



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) 734-8248 DSN: 687-8248

www.commissaries.com

Release Number: 87-09
Date: September 10, 2009
Contact: Kevin Robinson, public affairs specialist
Tel.: (804) 734-8000, Ext. 4-8773
E-mail: kevin.robinson@deca.mil

Money orders make good ‘gift certificates’ at commissaries

*By Rick Brink,
DeCA East public affairs officer*

FORT LEE, Va. – As the holiday shopping season approaches, commissary shoppers are reminded that money orders can be used much like gift certificates.

“This is the time of year when chaplains, sponsoring service organizations, relatives and friends of service members want to give ‘gifts of groceries,’ and money orders work just fine in lieu of a gift card program,” said Philip E. Sakowitz Jr., DeCA director and CEO.

Commissaries had accepted CertifiChecks gift certificates for seven years until the Dayton, Ohio-based company ceased operations in February and filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy in April. DeCA is diligently working on a replacement gift certificate program, and, in the meantime, is encouraging people to use money orders as a means of giving gifts of groceries, Sakowitz said.

“Commissaries don’t sell money orders, but they have always accepted them. By making a money order out to the Defense Commissary Agency and giving it to an authorized commissary patron, people can be assured that their gift is being redeemed as they intended,” said Lauren Bands, DeCA’s director of accounting.

Money orders can be purchased at a variety of locations including post offices, credit unions and exchanges on military installations.

More information about money orders and how to fill them out for use at commissaries

can be found at this link: http://www.commissaries.com/money_order.cfm.

- 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.*