



NEWS RELEASE

Defense Commissary Agency

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Commissary customers reminded of July 31 deadline to redeem CertifiChecks

By DeCA's corporate communications

FORT LEE, Va. – The July 31 deadline for Defense Commissary Agency customers to redeem CertifiCheck gift certificates is fast approaching.

This deadline affects units, organizations and other customers with unredeemed CertifiChecks who do *not* qualify for an extension. On June 24, DeCA had announced an extension for authorized customers who were deployed or away on temporary duty from March 6 - July 31, 2009. These customers still have until July 31, 2010, to redeem gift certificates in a military commissary.

To take advantage of the extension, customers who were deployed or on temporary duty for the entire period from March 6 to July 31, 2009, must complete a form and have it signed by a supervisor, certifying that the duty took place from March 6-July 31, 2009. The necessary form can be downloaded from the DeCA Web site by accessing the following link:

http://www.commissaries.com/press_room/press_release/documents/2009/DeCA58_09_form.pdf

f. It also will be available in store customer service areas and cash offices. The customer must present the signed form along with the gift certificate to a cashier at the point of purchase.

Shortly after CertifiChecks Inc., ceased operations Feb. 26, DeCA announced that its customers could continue using their commissary gift checks in stores until July 31. Since then, certificates with a face value of about \$732,705 have been accepted by DeCA commissaries through July 18. The Dayton, Ohio-based company formally filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy in

April.

Since 2002, more than \$20 million in gift certificates have been purchased for authorized commissary customers, including more than \$3.9 million in fiscal 2008.

- DeCA-

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.*