.S. Army photo: Joyce Costello)

The new Camp Darby Commissary. Old and new locations for Camp Darby Commissary stand no more than two blocks apart, located on U.S. Army Garrison Livorno, Italy. (DeCA photo: Wally Raynes)

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.*