



NEWS RELEASE

Defense Commissary Agency

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Milks selected as chief operating officer

By DeCA's corporate communications

FORT LEE, Va. – Thomas E. Milks, director of DeCA Europe, will become the Defense Commissary Agency's chief operating officer effective mid to late August. That announcement came today from DeCA Director and Chief Executive Officer Philip E. Sakowitz Jr. An announcement about Milks' replacement at DeCA Europe will be made tomorrow.

Milks' selection comes after serving almost two years as the agency's director of DeCA Europe. As the COO, Milk's duties include oversight of the agency's retail operations, safety and security, program management and plans in support of the day-to-day operations of DeCA's worldwide chain of 255 commissaries.

"Tom's return to the states comes at a time of significant transition for this agency, and we will lean on his experience in the coming days," Sakowitz said. "His knowledge and background in sales and operations will help us stay focused on delivering a premier commissary benefit to the greatest customers in the world, our military service members and their families."

Milks entered the Senior Executive Service in July 2007, beginning his two-year tour as the director of DeCA Europe.

He began his commissary career in 1977 as a management intern with the U.S. Army Troop Support Agency. Highlights of his career include serving as chairman of the operations subcommittee on the Jones Commission in 1990, a study that recommended consolidating commissary systems into one agency, which became DeCA. He also headed the successful fielding of DeCA's Interim Business System in 1991.

As the director of sales from May 2006 to July 2007, Milks oversaw the agency's marketing business unit, which develops and implements comprehensive marketing and merchandising programs. His responsibilities included the effective management of the commissary system's transportation and subsistence program. He's been a deputy director for both DeCA East and DeCA West in previous assignments.

Milks was born in Georgetown, D.C. He earned a Bachelor of Science in business administration in 1976 from Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va. He has completed postgraduate coursework at Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, La.; Marymount University, Arlington, Va.; Florida Institute of Technology, Fort Lee, Va.; and Virginia Tech and State University, Dulles, Va. He graduated from the Army Management Staff College in 1988.

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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.*