



NEWS RELEASE

Defense Commissary Agency

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Dowling returns to DeCA Europe as director

By DeCA's corporate communications

FORT LEE, Va. – Mike Dowling, acting chief operating officer, will travel back across the Atlantic as the director of DeCA Europe effective mid to late August. The announcement came today from Philip E. Sakowitz Jr., DeCA director and CEO.

Dowling assumes his new position with the selection of Tom Milks as COO. Dowling's return to Europe comes after completing his second tour of duty as the acting COO – serving first from November 2007 through April 2008, and again beginning in March 2009 with the retirement of Rick Page. He had been selected director of DeCA East in August 2007 following the retirement of Bonnie Kanitz.

“This is a homecoming of sorts for Mike, who is arguably the most knowledgeable person we have on our operations in Europe,” Sakowitz said. “As the acting chief operating officer he did a tremendous job keeping the headquarters on track and focused on continually strengthening the commissary. At DeCA East, his leadership kept the agency's top sales region operating at a record-setting pace.”

With his assignment to DeCA Europe, Dowling returns to the place he first served as a region director in May 2004 after becoming a member of the Senior Executive Service. DeCA Europe, one of the agency's three regions, is headquartered at Kapaun Air Station, Germany. It has 42 commissaries, two distribution centers and one central meat processing plant. Sales exceeded \$486.7 million in fiscal 2008.

Dowling began his federal service on active duty with the U.S. Army from 1978 to 1989, where his assignments included a tour as commissary officer and company commander in Cairo,

Egypt.

After the Army, he began his civil service career with the Army Troop Support Agency in 1989. While working at the organization known as TSA, he was appointed to the transition team that helped consolidate the military services' commissary organizations into the Defense Commissary Agency in 1991. His involvement in developing the agency's distribution planning established the concept used in Europe today.

By the summer of 2004, Dowling had completed a tour in headquarters at Fort Lee, Va., as the agency's director of performance and policy and deputy to the chief operating officer. He had previously served nine and a half years in Europe in a variety of leadership positions including director of the region's logistics division, interim deputy region director and chief of its operations business area.

He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in History in 1978, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Ill. His awards include the Defense Distinguished Civilian Service Award, three DeCA Meritorious Civilian Service Awards, the Superior Civilian Service Award and the National Performance Review Hammer Award.

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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.*